



THE FINISHER

HAWAII'S CHOICE TO FINISH THE JOB!

MARCH 2022



(L-R): Floor Layers business representative Douglas Kema, Jr., Hawaii Japanese Center executive director Arnold Hiura, Michael Kauhane, Chad Hun, and Herbert "Keawe" Vilorio.



Floor Layers Spread Aloha!

(See story, page 3)





By Ryden Valmoja
DC50 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

State of the Council

“... I am happy to report that we were finally able to distribute shirts, a union logo jacket, and holiday gifts to members on the neighbor islands and Oahu.”

Happy New Year!

COVID-19 Update - 2022

Over the course of the past two years, COVID-19 has posed a horrible, exhausting, and very scary threat to all of us! It almost seems like a new variant is introduced daily and that is very troubling. Because of this, I cannot stress enough that everyone please consider getting vaccinated or – if you’re already vaccinated – to get your booster shot, too!

As we ready this newsletter in early March, new case counts are on the decline, but many general contractors and community colleges continue to mandate that everyone be fully vaccinated. I want all of you to continue to work safely, use PPEs properly, and sanitize frequently to stay healthy!

DC50 Member Giveaways!

Traditionally, at the end-of-the year, union shirts are given out to all members who are in good standing. However, due to manufacturing and shipping delays caused by the pandemic, we had to postpone our distribution. COVID-19 has really caused so many things to go awry, but I am happy to report that we were finally able to distribute shirts, a union logo jacket, and holiday gifts to



floor layers business representative Douglas Kema, Jr., Chad Hun, Michael Kauhane and Herbert “Keawe” Viloria traveled from as far away as Waimea and Mt. View to make the transformation a reality.

The Hawaii Japanese Center, located near the Hilo airport, was established in 2002 and dedicated its current facility in 2007. Efforts to improve and upgrade the center have been ongoing since, with nearly all of

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International Union of Painters
and Allied Trades

District Council 50

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Phone: (808) 941-0991

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Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

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Vice President

Angelo Canionero, Jr.

Trustee

Ikaika Lacson

Trustee

Casey Nihipali

Trustee

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Trustee, Chair

www.dc50.org



members on the neighbor islands and Oahu. Mahalo to all of you who came out to our pickup-and-go sessions – it’s great seeing so many of you!

Mahalo to Floor Layers - Giving Back to our Community

On January 22, District Council 50 once again demonstrated its strong commitment to community service when a team of four floor layers sacrificed their Saturday (and NFL playoff games on tv) to help the Hawaii Japanese Center (HJC) in Hilo install vinyl floor tiles in its entryway and gift shop. Coordinated by

Maui Moratorium On New Hotel Construction

Recently, the Maui County Council overrode a veto by Mayor Michael Victorino and passed Bill 148 (2021). This ordinance prohibits the issuance of development permits for new hotel construction on Maui for at least two years. Although projects that have already been permitted will be allowed to proceed, we will actually see an absence of new hotel construction for longer than two years, since the permitting process takes time and cannot start until the moratorium expires. This will very likely mean the loss of construction and tourism industry jobs on Maui.

District Council 50 – along with others in the construction and tourism industry – fought the passage of Bill 148 (2021). Unfortunately, the proponents of the bill, which was authored by Councilmember Keani Rawlings-Fernandez, had more than enough votes to pass this bill.

In Council hearings, many of the council members who voted for this bill cared little for the fact that this legislation would mean the loss of future jobs for our members. Some council members even told union representatives that it didn't matter because their members were not making a living wage anyway. At this point, the only way to repeal or significantly amend this ordinance is to change the composition of the Maui Council via this year's statewide elections, then ask a new council to repeal Bill 148.

