



THE FINISHER

HAWAII'S CHOICE TO FINISH THE JOB!

DECEMBER 2025

Mahalo Members (See Page 2)



Mahalo Kauai



Mahalo Oahu



Mahalo Maui



Mahalo Kona



Mahalo Hilo



State of the Council

“Mahalo - we truly value each and every one of you!”

By Ryden Valmoja
DC50 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

Happy Holiday Greetings Sisters and Brothers!

DC50 Honors and Recognizes Members

Each year, DC50 honors our hard-working members who continue to excel as professionals in the finishing trades – and this year was no exception. In recognition and appreciation, each member in good standing who attended the holiday giveaways received an Aloha Friday shirt, Yeti cooler, and a gift card.

If you were not able to attend, please stop by the union hall to pick up your cooler and shirt, or contact any Business Representative for assistance. Mahalo - we truly value each and every one of you!

IUPAT Communications Summit

The IUPAT Communications Department held its first Communications Summit in October, and Lorna Woo attended on behalf of DC50. The summit focused on aligning communications across the United States and Canada by developing a strategic plan to engage members and the public with consistent, unified messaging. Participants received training on branding, campaign planning, available tools and resources, and took part in hands-on presentations. The goal was to work collaboratively to build a concise and effective communications plan and strengthen how we share our message throughout the union and beyond.

At the conclusion of the summit, Lorna and DC50 were presented with an award and certificate for the “Putting Members First Award” in recognition of outstanding work in spotlighting the rank-and-file members of the IUPAT and demonstrating our union’s core value of putting members first. Lorna was reluctant to take personal credit, emphasizing the great work of the entire DC50 team and their contributions in showcasing our members on various social media platforms on and off the job. Please join me in congratulating Lorna and the DC50 team for their exceptional work!



“Respectful Workplace” Training

On November 7, 2025, the IUPAT Finishing Trades Institute (FTI) presented a 90-minute “Respectful Workplace” training

session. The course covered key topics such as understanding discrimination, harassment, bullying, and hazing, and how these behaviors impact safety, productivity, and legal liability on the job. Mahalo to all who attended and recognized the importance of fostering a safe, respectful, and supportive work environment for everyone. A special thank you to the FTI for providing this very informative and valuable presentation.

Our Federal Union Sisters and Brothers

With the federal government now reopened, we want to acknowledge the tremendous hardship many of our sisters and brothers at the Pearl Harbor Shipyard, Specialty Workers Local Union 1941, endured during the more than 30-day closure—the longest shutdown in America’s history. Many went without at least two

Continued on Page 3.



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

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Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

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President

Robin Schlitzkus

Vice President

Angelo Canionero, Jr.

Trustee Chair

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Trustee

Casey Nihipali

Trustee

Kurt Nishimura

Trustee

www.dc50.org

On the Cover...Mahalo Members



Mahalo Kauai



Mahalo Maui



Mahalo Oahu



Mahalo Oahu

Apprentices Are Our Future

Apprentices are the heart and future of District Council 50. They're the next generation of skilled painters and tradespeople who will carry on the standards, pride, and union values that define who we are.

Through our apprenticeship program, members have the chance to earn while they learn, gaining real experience in the field while receiving classroom training from experienced instructors. This combination helps



our apprentices build confidence, skill, and a strong sense of professionalism. Investing in apprentices means investing in the future of our trade. As they grow into journeypersons, they strengthen our workforce, support our contractors, and ensure that our union continues to thrive across Hawaii.

Every journeyperson started as apprentices – learning, growing, and being mentored. By supporting our apprentices, we keep the cycle of mentorship and union pride alive for generations to come. 🙌

State of the Council

Continued from Page 2.

paychecks, all while balancing bills, families, and mortgages. We are grateful for their resilience and solidarity during this difficult time. While the shutdown has ended, it serves as an important reminder that, regardless of political affiliation, these situations are American issues. We urge Congress to continue working together, finding common ground, and ensuring our government remains open for the working people who depend on it.

