



THE FINISHER

HAWAII'S CHOICE TO FINISH THE JOB!

MARCH 2023



Payton Otani Interview
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State of the Council

“I urge all of you to help and give back to a school that is in need of repair and love...”

By Ryden Valmoja

DC50 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

Aloha Sisters and Brothers!

The year is going by quickly with spring just around the corner. It has been announced that the coronavirus public health emergency is set to end on May 11, 2023. There are signs that the impact of the pandemic is lessening due to the large number of vaccinated individuals, but please be cautious and continue to sanitize often – people are still being hospitalized and dying from this lethal virus.

Investment Fund Questions

I have received inquiries regarding our recent investment statements and I would like to take a moment to provide an update on our investment strategies.

The purpose of the Annuity Trust Funds is to provide retirement benefits to participants and beneficiaries. To meet the funds' objective of providing retirement benefits, the funds employ a balanced investment approach that combines growth investments in equities (US stocks, foreign stocks, and real estate) and income-oriented investments in fixed income (US government bonds, corporate bonds). While this strategy has served the Annuity funds well, recent performance reflects the extremely challenging market experience in 2022. I want to assure you that the funds are invested in a highly diversified portfolio that seeks to balance long-term appreciation while minimizing fluctuations.

As I mentioned earlier, 2022 was a particularly challenging time for all balanced portfolios – public and private – due to poor performance in both the stock market and the bond market. Past results are not indicative of future performance. A balanced, well-diversified portfolio has proven to be one of the best ways to capture consistent returns over time. Please be assured that all trade money managers are professionals in their field and continue to help grow and protect our investments. These managers work to ensure a balanced portfolio that offers exposure to the upside potential of multiple asset classes while attempting to limit downside risk. If there are any questions, please feel free to reach out to me.

Honolulu City Council Inauguration Ceremony

On January 3, 2023, the Honolulu City Council held its Inauguration ceremony at Honolulu Hale to swear in the newly elected councilmembers. Lorna Woo, Director of Government Affairs, and I had the honor of representing DC50 at this auspicious event. We are especially happy and thankful to have labor support from Tyler Dos Santos-Tam, Council Chair Tommy Waters, and Matt Weyer. All three won their elections and will serve to support

our communities and our members. Please join me in congratulating these newly elected councilmembers!

Upcoming Volunteer Projects

Annually, DC50 gives back to the community through the IUPAT's Community Day of Action and the AFL-CIO's Labor of Love. This year, both events will take place at Dole Middle School on consecutive Saturdays, April 8 and April 15, 2023, from 7:30 a.m.–12 noon. We plan to beautify the campus by restriping the parking lot and hallways; repainting benches and columns; repairing portable classroom decking and much more. I urge all of you to help and give back to a school that is in need of repair and love. Lunch and refreshments will be provided

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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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Casey Nihipali

Trustee

Kurt Nishimura

Trustee, Chair

www.dc50.org

Glaziers Work Forecast

Glaziers will be busy, as there are a lot of projects slated to start in 2023 and 2024. Although there are too many to list here, a few notable projects include residential projects such as Hoopili, Koa Ridge, and the Gentry. These and other residential developments are not slowing down and 2023 will be another busy year.

Starting in 2023, the Glaziers will be on the University of Hawaii's RISE project, a \$70 million live-learn-work facility that will have 7,263 s.f. of multi-purpose co-working, meeting, lab and classroom space. It will provide 374 dormitory beds for UH students.

The Ambassador Hotel Renovation Project has also started this year. Hale Makana O Moiliili is a six-story, affordable senior living residence with 80 studios and 25 one-bedroom units. Ililani is a new condo tower currently being built in the heart of Kakaako. This 42-story tower features a mix of 328 units divided into affordable and market rate homes in one- and two-bedroom floor plans.

Projects by the Howard Hughes Corporation

Victoria Place – the Howard Hughes Corporation's seventh planned residential development with 350 residential units – is currently under construction and slated for completion near the end of 2023.

The Park Ward Village will be the Hughes Corporation's eighth planned residential development at the master-planned community of Ward Village. The 41-story project, with 546 luxury residential units, has just started construction.

The Ulana Ward Village is the Hughes Corporation's ninth planned residential development of their master-planned community of Ward Village. This project will have 696 reserved housing residential units. Construction for this project will begin in the middle of 2023.

The Kalae at Ward Villages project will be the next Howard Hughes project, although its actual start date is still unknown. The Kalae at Ward Villages project is an ultra-luxury condo project located next to the Victoria. This project will be 38 stories high with 330 residential units.