Legislation like Bill 148 shows why it is critical for you and your family to vote in every election and to vote for candidates who support the construction industry. This year, because of reapportionment, every federal, state and local seat will be up for election, so a change is possible. Change cannot happen without your involvement. Remember, if nothing changes in the Maui County elections this year, the council could very well go beyond this bill and begin to look at other ways to prohibit construction on Maui. 🙏

State of the Council

Continued from Page 2

the materials and labor donated by local companies and volunteers.

As a community-based, non-profit heritage center, HJC aims to facilitate the preservation and appreciation of Hawaii's multiethnic past—much of which is shared in common by all of the people that call Hawaii home. The contribution made by the floor layers will help HJC honor and celebrate the values that inspire us to forge a more positive future for Hawaii.

Political Action Campaigns and Elections

The new reapportioned district lines have just been completed and, with the 2022 election right around the corner, I want to assure you that every candidate who is endorsed by DC50 will be interviewed and vetted by the political action committee. If elected, these future leaders have pledged to ensure their work will be for the best interests of the people, our trades, and our state. We will continue to work with them and hold them true to their commitments and promises.

Ryden Valby

On the Cover:

Floor Layers Spread Aloha

Aloha everyone! First of all, I'd like to take this opportunity to proudly acknowledge a team of three floor layers from the Big Island—Chad Hun, Michael Kauhane and Herbert "Keawe" Viloria. They truly exhibited a selfless act of kindness by volunteering their precious time to help with the restoration of the Hawaii Japanese Center (HJC) in Hilo on Saturday, January 22. The men installed 1,000 square feet of LVT luxury vinyl tile in the entryway and gift shop. Their loyalty to the union, work ethic, and pride in their community cannot go unrecognized.

The Hawaii Japanese Center in Hilo is a place full of appreciation and preservation for all of Hawaii's multiethnic history and values and beloved by the community. Therefore, they were very grateful for the quality of installation and the floor layers' positive and gracious attitude towards helping to better the future of Hawaii. The Big Island's sense of community embodies the true meaning of Aloha.

There will be more volunteer projects throughout the year. If you're interested in volunteering, please contact the union office or your business representatives. Please stay safe! 🙏

Labor Brokers

Labor brokering has been a major source of worker misclassification and tax fraud in the United States. Labor Brokers are common in the deep South and are spreading like wildfire in the United States.

What do labor brokers do? They hire and manage skilled and nonskilled construction workers. They assign or subcontract their employees to an employer, creating a three-way employment relationship between broker, employer, and worker. This sounds simple and straight forward (and it would be if everyone played by the rules). Unfortunately, greedy contractors and labor brokers put profits over people. Some of the laws they break not only affect the workers they coerce, but everyone.

Misclassification of workers runs rampant with labor brokers, who classify workers as independent contractors and make them sign 1099 forms. By misclassifying the workers, they avoid many of the benefits a full-time employee would receive. Most of the time workers are paid cash with no recourse if he or she gets injured on the job. On the books they simply don't exist. Misclassification, wage theft, and human trafficking are just some of the tactics labor brokers employ. Labor brokers provide extremely cheap labor by bending or breaking the laws. This creates a competitive disadvantage for contractors who comply with the law, resulting in an uneven playing field in the marketplace.

Be vigilant and report any signs of labor brokers trying to gain a foothold in the islands. Labor brokers and right to work low union density states seem to go hand-in-hand. We must continue to push for the Pro-Act. The Pro Act has provisions that would give the department of labor more power to punish the bad players! 🙏

Al Linton: Passing the Torch!

Can you tell us a little bit about yourself?

I was born and raised in northern Illinois. Went to school at Southern Illinois University where I majored in Radio/TV. Moved to Topeka, KS in 1980 and went to work at a radio station in sales. That's where I met my wife, Kathleen. Married in 1983. We moved to Guam in 1994 to work in radio and I eventually became general manager for a group of stations in Guam and Saipan.

How did you get into the glass business?

