



# THE FINISHER

HAWAII'S CHOICE TO FINISH THE JOB!

JUNE 2023

## IUPAT Community Day of Action, Dole Middle School (See story, page 3)







# State of the Council

**“Together, DC50 will forge forward and remain Hawaii’s finest in the finishing trades!”**

By Ryden Valmoja

DC50 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

## Aloha Members!

### Election 2023

Please accept my sincere “MAHALO” to all of you who supported my re-election. I am happy and humbled to be able to serve as your BMST once again and will continue to work for the betterment of our district council.

In the weeks leading up to the election, I met a lot of members who shared with me how far our union has come. I will strive to keep our council moving forward and ensure that all decisions are made in the best interest of our members.



On behalf of DC50, please join me in congratulating newly elected Business Representatives: Robin Schlitzkus (Painters LUI791), Dwayne Arelliano (Glaziers LUI889), Doug Kema, Jr. (Floor Layers LUI926), and John Frigillana, Jr. (Tapers LUI944). Congratulations also go out to newly elected local union executive board members and district council delegates. It’s a pleasure to have you serve and represent your local unions.

I’d like to extend my thanks

to all the election officials who worked tirelessly to ensure that the election process was fair and properly conducted. Thank you also to all the candidates who participated in the democratic process and to members who came out to exercise their right to vote. As union members we all share the same goals – to ensure the success of the district council, defend the right to organize, and continue to strengthen and support our membership.



Together, DC50 will forge forward and remain Hawaii’s finest in the finishing trades!

### 2023 North America’s Building Trades Unions (NABTU) Legislative Conference/



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HAWAII’S CHOICE TO FINISH THE JOB!

International Union of Painters  
and Allied Trades

### District Council 50

2240 Young Street • Honolulu, HI 96826

Phone: (808) 941-0991

**Ryden Valmoja**

Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

**New officers will be  
confirmed July 1.**

[www.dc50.org](http://www.dc50.org)

On the Cover:

# Community Service – IUPAT Community Day of Action, AFL-CIO Labor of Love, and Hawaii Food Bank Drive



Pictured above (L-R): Mavis Tasaka, Principal; Blaine Kashiwaeda, Vice Principal; Randy Perreira, AFL-CIO President; Robin Schlitzkus, Painters LUI791 Business Representative; Breanne Geronimo, Director of Training; Lorna Woo, Director of Government Affairs; Paul Tamashiro, Rainbow State Paint; and Bully Valmoja, Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer. 🙌



## State of the Council

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### IUPAT Legislative and Political Directors Meeting

In April, I had the opportunity to attend the annual NABTU Legislative Conference and the IUPAT Political meeting. During the conference, I was able to meet with the Hawaii delegation – Senator Brian Schatz, Senator Mazie Hirono, and newly elected Congresswoman Jill Tokuda. I'm happy to report that these elected officials understand the importance of unions, pledge their continued support for labor, and work to protect the right to organize. Most importantly, they will work to ensure that legislation is passed that creates new construction jobs that put our members to work! Mahalo to our hard-working federal officials!

### Community Service – IUPAT Community Day of Action, AFL-CIO Labor of Love, and Hawaii Food Bank Drive

In April and May, apprentices, volunteers, and staff joined the DC50 Women's Committee and Young Lion's Club to give back through community service projects such as the IUPAT Community Day of Action, the AFL-CIO Labor of Love, and the

Hawaii Food Bank Drive.

Each year, we understand that there are people and communities that are in need of assistance. This year, DC50 worked to enhance and beautify Dole Middle School by repainting the student health center and classroom building exteriors throughout the campus. It's always a good feeling for me to showcase the finishing trades by giving back to the communities we all live in. Volunteers also lent support to the Hawaii Letter Carriers Food Bank Drive. Mahalo to all of you amazing volunteers for your time and energy!

### Attend Union Meetings

Sisters and Brothers – please join me in attending monthly union meetings (see schedule on page 8). Get the latest updated information about your union, ask questions, get involved, and help to grow your union and our district council. I look forward to seeing more of you at the next meeting. Take care and here's wishing you all a happy and fun-filled summer!