Projects by Kamehameha Schools

Kamehameha Schools has three projects in the works: Block C, Block I and Block G. Block I (Alia) will be the first of the three to start. Kamehameha Schools have teamed up with the Kobayashi Group will develop Block I (Alia). This project, which will feature 477 new homes, of which 437 units will be available at market price and 40 homes will be in reserve housing. It will also include 3,500 square feet of ground-floor commercial space that will facilitate a pedestrian-friendly experience, community interaction, and urban outdoor living. This project is slated to start in the third quarter of 2023.

Kamehameha Schools is again partnering with Stanford Carr Development to develop Block C (Kahuina), a 43-story, 861-unit condo complex— with 60 percent of the units designated as workforce and affordable housing. Construction is expected to start in 15 months with completion expected by the summer of 2026.

For the next redevelopment project, Block G (Kaliu), Kamehameha Schools has selected Pros Pac, a Honolulu company with Chinese ties to develop its latest condominium high-rise tower in Kakaako. This Kaliu project will consist of 330 residential condo units with 42,000 square feet of commercial, retail, grocery, and dining options in Our Kakaako. The Kaliu project is penciled in to start in the late summer of 2024.

The Glaziers will finally be on the Residences at Mandarin Oriental, a luxury hotel developed by Manaolana Partners. Residences at Mandarin Oriental will be a 36-story high-rise ultra-luxury hotel and residential building with 125 hotel rooms and suites with 107 residential units. We will probably be on site in June 2024.

The Department of Hawaiian Homes Lands selected a partnership of Stanford Carr Development and Hawaiian Dredging Construction Company for the redevelopment of its 820 Isenberg Street property named Hale Moiliili, Oahu. This is the former site of Stadium Bowl-O-Drome bowling alley. This project is slated to start toward the end of the year and will extend well into 2025. The rental project includes a 210-foot, 23-story high-rise that will consist of 270 units. 🏗️



State of the Council

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for all volunteers. For more information, please call 808-941-0991.

Training Center Update

I'm reporting that groundbreaking for the new training center has been delayed until April. We have been eagerly awaiting final approval from the Board of Water Supply. Until then, parking in the lot will be available while attending classes or conducting union business.

Hybrid Meetings

I am pleased to announce that we have updated the format for all of our union and committee meetings. Beginning January, all meetings are held in-person and via Zoom. I encourage everyone to participate and attend – please call the union hall to register to participate virtually. Mahalo!

Ryden Deliza

Interview: Payton Otani

Aloha everyone! We started off the new year by attending the annual International Surface event at the Mandalay Bay Convention Center in Las Vegas from January 31 to February 2, 2023. We would like to congratulate Payton Otani for competing in this rigorous competition against other apprentices from IUPAT. I had an opportunity to sit down with Payton and ask him about his overall experience as a union floor layer and competing at Surface.

– Doug Kema

Doug: To start, please tell us who you are and what you do.

Payton: My name is Payton Otani, and I'm currently a Step 7 apprentice with Island Flooring.

D: What brought you to the union?

P: What drew me to the Union and DC50 was all the benefits they offered. When I first joined, me and my then-girlfriend were talking about marriage and starting a family, and the benefits that the union offered would affect not only me, but our future family. Now, after five years of mar-

riage and two daughters, we've benefited from great health and vision benefits through the union, but I'm also able to save up funds for later on thanks to the vacation and pension benefits as well.

D: Give me an overview of Surfaces and how you got there.

P: The International Surfaces Event is a massive flooring expo. Manufacturers, vendors, tools, demos and more were there covering a convention space about the size of five Costco's. Pat, our training coordinator and one of the instructors, informed us last semester about the apprentice competition and that someone from DC50 was going to represent Hawaii. Anyone who was interested would first have to compete at the school, and the instructors would decide who would represent us in Vegas. The school competition resembled what the Surfaces competition would be, testing us on the installation methods and techniques associated with different colors of linoleum sheet goods. Over the course of eight hours, myself and a few of my fellow classmates each worked diligently on our individual mock-ups, and at the end of judging I was surprised to learn I was chosen to represent DC50.

D: How was the experience of competing at Surfaces?

P: Honestly, a little unnerving seeing how big the expo was, it being my first ever Surfaces show. But because of my instructors at the school and the various journeyman and apprentices I've worked with who've shared tips and tricks with me, I felt confident that whatever the competition layout for the mock-up was, I was ready to do my best to represent DC50. Over the course of the three

The International Surfaces Event

The International Surface Event (TISE) is the largest North American floor covering, stone, and tile industry event. It is comprised of three world-class tradeshow events: Surfaces, StonExpo and Tile Expo events. TISE is held annually, exhibiting the newest products trending in the industry's global marketplace.