In 2002, I was interviewing for Cox Radio in Hawaii when I looked up a friend of the family, Carl Seyfer. He owned glass companies in Illinois, Colorado, California, and Hawaii. Carl started Kalu Glass in September 1971. He offered me a position at Kalu Glass. After 25 years in radio, I changed careers and went into the glass business. My wife and I bought the company from Carl in 2012.

Why did you decide to call it quits?

We decided two years ago that we could afford to retire. Kathleen is a realtor with Coldwell Banker. She's still working but plans to slow down her workload. We sold Kalu to two employees, Chad Magers and Clarissa Stevenson. I'm passing the business forward, same as Carl did for me, and it feels good.

What are your plans?

I'm involved with my church as an Elder, President Elect of the Rotary Club of Honolulu, doing volunteer work and we have travel plans. Our oldest, Kailani, is getting married in July here in Hawaii. She's a mechanical engineer for a company in Pittsburgh. So, we will keep busy!

Are there any regrets?

None.

Were you able to accomplish everything that you wanted to do as a Glazing Contractor?

I would say yes. We've done a lot of work here. Kalu has been in business since 1985 and a lot of glass has been installed by our company, mostly on Oahu. We're very proud of our work.

How has the industry changed since you first started?

Regulations and paperwork. Contracts used to be a dozen pages, now they are thick as a large book. I learned early in the business to have a good lawyer, banker, and accountant, which we do.

Do you feel you impacted the Glazier Union in any way? How about the Glazing industry?

I'd like to think we brought respect and good training for the Glaziers. I was a trustee on the pension and trust funds for the

glaziers for 18 years. It's one of the few pension funds in the country in the green zone.

What would you like to see happen in the Glaziers industry?

To continue to grow and expand the type of work we do. We've lost some business to other trades through circumstances that we must continue to fight for.

Did you know that you are the one of most respected Glazing Contractors by your peers?

I am humbled to hear that we are one of the most respected glazing contractors. We take a lot of pride in our work and our professionalism. I learned early on in business to surround yourself with people smarter than you. Kalu has a great professional team and I wish them all the luck in the world for the future. I wish I could take all the credit, but it's teamwork that has made us successful.



Are you confident that those who are taking over your company will continue your legacy?

Chad and Clarissa have been in the business for many years. They have a good team, some of whom have been in this industry around 40 years. I am very confi-



dent they will succeed.

Do you have any advice?

Put God first in your business decisions. Be honest. Under promise and over deliver. Back your people and take care of those that take care of you. 🙏

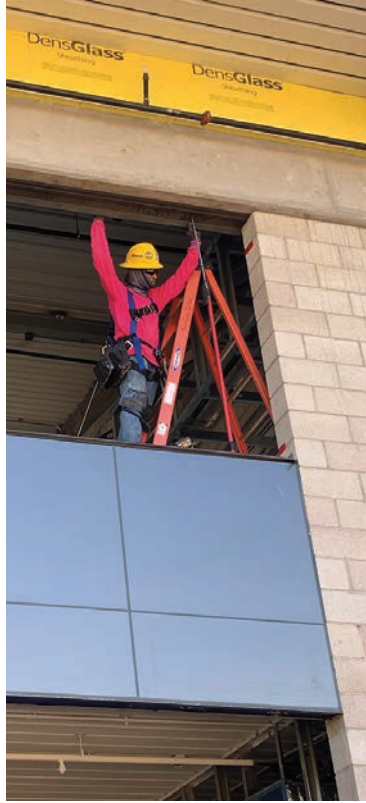


Kula Glass Working on New Kihei HS Campus

Kula Glass began work at the New Kihei High School on Maui back in November 2021. Kula Glass's Nathan (Nate) Nakamura mentions that they should be at the jobsite until June of this year. As part of Phase 2 of this multi-phase project, Kula Glass is currently working on the classroom, science, and cafeteria buildings. The administration building and the rest of the buildings scheduled to be built in Phase 2 are still under construction.