*Ryden Valmoja*



# Ulana Ward Village

In December 2022, the Howard Hughes Corporation broke ground on its ninth planned residential housing project in Kaka'ako. Called the Ulana Ward Village, this project is unique because the developer put the balance of its mandatory affordable workforce housing units in this one tower.

In accordance with the Reserved Housing guidelines of the



Hawaii Community Development Authority (HCDA), all developers of multi-family dwelling units on lots greater than 20,000 gross square feet in Kaka'ako are required to construct at least 20 percent of the total number of residential units in that development as reserve housing units. These reserve affordable workforce housing units are designed for persons or families that make too much money to qualify for federal assistance programs but not enough to afford to buy a unit at market price.

Instead of having these reserve housing units in every high rise, Howard Hughes decided to satisfy the requirement for all their future developments in Kaka'ako by putting all of its required reserve affordable workforce housing units in just three of their projects: 150 in A'ali'i, 375 in Ke Kilohana, and 697 in Ulana Village.

Hundreds of Hawaii residents applied for these affordable workforce housing units because it was unknown whether Howard Hughes would offer any more affordable workforce housing units in the future. All 697 units in this project were offered below market prices to first-time buyers. To qualify, the purchaser must be a resident of Hawaii whose income and assets cannot be more than 140 percent of Area Median Income (AMI). The purchaser must place a minimum downpayment of 10 percent to the lender of this project and shall be the owner-occupant for the specified length of time. The timing of this project was a blessing for those lottery winners that were able to secure a unit because they were able to lock in interest rates just before they started climbing.

Hawaiian Dredging was awarded the task of building this project. Union subcontractors on site include: WE Painting, Kalu Glass, Jayco, Caulking Hawaii, Group Builders, and BMK. Currently, Hawaiian Dredging, Kula Glass, and Caulking Hawaii are doing the glass mock-ups in Singapore. Hawaiian Dredging expects that the Glaziers will be on site in the early part of the first quarter of 2024. 🙌



## Embracing Technology, Sustainability, and Training

The Autodesk Construction Blog's recent article, "2023 Construction Trends: Embracing Technology, Sustainability, and Training," explores the latest trends in the construction industry. While these trends have the potential to make the industry more efficient and sustainable, it is also important to consider how they impact union labor in the construction sector.

One of the trends discussed in the article is the increasing use of low/no-code solutions, AI, and robotics in construction. While this has the potential to streamline construction projects and reduce costs, it also raises concerns about job displacement for union workers. It is crucial that unions work with construction companies to ensure that these new technologies are implemented in a way that does not negatively impact workers.

The article also highlights the importance of sustainability in the construction industry, including the use of green building practices and technologies. Unions have been at the forefront of advocating for sustainable construction practices that benefit workers and the

environment. As construction companies adopt new sustainability practices, it is essential that unions are involved in the decision-making process to ensure that these practices prioritize the health and safety of workers.

The article further predicts an increasing focus on training and upskilling workers in the construction industry. While this trend is welcome, it is important that training programs are inclusive and accessible to all workers, including those in unions. Unions can work with construction companies to ensure that these programs are designed to address the specific needs of union workers.

In conclusion, while the trends discussed in the article have the potential to revolutionize the construction industry, it is essential to consider how they impact union labor. Unions have an important role to play in ensuring that these trends prioritize worker safety, job security, and inclusivity. By working together, unions and construction companies can create a more efficient, sustainable, and equitable construction industry for all. 🙌

# Floor Layers Update

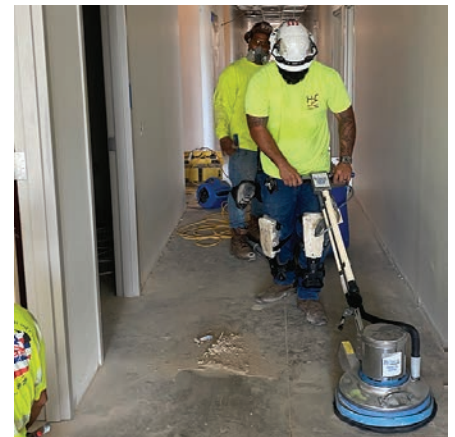
Aloha! We are halfway through 2023 and the Floor Layers have been fortunate to have had a steady flow of work. Some of the key projects are Koa Ridge, Hoopili, Mauna Olu Cottages and Ewa by Gentry homes. These projects will continue to provide work for the next five to 10 years.