To keep up with the latest trends and familiarize themselves with the latest products, tools and materials, floor layer instructors Paul Apostol and Laurence Marzan attended the TISE event from

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days, the four of us who were competing kept our heads down, did the work, and ended up with installations we could be proud of. What made us extra proud was hearing all the people who would stop by, ask questions about us, and then be amazed to learn we were apprentices, and that the skills and techniques we were "showing off" were ones we learned in our respective programs. Overall, I enjoyed the experience, and although I didn't win, I feel I did the best I could, and that I can be proud of what I did.

D: So now that you've done the competition, do you have any advice to share to any of the other apprentices who may want to do the next competition?

P: DO IT! Be confident in your abilities, and just chance 'em. Even if it's something out of your comfort zone, there's no harm in trying. And don't worry about anyone else's work except your own. Just focus on doing your best work every time. In my opinion, the instructors we have are second to none, so pick their brains for help or advice, because that's helped me over the course of my apprenticeship and this competition. If it wasn't for them, I wouldn't have been able to have this opportunity.

D: Anything you would've done differently if you had a redo?

P: Honestly, no. I feel the way I did my mock-up, with the techniques I used, were more than sufficient for the task. If anything, maybe time management. For both the school and Surfaces competition, I worked until the last second. I took my time mainly because the techniques are things I haven't got to fully improve or work on at jobs, so I went in with the mindset of taking my time, making sure I didn't rush anything and that I was happy with whatever my result would be.

D: Any last things you want to add?

P: Just want to reiterate my thanks to BMST Bully and DC50. Thanks to you and the Floorlayers Local 1926. I also want to thank Pat, Junior, Blayne, Paul, Kuna, Duane, and Laurence with the apprenticeship program for putting up with all my questions and helping me along my path. Lastly, thanks to all my fellow classmates from school and to all my coworkers whom I've been fortunate enough to learn from and work with at Island Flooring.

Thank you for representing Hawaii and continue to strive forward. Congratulations, Payton Otani! 🙌



January 31–February 2, 2023. Attending the event keeps our instructors up-to-date on what training is needed for our apprenticeship program to continue to grow. 🙌



From Our Political Department

The 2023 Legislative Session opened on January 18, 2023. By the time this article goes to press, it will be close to the mid-way point in the Session. This Session has been a very challenging one because there are so many new legislators in both the Senate and House of Representatives. Both chambers of our State Legislature also reorganized their subject matter committees and committee chairpersons.

DC50's Political Department has been busy monitoring bills that could affect our trades – supporting those that would help us and opposing those that would hurt us. Some of the legislative issues we are focusing on this year include bills that:

- 🔧 Reform the way government construction projects are implemented;
- 🔧 Close loopholes and increase penalties for wage and safety violations;
- 🔧 Expand construction opportunities throughout the state; and
- 🔧 Harmonize our skills with environmentally friendly infrastructure policies.

As you may remember, Hawaii will be receiving about \$1.5 billion from the federal Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act signed by President Biden in late 2021. Many of these bills could affect the way that Hawaii's share of Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act money is spent.

Your Political Department will continue to work hard to ensure that the politicians we endorsed this cycle follow through with their commitments to support us in our efforts to strengthen and improve our trades. 🙌

ATTENTION MEMBERS UPDATE YOUR PERSONNEL INFORMATION

Please Update Your Benefits Card To
Protect The Distribution Of Your Assets.

Questions? Please Contact Group Plan
Administrators At 808-523-9411

Exploiting Undocumented Workers

Undocumented workers in the United States are often subjected to exploitation, abuse and inhumane working conditions. Despite their vital contributions to the economy and society, they often lack basic legal protections and are easy targets for unscrupulous employers who exploit their status for profit. The lack of legal status makes undocumented workers afraid to speak out against workplace abuses and exploitation, and afraid to report crimes or seek medical attention. This leaves them vulnerable to wage theft, dangerous working conditions, and other forms of abuse and exploitation. Many undocumented workers are paid far below the minimum wage and are often required to work long hours without overtime pay. They are also frequently denied access to essential benefits like workers' compensation and health insurance, leaving them without a safety net when they become sick or injured on the job.

In January, the U.S. Department of Homeland Security (DHS) announced a change in policy to protect migrant workers in labor cases. This policy provides immigration authorities with revised guidelines for deferring action against undocumented workers who are victims or witnesses in labor disputes. The goal of the policy is to ensure that these workers are not penalized for reporting workplace violations – such as wage theft or health and safety hazards – and can safely participate in legal proceedings. This policy marks a significant step towards better protecting the rights of migrant workers and creating a safer work environment for all employees.