With the different types of glazing systems that need to be installed, this project will give our apprentices a great learning experience. The different system types include Composite Metal Paneling (CMP), window walls, curtain walls, storefront, sunshades, translucent panels, and aluminum foils.

Mahalo to Kula Glass and its crew for all their hard work! 🙏



Gregory Brandes and Level 5: Goal Achieved

It all started in November 2002, when an applicant who wanted to get his life back in order came to the Tapers Union wanting to become an apprentice. He had a hard start in life and just wanted a chance to redeem himself. He was indentured and started right off the bat working for JDH Construction. At the time, JDH Construction was working on residential subdivisions on the Ewa Plain. They had lots of work and employed just a small group of tapers. This company had the reputation of having apprentices that were very proficient in the taping trade. They were taught every aspect of the taping trade and to work hard.

The applicant was Gregory Brandes. He worked extremely hard, did everything he was told to do, and learned from the other journeymen. In about five years, he was made foreman.

His boss/part owner took him under his wing and taught him how to read plans, bid on jobs, manage a business, and run multiple crews and jobsites. Greg steadily expanded his knowledge of the drywall and taping industry.

Years passed and Greg realized that he wanted to start his own company one day – not just a company, but a Union company. Closing in on his 60s, he made the decision to go after his dreams. With the support of the company's owners – and help and understanding from the Tapers Union – he studied both the business and the legal aspects of owning a company and obtained his license.

Through all the studying and working full time, he achieved his

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Architectural Glass And Metal Certification

On October 14, 2021, the Architectural Glass and Metal Technician (AGMT) Certification Program certified 11 professional glaziers. These glaziers from District Council 50, Local 1889, are the first group to get AGMT certified in Hawaii.

AGMT is a personnel certification program that features an independent third-party assessment. To earn certification, a person must have: 7,500 hours (within five years), possess an OSHA 10 certification (or Canadian equivalent), submit a photo, and read and sign the AGMT Candidate Agreement.

Candidates must also pass an assessment of their glazing knowledge and skills. The assessment is divided into two tests: a knowledge-based test (KBT) and a performance-based test (PBT). The KBT is a 125 question, multiple choice test for which the candidates have two hours to complete. The PBT is broken up into three sections – Curtainwall (three-and-a-half hours), Storefront (two-hour time limit) and Caulking (45 minutes) – giving the candidate a total of six hours and 15 minutes to complete. Candidates that pass both KBT and PBT tests will receive an official certificate, ID card and hardhat sticker. They will also be entered in the Certified Personnel Listing on the program's website. 🙏

Introducing Instructor Isaiah Nagatani

Isaiah comes to the District Council 50 Painters Apprenticeship as a new instructor filled with enthusiasm and a desire to help apprentices become better painters and better people. He is currently a journeyman with Shiroma Painting and lives in Waipahu.

When asked how he feels about being an instructor, Isaiah responded, "What I love about being an instructor is the fact that I'm inspiring the up-and-coming apprentices. Assuring that anything is possible although the road may seem uncertain. I'm just teaching to do what's right, to work hard, and be honest, and then everything else will fall into place."

We are grateful to have Isaiah step up and lead the next generation of union painters. 🙌



Continue from page 5

Gregory Brandes

dream of acquiring his C12 Drywall license. He met with the owners of the company and informed them of his plans and had their blessing. He sat down with the Union and both parties were bound to have him start a Union company.

Level 5 Drywall was started with help from his family, including his son, who is also a drywall taper, and Greg's lifelong partner,



Carolyn. Greg Brandes, owner and president of Level 5 Drywall, has reached his goal. As of January 2022, he is officially a bona fide Union contractor. He partnered with a developer and is currently working on the Ewa plains and is looking forward to being awarded more projects. With his attitude of working hard, doing quality work, and servicing the needs of general contractors, developers, and owners, he has the right keys to success.