IUPAT Member Mobile Platform (Mobile App)

Please remember to download the IUPAT Member Mobile Platform application on your mobile device. DC50 will soon be transitioning to a new platform and once this change is complete, the app will allow you receive updates, schedule training classes and view your current certification status. For instructions on how to download the app, please scan the QR code or see any Business Representative for assistance.

Sisters and Brothers – I can't begin to express my gratitude to all of you for your continued support and dedication of our district council. As the holidays approach, please remember to stay safe, enjoy time with your family and friends, and reflect on all the good things we share as a union – solid wages, strong benefits, and the unwavering support of one another. May you all have a wonderful holiday season and a happy and healthy new year!



**IUPAT Member
Mobile Portal**

Ryden Valya

Government Shutdown Threatens Workers

For 43 days this Fall, federal workers – including our brothers and sisters in Local Union 1941 at Pearl Harbor – faced an unprecedented crisis as the longest government shutdown in U.S. history left them without paychecks.

During this time, DC50 worked hard to keep our members in Local Union 1941 informed about developing events and provide relief for them. Although a funding bill was finally passed that provides back pay and extends government operations through January 2026, our brothers and sisters in Local Union 1941 will never be compensated for the weeks of financial and emotional stress they suffered due to the shutdown.

The main reason for the shutdown was the extension of Obamacare subsidies in the funding bill. Republicans refused to extend them, and Democrats eventually caved. As a result, about 18 million people now face the possibility that their health insurance will double if Congress does not extend those subsidies by mid-December 2025 – something that is unlikely to happen given the opposition of the Republican Party, which controls both chambers of Congress, the Presidency, and the Supreme Court. About 4.5 million people might lose their insurance coverage entirely.

Unfortunately, the funding bill only funds the government through January 30, 2026, which means that we might well have a shutdown again early next year. Who knows what Republican lawmakers and Donald Trump will attack and hold hostage in January 2026? 🙌

First Aid & CPR Training Helped Save a Life



In the world of construction, safety is always at the forefront. Sometimes, however, safety extends beyond the hard hats, harnesses, and PPE. For journey-person Malik Smith of Glaziers, Architectural Metal and Glass Workers Union Local 1889, safety meant recognizing the signs of a medical emergency and saving a life.

Malik is a proud product of Oahu's west side. "Pretty much born and raised," he puts it. Today, he's a foreman running jobs on the Big Island, but his journey as a glazier wasn't something he always planned. "I honestly got into glazing by luck," he says. "I always wanted to be in the union as a construction worker. Dwayne gave me the opportunity when I was looking for a job, and I took it." That decision nearly a decade ago launched a career that has grown to embrace leadership, mentorship, and — on one critical day in October — heroism.

On October 28, 2025, just as the crew was getting ready to wrap up their workday, Malik noticed one of his workers acting differently from his usual behavior. Something didn't sit right, so Malik

kept a close eye on him. As the end of the day approached, the symptoms worsened. Suddenly, the worker collapsed, and Malik caught him before he hit the ground. The worker stopped breathing. Time froze. Without hesitation, Malik began performing CPR.

Malik's quick actions didn't happen by chance. They were shaped by years around first-response environments and strengthened by District Council 50 and Glaziers Local 1889's First Aid/CPR classes. "I feel that my first aid training affected how I responded," Malik says. "CPR classes keep me sharp and on point." When every second counted, that training kicked in... and a life was saved.

For Malik, the message goes beyond the curriculum. It's about courage — the willingness to step up when someone else needs help. "The only advice I have is don't be scared," he says. "You could be the difference between life and death for someone you barely know... or your best friend."

Malik's story is a powerful reminder: First Aid and CPR training doesn't just create safer job sites — it creates lifesavers. When emergencies strike, trained workers like Malik turn fear into action. And action into survival. For Local 1889, Malik's heroism is a testament to the value of investing in workers' skills, confidence, and safety — on and off the job. 🧑‍🚒

Helping Historic Hilo Women's Club

The Painters and Allied Trades Local Union 1791 recently organized a volunteer project at the historic Hilo Women's Club on the Big Island. This community effort brought together a team of apprentices from the Painters Apprenticeship Program and provided them with the opportunity to showcase the skills they've been learning in the classroom and on the job.