Other projects already underway on Oahu will take us into 2024. These include: Victoria, Hale Waiolu, and Quads/hanger on Schofield. There are also housing projects on Kaneohe Marine Base, Camp Stover, Peninsula and Palm Circle on Fort Shafter. On Maui are the Grand Wailea, Kihei High School, Wailuku Apt and Airport terminals. On Lanai, we have Hokuao. On Kauai, there is the Kauai Beach Resort, Kauai Shores, and I Hotel Hanalei Bay. Big Island projects include Waikoloa Hotel, Villages at Laiopua, and Holualoa Elementary School.

With all the current and future projects ahead of us, please stay healthy and make sure that you update all your certifications. Safety is our number one priority, so if you need to schedule a class, please

contact our union office.

On a side note, thank you to all who turned out and voted for the re-election of our BMST. We had a great turnout. Also, congratulations to members of the newly elected executive board. Thank you for your dedication and commitment to our members. Aloha! 🙌



## 2023 LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The 2023 Legislative Session adjourned on May 4, 2023. This year was a challenging Session due to the number of new legislators in both chambers of the Legislature. Many of these new legislators were not familiar with union or construction issues. Despite these challenges, your Political Department successfully opposed bills that would have hurt our unions. New legislation was also passed this year that will help prevent the owners of construction companies who repeatedly fail to pay their employees proper wages from evading responsibility for their acts.

### NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF BUILDING TRADE UNIONS

In April, representatives from the Political Department attended the National Association of Building Trades Unions (NABTU) annual convention in Washington, D.C., where they participated in discussions about union issues in construction.

The guest speaker at this year's convention was U.S. President Joseph Biden. President Biden had just announced that he would be running for re-election in 2024 and reaffirmed his strong commitment to support construction unions.

As you may recall, in 2021 President Biden signed a \$1 trillion bi-partisan Infrastructure Bill into law to repair and improve infrastructure throughout the United States.

Hawaii is expected to receive almost \$2.8 billion of new federal money. Included in this sum are \$25 million for a Waiale road extension project on Maui, almost \$31 million for renovations at the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport, and almost \$25 million to the County of Kauai for improvements to Poipu Road. These are just a few of the Hawaii projects that will benefit from the bi-partisan Infrastructure Bill. For a more comprehensive list, check out the White House fact sheet at: <https://www.whitehouse.gov/wp-content/uploads/2023/05/Hawaii%20CA%20Bi-Fact-Sheet-May.pdf>.

While in Washington, D.C., the Political Department also met with all four members of Hawaii's Congressional delegation to discuss issues of concern here in Hawaii. We are pleased to report that both President Biden and our Congressional delegation remain firmly committed that federal monies allocated under the bi-partisan Infrastructure Bill will go to union construction companies. 🙌



# Reimagining the Ambassador Hotel

Signatory union contractors from District Council 50 (DC50) have risen to the task in the ongoing redevelopment of the historic Ambassador Hotel in Waikiki. Companies like BEK, Inc., Alii Glass & Metal, Inc., and In Line Flooring, Inc. are bringing their expertise to this project.



BEK, Inc. ensures quality surfaces through their drywall finishing and painting. Alii Glass & Metal, Inc. specializes in glazing and will greatly enhance the aesthetics and functionality of the Ambassador Hotel with their installation and replacement of glass elements. In Line Flooring, Inc. is installing durable flooring solutions.