The exploitation of undocumented workers is a union concern in several ways. First, unions have historically advocated for better working conditions and fair wages for all workers, regardless of their immigration status. They have been vocal in their opposition to employers who exploit undocumented workers and have worked to educate these workers about their rights and how to report workplace abuses. Unions have also negotiated collective bargaining agreements that protect the rights of all workers, including undocumented workers, and have fought for laws and policies that provide these workers with basic protections and benefits. Another aspect of the relationship between the exploitation of undocumented workers and union efforts is that unions provide these workers with a voice and a sense of community. By joining a union, undocumented workers can gain access to legal representation and support, and can work together with other workers to address common workplace concerns. Unions also provide education and training opportunities that can help undocumented workers improve their skills and negotiate better working conditions.

The exploitation of undocumented workers is an issue that affects all workers, and unions have been at the forefront of efforts to address this issue. Through their advocacy, representation, and community-building efforts, unions play an important role in protecting the rights and improving the lives of undocumented workers. 🙌

Drywall Finishing Robotics

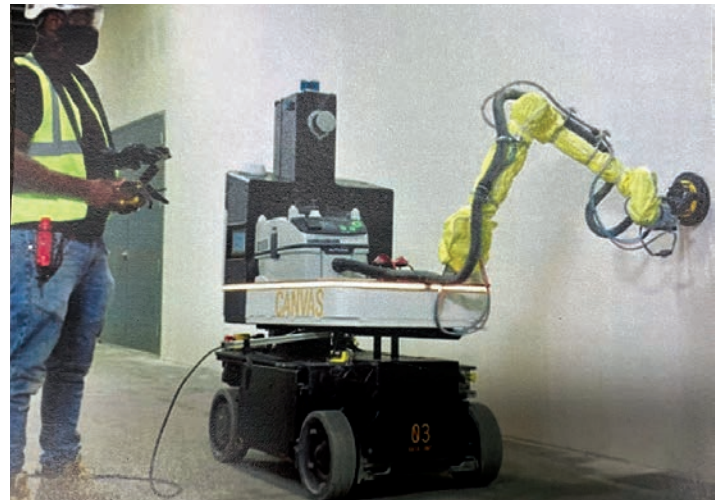
Technology is playing a growing role in the construction industry, including drywall finishing. As anticipated for some time now, artificial intelligence (AI) in the form of robots is making a huge impact on the drywall finishing industry. Several general contracting companies are partnering and investing in the use of drywall robots.

In the hands of a skilled drywall finisher, a programmable robot tool can spray joint compound on a Level 1 drywall surface that has been fire-taped. The joints will get a coat of all-purpose joint compound sprayed on to match a Level 4 finish. Screw fasteners and corner trims will also get the same Level 4 finish. If Level 4 is what is specified, the next step will be to sand the wall. The Canvas Robot will sand the wall and will also collect the dust and eliminate most of the need to clean up and vacuum. All of this work will be done with a person trained in utilizing a pad similar to a drone control unit.

If Level 5 is specified, the taper will again program the robot to spray the entire surface of the wall with the joint-compound. After the wall has been allowed to dry, the taper will attach a circular sanding pad and program the Canvas Robot to sand the entire surface.

Use of the Canvas Robot is by no means intended to eliminate individuals from employment. They would still need to do other facets of the taping operation. Stringing tape, putting on trims, and detailing will all have to be done manually. The advantages of using the Canvas Robot are to eliminate the boxing, hand coating joints, fasteners, and skim coating the surface manually. This will eliminate stress on the body, arms and back and aid in the overall health of the worker.

Currently, Canvas Robots are available for lease only. It may be



a bit pricey, but savings in labor and time will make an enormous difference in estimating and bidding drywall taping work. By the end of 2023, the inventory of robots will be in double digits. If at any time the operator of the Canvas needs assistance, Canvas personnel will be available just a phone call away.

Robotics technology in the construction industry is a reality. Most importantly, they represent a commitment to safety and productivity. There are many applications that robotics can do faster and safer. They can do repetitive and dangerous tasks. With the shortage of manpower now days, this technology will make the trade more attractive to a younger generation of workers while allowing current workers to work longer and better. Looking into the future of Hawaii's construction industry, it probably won't be too long before we see robotic technology show its presence here. 🤖

AMES Tools and TAPETECH Certification

From December 12-15, 2022, District Council 50 Tapers Training Coordinator Mario Manrique, Jr. and instructors

Garrett Russell and Alex Magnuson had the opportunity to be recertified on the automatic taping tools.