Under the guidance of Ryden Valmoja, Lorna Woo, and Po'okela Banis-Chun, the apprentices were able to gain hands-on experience, build confidence in their craft, and take pride in a job well done while working together as a team to restore and beautify a valued community space.

More importantly, the project was about giving back. The Hilo Women's Club has long served as a gathering place for community events and programs that support families, youth, and local causes. By volunteering their time and skills, the apprentices of Local 1791 helped preserve this important space for future generations. 🧑‍🔧

Volunteers Paint Maui County Fair Booths

In an awesome display of community spirit, members of District Council 50 recently volunteered their time and skills to repaint the booths for the Maui County Fair. This initiative, spearheaded by DC50 BMST Ryden "Bully" Valmoja, reflects the union's deep commitment to giving back to the community.

A highlight of the initiative was the involvement of DC50's apprenticeship program. On September 20, the project brought together apprentices and seasoned professionals alike. Apprentices from JD Painting, WE Painting, Jade Painting, H Painting and Zelinsky joined forces to ensure the booths were completed before the fair. Foremen from JD Painting and the owner of H Painting were among those that contributed their time and expertise to the effort.

The Maui County Fair took place October 2-5, 2025. It marked the revival of the beloved 98-year tradition after a six-year hiatus. The freshly painted fair booths

stood as a testament to the union's dedication to craftsmanship and community. "The best way to find yourself is to lose yourself in the service of others." — Mahatma Gandhi 🧑‍🔧



Hawaii Job Corps Workforce Council Meeting

On October 17, 2025, representatives from District Council 50 — including Mario, Robin, Pat, Pookela, and Garrett — attended the Hawaii Job Corps Workforce Council meeting. The gathering brought together leaders from education, labor, and industry to discuss the future of workforce training in Hawaii and reaffirm the shared commitment to preparing the next generation of skilled workers.

The meeting began with opening remarks from the Center Director, Ellen May, who welcomed attendees and addressed recent media coverage that misrepresented the Job Corps program's effectiveness. The director explained that the negative reports relied on data from the height of the COVID-19 pandemic, when many students were sent home, disrupting normal operations. As a result, those reports failed to reflect the current success and ongoing positive impact the program has on Hawaii's young adults.

Today, the Hawaii Job Corps operates at about 30 percent capacity, with 74 students enrolled at the Oahu campus and 26 at the Maui campus. Funding for the program is secured through April 2026, ensuring stability as the program continues to rebuild and expand. Enrollment is open to young adults between the ages of

16 and 24 who meet income eligibility requirements and are ready to fully engage in an educational setting. The Job Corps focuses on more than just job placement—it builds character, instills a strong work ethic, and helps students develop the values of responsibility, teamwork, and pride in their craft.

The program's partnerships with industries such as health care, hospitality, landscaping, and the building trades create pathways for meaningful employment.

For DC 50, participation in the Hawaii Job Corps Council reflects our union's long-standing commitment to training, mentorship, and community service. Our involvement helps ensure that young people entering the trades are not only equipped with technical skills but also with the values that define union labor—solidarity, safety, fairness, and respect for hard work.

As the Hawaii Job Corps continues its mission, DC 50 is proud to stand alongside its staff and students, supporting opportunities that uplift the next generation. Through continued collaboration between our union and community partners, we reaffirm that investing in education and training is investing in the future of working people—and in the enduring strength of our union. 🙌



“Listen Up, Speak Up”

Over the past few months, valuable industry health information has surfaced through webinars from MATES in Construction and the Center for Construction Research and Training (CPWR). These sessions highlighted critical issues that affect many of us in the field every day.

One of the most alarming points discussed was the extremely high suicide rate within the construction industry, which is over five times the national average. The research shows that stress, long hours, physical strain, financial pressure, and the belief that we must “tough it out” often lead workers to suffer in silence.

What makes the greatest difference is not waiting for someone to reach a breaking point but instead checking in regularly with each other. A simple “You good?” on the jobsite can change someone's day—or even save a life. Peer support is especially powerful because workers are more likely to open up to someone who understands what they're going through. Help isn't just for when things are bad; it's about preventing a crisis before it begins.