These signatory union contractors from DC50 together with other trades will ensure the Ambassador Hotel's successful transformation by creating an elegant and inviting environment throughout the property. 🧑🏻‍🔧

## Welcome Isaiah Nagatani

Aloha! My name is Isaiah Nagatani, your new District Council 50 Painters Training Coordinator. I started with the union right out of high school and worked for a number of companies throughout my career. Along the way, I met people who took the time to teach and mentor me to get to where I am today! I will never forget where I came from and strongly believe that I will make a difference.

I will now oversee the very apprenticeship program that I attended. My goal is to guide each apprentice through their journey and provide them with the skills necessary to progress in their career. I am dedicated to assisting each member in the union to maintain their compliances through training classes and required medical appointments. I am grateful to be given the opportunity to serve as your Training Coordinator and look forward to working with all of you. 🧑🏻‍🔧



## Welcome H Painting

District Council 50 Painters Local Union 1791 has signed H Painting to its slate of union painting contractors on Maui. H Painting is the newest painting company on Maui to join Team 50.

H Painting has been working on Maui for about a year before



it decided to become a signatory union company. Owner-operator Bronson Herbias built his team utilizing local talent on Maui and stresses family values. He and his team have all worked for union companies in the past.

H Painting is presently working on Makena Surf, Lai-loa, Amboian, Wailea Point, and Papali. It has several more projects on the books waiting to start up. May the future be bright for H Painting and all of our union painting contractors. 🧑🏻‍🔧

## Welcome Nolan Lagmay

District Council 50's Glaziers Apprenticeship Program is pleased to introduce new instructor, Nolan Lagmay. Nolan has over 20 years of experience in the glass business as a fabricator and has been with the Glaziers Union since 2015. Nolan will bring his vast knowledge of fabrication and cutting glass to the Glazier Apprenticeship classroom. He is an avid outdoorsman and likes to go fishing and riding dirt bikes in his spare time. 🧑🏻‍🔧





# Oahu's Construction Mascot: Towering Cranes Make a Comeback

It's been over six years since construction cranes dominated the Hawaii skyline. At one time construction projects and jobs were so plentiful that the cranes were called the state bird. Well, projects are on the rise, creating more opportunities for many workers.

For the first quarter of 2023 there are 14 cranes compared to 10 in the first quarter of 2021 and six in 2022. Despite concerns over the supply of skilled workers and other economic uncertainties, construction is still going strong. Painters, Drywall Finishers, Flooring, and Glazing trades are especially experiencing a shortage of skilled workers and apprentices. The "out of work" list has dwindled down to very little. Journeyman, apprentices, and recruitment are major concerns for these trades. Ads in the newspaper, Craigslist, Instagram, and Facebook are not producing the numbers to meet the demand.

Geo-fencing from the IUPAT was incorporated to drum up recruitment and career fairs are being staged by the Training Department. They have been reaching out to high schools for future recruitment. Still, there is a lack of potential workers. And, as the months go by, several more cranes will be soaring the sky lines.

There are six cranes in the Kakaako-Downtown area, and the City has approved several more developments. There are 15 more high rises slated to be erected within the next three to four years and the cranes will announce the start of the high-rise frenzy. There will be a lot of work opportunities for construction workers as it was during the previous construction boom.

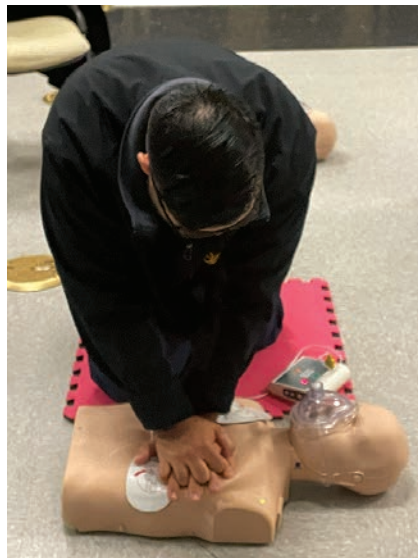
Hopefully, developers will not raise the cost of homes, which will in turn raise interest rates on home loans. Affordable homes, rental units, and the long-awaited Transit-Oriented Developments might help to curb the number of people moving away from the islands and hopefully present more opportunities for construction workers to make a good living and afford to own their own homes. These towering cranes signal a robust construction industry that will benefit all. 🙌