"Our goal is to ensure that we pass this knowledge on to our apprentices and upgrade journeyman classes. We traveled to District Council 21 in Philadelphia, PA to complete the FTI 3000C AMES TapeTech Certification Course held at the Finishing Trades Institute of the Mid-Atlantic (FTI-MAR)," Mario explained. "It involved three days of lessons and a final exam where we had to run and repair all the tools."

Thanks to Mark Wilson, Director of Product Education, we have two sets of Automatic Taping Tools (AMES) to use for our apprenticeship Automatic Taping Tools certification.

Fitzgerald Perry, the new Training Manager for AMES and TAPETECH, is in charge of uploading the lessons to our members on the LMS and making sure everything is done on time.

AMES and TAPETECH partnered with the IUPAT to offer a new way to get certified through the personal Learning Management Systems (LMS). Members in good standing can access this international website where lessons are transformed from bookwork to videos and a series of quizzes. It's a very good class to take and it will benefit all of our future journeymen. 🤖



Maui Boom

Before the pandemic struck, work on the Maui Bay Villas project had already begun. Located at the site of the old Maui Lu on South Kihei Road, this project was fortunate to have been represented by DC50's four finishing trades: Tapers Local 1944 was represented by CPS; Glaziers Local 1889 was represented by Kula Glass; Floor Layers Local 1926 was represented by Kahului Carpets; and Painters Local 1791 was represented by VVE Painting.



Maui is still booming. With all this work to be done, who better than our Local Unions to do it? 🧑‍🔧



New Downtown Honolulu Hotel Coming

A new hotel will be located at 1111 Bishop Street, the former Remington College building. The owner, Continental

Assets Management, has signed with Marriott to manage the hotel under the AC Hotel Brand. Allied Builders System has been named as the general contractor for the renovation. Subcontractors BEK will do the taping and the painting and In-Line Flooring will be doing the flooring. These are signatory contractors for District Council 50.

The project will have 104 Rooms, AC Kitchen, and 24-hour wellness center for their guests. For the DC50 members this will bring months of work throughout the renovation process that will transform the commercial space into a high-quality hospitality space for guests. Renovation work has already begun, and completion is expected in 2024. 🧑‍🔧



AC Hotel by Marriott in downtown Honolulu.

DC50 Women in the Trades Committee

District Council 50's Women in the Trades Committee has celebrated over a year since its establishment in November 2021. Meeting four times a year, participating in career fairs, and spending time in the community has garnered enough attention and traction to continue to bring in more women in the trades. With new additions to the Painters, Drywall Tapers, and Floor Layers, the committee has enjoyed steady growth.

District Council 50 Women's Committee is dedicated to creating a more diverse work environment and improved culture in the construction industry. It aims to build a support system for women in the trades, provide a space for women to raise issues, and find solutions to those issues. The goal of these meetings is to increase the long-term retention of women in the trades and to continue changing the culture of construction. The meetings provide a space where women can receive mentorship, grow in their trade, and learn leadership and life skills. If you're interested in joining, the next meeting will be held via Zoom on May 3 at 5 pm. 🧑‍🔧



Introducing Matthew "Matt" Sunajo

District Council 50 Glaziers Apprenticeship would like to introduce the newest instructor to its lineup. Matthew "Matt" Sunajo joined the Glazier's Union in 2015 and specializes in welding. Matt enjoys freediving and fishing. He breeds French Bulldogs and has been with the Army National Guard for the past three years. District Council 50 would like to thank Matt for his service to our country and for becoming an instructor for the betterment of our trade. 🧑‍🔧





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



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Wanted: Please submit news clips, photos and articles on special events to: Lwoo@dc50.org

District Council 50 Meetings

- Young Lions Committee meeting – Fridays, April 21, 2023; July 21, 2023, and October 20, 2023, at 4:00 p.m., at the DC50 hall and via Zoom
- Women's Committee meeting – Wednesdays, May 3, 2023; 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 - 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

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

IN MEMORIAM

MAFELOMENO FLORES, PAINTERS LOCAL UNION 1791
BRYAN BRANCH, FLOOR LAYERS LOCAL UNION 1926
LIVIU SUIUGAN, FLOOR LAYERS LOCAL UNION 1926
BRIAN ALMODOVAR, TAPERS LOCAL UNION 1944
ALEHANDRO CLARABAL, TAPERS LOCAL UNION 1944