Another important topic recently covered was the impact of noise exposure on long-term health. The CPWR webinar on construction noise and hearing loss revealed that prolonged exposure to high noise levels—such as from tools, heavy equipment, or compressors—can cause permanent hearing damage. What most of us don't realize is that hearing loss has been linked to increased risk of dementia and even early mortality, according to the Alzheimer's Society.

Once hearing is gone, it doesn't come back. Wearing hearing protection must be treated the same way we treat eye protection or fall protection—not optional, but essential. Limiting time in high-noise areas or rotating tasks can also reduce risk. Protecting your ears today means protecting your long-term health and quality of life tomorrow.

As we approach the end of the year, it's important to

acknowledge that the holiday season can bring additional stress for many—whether it's financial pressure, family matters, work responsibilities, or personal challenges. If you're going through something, remember that you don't have to carry it alone. Reach out to a brother or sister, talk to a rep, or simply open up to someone you trust. Your mental health is every bit as important as any safety gear you use. We are stronger when we support each other.

One Union, One Family, One Fight. 🙌

HHV's “Rainbow Tower”

The Rainbow Tower at the Hilton Hawaiian Village has been renovated and repainted multiple times throughout the years. I remember starting as an apprentice and—working on one of the renovations at the Rainbow Tower. The latest renovation started at the beginning of the year with multiple District Council 50 signatory contractors including Group Builders Inc., EDS Contracting Services, Inc. and W Painting, Inc. This project helps keep our members busy for months, and members can look back and take pride in the job they have done for the guests to stay and enjoy themselves while on their vacations.

In the future, apprentices will hopefully look back and say that they remember starting their careers working on the Rainbow Tower, too. 🙌



The True Skills of a Professional Floor Layer

When most people walk into a room, they glance at the floor and think, “Looks good.” What they do not see is everything it took to make it look that way. Floor layers don’t just roll out carpet or drop in some LVT. Rather, floor layers must deal with details, planning, and problem-solving that most folks never notice.

Before any flooring hits the ground, we are measuring, double-checking, snapping lines, and figuring out how to make the layout work in rooms that are rarely square. One bad cut or one wrong line can throw the whole job off.

A lot of problems start under the floor – moisture issues, dips, high spots, bad concrete — you name it, we run into it. Most people never realize that knowing how to properly correct



those issues is what makes the floor last.

Every job calls for different equipment. Our tools include stretchers, welders, rollers, cutters, seam irons, lasers, and more. Knowing how to use all of them correctly takes time and training. If we don’t install materials the right way—and under the right conditions—manufacturers won’t stand behind the product. That’s why experience matters.

Every day on the job brings something new: uneven floors, missing materials, tight sched-

ules, or trades stacked on top of each other. Floor layers learn to quickly adjust and still get the job done right. Anyone who’s been in the trade knows this isn’t easy work. Kneeling all day, lifting heavy rolls, working on concrete, long days and tight deadlines all require strength, endurance, and a lot of pride in what you do.

Floor layers don’t just install floors—we build quality that people live and work on every single day. There’s a lot more skill in this trade than most people realize, and our members show that craftsmanship on every jobsite. Aloha! 🙌



Delicious... and Healthy Too!

Saykeo “Keo” Sivongxay has been a proud member of the Tapers Union since 2015, working for most of his career with Texas-based Sam White, Inc. (SWI). Keo is well-respected by his fellow workers for his skills, professionalism, and proficiency in the trade.

In 2016, Keo started selling a natural, healthy drink made from locally grown organic sugarcane. The process is simple: cane stalks are pressed through a small machine to extract the juice, which can be enjoyed plain or with a variety of fresh fruit toppings. Their concoctions are refreshing, hydrating, and delicious with many health benefits – a sweet surprise that leaves customers wanting more.



Keo started the venture with his brother-in-law at a local farmers market, and the business remains a true family effort. They work year-round on their farm planting, pulling weeds, and harvesting. As Keo put it, “It takes a village to do the work, but it’s all worth it.”

Keo officially established Sugah Daddeh’s Kane Juice in 2019 and remains deeply involved with the company. While still working as a taper, Keo dedicates Saturdays to the farmers market serving and selling his signature cane juice.