## Safety and Health Certification

From May 16-19, 2023, two of our Tapers instructors – Garrett Russell and Alex Magnuson – earned their certification in First Aid/CPR and AED at the Finishing Trades Institute in Hanover, MD. These two instructors are now qualified to teach our apprentice and journeyman classes when needed or requested by our union contractors.

It was a very intense class – especially considering the six-hour time difference between Maryland and Hawaii. The two instructors needed to learn First Aid/CPR and then teach two classes to receive their certification. They both successfully completed all of the requirements and received their First Aid/CPR certifications.



With these certifications under his belt, Alex Magnuson is now certified in AMES automatic tools repair, Fall Protection, Forklift and Aerial Lift (MEWP), and First Aid. Garrett Russell is certified in EIFS (Exterior Insulation and Finishing Systems), AMES automatic tools repair, OSHA 502 (OSHA 10 & 30), Hazard Communication and Fall Protection, Forklift and Aerial lift (MEWP), and First Aid/CPR.

It is crucial for our industry that instructors are certified in as many safety regulations as possible to keep our membership safe and moving forward! 🙌



International Union of  
Painters and Allied Trades  
District Council 50  
2240 Young Street  
Honolulu, HI 96826



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**Wanted: Please submit news clips, photos and articles on special events to: [Lwoo@dc50.org](mailto:Lwoo@dc50.org)**

## District Council 50 Meetings

- Young Lions Committee meeting – Fridays, July 21, 2023 and October 20, 2023, at 4:00 p.m., at the DC50 hall and via Zoom
- Women's Committee meeting – Wednesdays, August 2, 2023 and November 1, 2023, at 5:00 p.m., at the DC50 hall and via Zoom

### SPECIALTY WORKERS LOCAL UNION 1941

- Membership meetings – Second Saturday of the month at 8:30 a.m., at the DC50 hall and via Zoom

### PAINTERS LOCAL UNION 1791

- Membership meetings – Third Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m., at the DC50 hall and via Zoom

### DRYWALL TAPERS FINISHERS LOCAL UNION 1944

- Membership meetings – Second Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m., at the DC50 hall and via Zoom

### GLAZIERS, ARCHITECTURAL METAL AND GLASSWORKERS LOCAL UNION 1889

- Executive Board meetings – Second to the last Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m., at the DC50 hall and via Zoom
- Membership meetings – Last Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m., at the DC50 hall and via Zoom

### CARPET, LINOLEUM AND SOFT TILE LOCAL UNION 1926

- Membership meetings – Third Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m., at the DC50 hall and via Zoom

## OFFICE HOURS

**MONDAY – FRIDAY:**  
**7:00 A.M. – 5:00 P.M.**

**SATURDAY:**  
**7:30 A.M. – 10:30 A.M.**

## District Council 50

Painters - LU1791	808-941-0991
Tapers - LU1944	808-946-6621
Glaziers - LU1889	808-946-3329
Floor Layers - LU1926	808-942-3988
Specialty Workers - LU1941	808-941-0991
Toll-Free Neighbor Island	888-811-4020

DC 50 Joint Apprenticeship Training  
808-947-6606  
808-941-0991, Option 2

Trust Funds	808-523-9411
Toll Free Neighbor Island	877-523-9411

## IN MEMORIAM

**ANTHONY E.C. WOODY, PAINTERS LU1791**

**ROEL-LEE CASTILLO (FORMER MEMBER OF PAINTER LU1791)**

**RICHARD PAVAO (FORMER MEMBER OF FLOOR LAYERS LU1926)**

**WALTER TANAKA (FORMER MEMBER OF FLOOR LAYERS LU1926)**