"I am profoundly grateful for everyone who helped me get to this part of my journey... and now the work begins!" – Greg Brandes 🙌

Local 1926 Welcomes New Instructors

Local 1926 has the privilege of introducing two new instructors to the DC50 Floor Layer's Apprenticeship. Please welcome Instructors Angelo Canionero, Jr. and Blayne Soma.

Angelo Canionero, Jr. is currently a foreman at Island Flooring. He is a second-generation Floor Layer with 34 years of experience in the trade. His specialties include sheet and vinyl products, wood flooring, carpet tile, polished concrete, epoxy floors, concrete staining, and self-leveling floors. His certifications include Nora, Armstrong, Ardex, and more. In his spare time Angelo does daddy duties and lifts weights.



Blayne Soma is also a foreman at Island Flooring. He has 26 years of experience in the trade, and his specialties include wood flooring, sheet and vinyl

products, polished concrete, concrete staining, epoxy floors, carpet, and self-leveling floors. His certifications include Nora, Ardex and Floorazzo. In his spare time Blayne enjoys spending time with his wife and daughters and fishing with friends. 🙌



Respirator Training Virtually

Due to COVID-19, District Council 50's Training Department has made some adjustments to its in-person training programs.

One of these changes included providing our members with respirator training virtually. Virtual classes show the importance of wearing different types of respirators, their limitations, as well as what to look for when maintaining and storing one's respirator. Members are asked to follow along virtually as the instructor demonstrates how to inspect the respirator.

Our Training Department is always trying to improve on its ability to help all of our members. 🙌

2022

DC50 HOLIDAYS

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DECEMBER

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NEW YEAR'S DAY

SATURDAY, JANUARY 1

(observed on Friday, December 31, 2021)

MARTIN LUTHER KING, JR. DAY

MONDAY, JANUARY 17

PRESIDENT'S DAY

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21

GOOD FRIDAY

FRIDAY, APRIL 15

(observed by Glaziers LU1889 ONLY)

MEMORIAL DAY

MONDAY, MAY 30

KING KAMEHAMEHA DAY

SATURDAY, JUNE 11

(observed on Friday, June 10)

INDEPENDENCE DAY

MONDAY, JULY 4

LABOR DAY

MONDAY, SEPTEMBER 5

DISCOVERER'S DAY

MONDAY, OCTOBER 10

(observed by Glaziers LU1889 ONLY)

VETERANS' DAY

FRIDAY, NOVEMBER 11

THANKSGIVING DAY

THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 24

CHRISTMAS DAY

SUNDAY, DECEMBER 25

(observed on Monday, December 26)

IUPAT, DISTRICT COUNCIL 50

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HONOLULU, HI 96826(808) 941-0991
www.DC50.org



International Union of
Painters and Allied Trades
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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

- Retirees Club meeting – have been CANCELED until further notice.
- Women's Committee meeting – Wednesday, May 4, 2022, at 5:00 p.m. via Zoom
- All local union meetings are being held via Zoom. If you would like to participate in the monthly meetings and have not registered before, please contact the union office and provide them with a valid email address so the registration link and instructions can be sent to you. If you have already registered, you will be automatically included in all future meetings.

SPECIALTY WORKERS LOCAL UNION 1941

- Membership meetings – Second Saturday of the month at 8:30 a.m.

PAINTERS LOCAL UNION 1791

- Membership meetings – Third Wednesday of the month at 5:00 p.m.

DRYWALL TAPERS FINISHERS LOCAL UNION 1944

- Membership meetings – Second Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m.

GLAZIERS, ARCHITECTURAL METAL AND GLASSWORKERS LOCAL UNION 1889

- Executive Board meetings – Second to the last Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m.
- Membership meetings – Last Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m.

CARPET, LINOLEUM AND SOFT TILE LOCAL UNION 1926

- Membership meetings – Third Thursday of the month at 5:00 p.m.

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

CLARK ARAMAKI – LU1889

CLAYTON NAKASONE – LU1889

MARVIN NAKAMURA – FORMER MEMBER OF LU1791