What started as a single farmers market booth has grown to three locations: Kailua, Pearlridge, and Kahuku. Today, Suga Daddeh’s Kane Juice has become a true local favorite and was even featured on the popular “HI Now” television show! 🙌

Amending Bill 122

In September, Maui County introduced Bill 122 to address its ongoing housing crisis. The bill aims to regulate and promote factory-built housing by proposing amendments to Chapter 16.25 of the Maui County Code, establishing a framework for the design, installation, and inspection of prefabricated homes.

These homes are often promoted as more affordable and quicker to deploy than traditional construction. The bill, however, is anticipated to do more damage than good for the construction industry, which plays a vital role in Maui’s economy.

Although a solution to our housing shortage needs to be found, the language of Bill 122 as presented poses a major threat to the construction industry. If the bill is passed as currently written, the industry feels it will open the door for policymakers to outsource our work to factories with questionable regulations and no accountability.

District Council 50 leaders moved swiftly to organize other construction unions (IBEW, Local 3, Plumbers Union) to gather as one unified body and create a voice that Maui County could not overlook. DC50 was able to facilitate a meeting with Mayor Bissen and his staff to request a seat at the table to discuss any ideas regarding construction and to find a path forward together.

Mayor Bissen welcomed our concerns and committed to working with us to address our concerns. We will be working with the Mayor and the Maui Council throughout the legislative process to protect our members’ jobs. 🙌

IUPAT District Council 50

2026



- Thursday, January 1

Monday, January 19

Monday, February 16

Friday, April 3

Monday, May 25

Thursday, June 11

Friday, July 3

Monday, September 7

Monday, October 12

Wednesday, November 11

Thursday, November 26

Friday, December 25
- New Year's Day

Martin Luther King Jr. Day

President's Day

Good Friday (Glaziers LU 1889 only)

Memorial Day

King Kamehameha I Day

Independence Day

Labor Day

Discoverers Day (Glaziers LU 1889 only)

Veteran's Day

Thanksgiving Day

Christmas Day

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International Union of
Painters and Allied Trades
District Council 50
2240 Young Street
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Wanted: Please submit news clips, photos and articles on special events to: Lwoo@dc50.org

District Council 50 Meetings

- District Council 50 Membership meeting – Saturday, July 25, 2026, Time/Place - TBD
- Young Workers Committee meetings – Date and Times - TBD DC50 Hall and via Zoom video conference.
- Women's Committee meetings – Wednesday, March 4, 2026, 5:00 p.m.; Wednesday, June 3, 2026, 5:00 p.m.; Wednesday, September 2, 2026, 5:00 p.m., in-person at the DC50 Hall and via Zoom Video Conference; and Saturday, December 12, 2026, 10:00 a.m., in-person at the DC50 Hall.

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 4:30 p.m., at the DC50 hall and via Zoom
- Membership meetings – Last Thursday of the month at 4:45 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 - LUI791	808-941-0991
Tapers - LUI944	808-946-6621
Glaziers - LUI889	808-946-3329
Floor Layers - LUI926	808-942-3988
Specialty Workers - LUI941	808-941-0991
Toll-Free Neighbor Island	888-811-4020

DC 50 Joint Apprenticeship Training

808-947-6606

808-941-0991, Option 2

IN MEMORIAM

**CHRISTIAN CORONEL,
GLAZIERS LOCAL UNION 1889**

**ANGELO CANIONERO, SR.,
FORMER MEMBER OF
FLOOR LAYERS LOCAL UNION 1926**

**MARCELINO RIGOLOS, SR.
FORMER MEMBER OF
PAINTERS LOCAL UNION 1791**

Far Too Soon

Our Union brother Gino De Costa passed away on October 12, 2025. Gino was a proud and dedicated member of the Tapers Union, where he worked hard and took pride in his craft as a Drywall Finisher. Gino's life was filled with passion and joy. He loved fishing, riding his dirt bike and strumming his ukulele. Above all, Gino cherished every moment spent with his beloved son. Though his life ended far too soon, he will live in our hearts. May he rest in peace.