

THE FINISHER

HAWAII'S CHOICE TO FINISH THE JOB!

AUGUST 2021



**Mahalo General President Kenneth Rigmaiden
(See page 2)**



By Ryden Valmoja
DC50 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer

State of the Council

"These men have served and led our international union with distinction and pride over the years..."

Aloha!

COVID-19 – Help Stop the Spread!

With the daily increase in the number of those infected by COVID-19 throughout our state, I pray that everyone continues to work safely, abstain from taking part in large gatherings, and, most importantly, protect yourself and your families by masking up, keeping socially distant, and washing your hands frequently. Please, if you haven't done so already, I strongly encourage you to get vaccinated and do your part to help stop the spread of this lethal disease. For more information on COVID-19 vaccinations and testing sites, please visit: www.hawaiicovid19.com

Effective Immediately - Updated DC50 Office Protocols

The DC50 office protocols listed below will continue to be modified and updated due to the increasing numbers of COVID-19 infections throughout the state.

- All visitors and members will be screened and asked to provide proof of vaccination status or current negative COVID-19 test results (no older than one week old) prior to entering the office building and training classrooms.
- Masks shall be worn properly – completely covering nose and mouth – while in the union building and training classrooms.
- All union meetings will continue to be held via ZOOM. Please contact the union office for information to get registered.

"Mahalo" General President Kenneth Rigmaiden and his leadership team on their Retirement and "Ho'omaikai'i'ana" to the IUPAT's New Leadership Team!

On behalf of DC50, I extend my heartfelt "mahalo" and



(L-R): Bully Valmoja, Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer, and George Galis, General Secretary-Treasurer (retiring).

appreciation to General President Kenneth Rigmaiden and his team – General Secretary-Treasurer George Galis; General Vice President Western Region Mark Van Zevern; and General Vice President Eastern Region William Candelori, Jr. – as they have announced their retirement. These men have

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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

John D. Frigillana, Jr.

President

Robin Schlitzkus

Vice President

Angelo Canionero, Jr.

Trustee

Ikaika Lacson

Trustee

Casey Nihipali

Trustee

Kurt Nishimura

Trustee, Chair

www.dc50.org



(L-R): James Reid, Special Assistant to the General President; Mark Van Zevern, General Vice President Western Region; Mike Gutierrez, newly inducted General Vice President Western Region; and Bully Valmoja, DC50 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer.

From Cover Page

2021 Leadership Conference Training Report

In early August, the DC50 Training Department attended the 2021 IUPAT Leadership Conference. There was a great deal of discussion covering training updates with industrial coatings certification, lessons on the Learning Management System (LMS), and funding opportunities that will soon be available.

Association for Materials Protection and Performance (AMPP)

Well-known for their certifications in the Industrial sector for coatings and corrosion control qualifications, both NACE international and SSPC (Society for Protective Coatings) are now part of AMPP. Members who currently hold a NACE or SSPC certification will continue to use their cards. Until the AMPP certification is launched, card holders will recertify under their respective programs. For more information, visit their website at www.amp.org

Blueprint Revision & Assessments

New curriculum being added to the Blueprint lessons on the Learning Management System (LMS) will soon be available to IUPAT members. The revised lessons will include materials and assessments that are specifically created to meet the needs of each of the major trade crafts. Interested journey workers and apprentices who seek refresher courses and have completed apprenticeship-related instruction classes will be able to contact the training department to

request access to the LMS and go through the lesson at his or her own pace.

Pre-apprenticeship Program

Everyone knows that recruitment is how we grow our membership and ensure the future of our organization. With our older generation members retiring, we are always looking for ways to recruit the next generation of workers. Besides attending traditional career fairs and people coming to the office to fill out an application, another avenue that we are looking into to assist recruitment is to implement a pre-apprenticeship program for District Council 50 trades. We will be working with the IUPAT's International Finishing Trades Institute (IFTI) on establishing the fundamental structure to start a pre-apprenticeship program.

Funding Opportunities

Under President Joe Biden's administration, there have been more funding opportunities through federal grants that are available for labor unions. In light of this, we are working with the IUPAT's International Finishing Trades Institute (IFTI), going through the processes and requirements that will qualify District Council 50 to take advantage of these opportunities. If we are able to receive any grants, it will certainly allow us to expand our training possibilities and capabilities. 🙌

State of the Council

Continued from Page 2



Incoming General President
James Williams, Jr.

served and led our international union with distinction and pride over the years and I wish them all the best as they begin the next chapter in their lives.

I am pleased to announce that pursuant to Section 72 of the IUPAT Constitution, the General Executive Board has unanimously appointed General Vice President at Large James A. Williams, Jr., as the new General President, effective September 1, 2021, and General Vice President at Large

Gregg Smith as General Secretary-Treasurer, effective October 1, 2021. Mike Gutierrez has been appointed as the General Vice President Western Region; and Paul Canning has been appointed as the General Vice President Eastern Region. Robert Kucheran remains as the General Vice President Canadian Region. Please join me in welcoming and congratulating the new leadership team!

PRO-Act – Week of Action

The PRO-Act Week of Action was held July 17-25, 2021. DC50 together with the Hawaii State AFL-CIO and its affiliated unions rallied together on July 22, 2021, in front of the Prince Kuhio Kalanianaʻole Federal Building to “mahalo” and extend our appreciation to the Hawaii Congressional delegation for sponsoring the PRO-Act legislation. US Senators Mazie Hirono and Brian Schatz, together with US Representatives Kai Kahele and Ed Case, signed



L-R): Bully Valmoja, Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer; Mark Van Zevern (retiring), General Vice President Western Region; and John Frigillana, Jr.

on early in support of the measure. Once passed and signed by President Biden, this historic piece of legislation will strengthen outdated labor laws that have not been amended in decades. DC50 together the IUPAT and district councils throughout the nation will work tirelessly and continue to fight for

change and labor law reform. We won't stop until the PRO-Act is passed! #passtheproact

New DC50 Website has gone live!

I am happy to announce that the newly updated DC50 website has been launched and is now live! The website will continue to be updated to provide up-to-date information and developments. I encourage everyone to visit www.dc50.org and check it out. Let me know what you folks think. Stay healthy and keep safe!

Ryden Valmoja

IMPORTANT COVID-19 UPDATE

Apprenticeship

After more than a year and a half, COVID-19 has proved to be a difficult issue for the Apprentice and Training department. As Apprenticeship programs are affiliated with the University of Hawaii there has been a lot of adjusting as more is learned about this virus and the benefits of the vaccine.

The Department of Health mandated a health form with required immunization records for Measles, Mumps, Rubella (MMR), Tetanus (Tdap) and Varicella. If apprentices' records were not up to date, they were to schedule appointments with their doctors. They encountered many hurdles, such as doctors retiring, switching health plans, or finding a doctor. With COVID-19 still a constant factor in the community, scheduling in-person appointments with physicians is yet another challenge.

A COVID-19 vaccination has been added to the student health clearance requirements. To be on any UH campus, students are required to be fully vaccinated or undergo weekly COVID-19 testing. This includes members of our apprenticeship programs. Acceptable COVID-19 vaccines include those produced by Pfizer, Moderna, and Johnson & Johnson, along with World Health Organization approved

vaccines. A student is considered fully vaccinated two weeks after their last vaccination shot. Students who are in the process of becoming fully vaccinated will need to have a negative COVID-19 test result uploaded to the LumiSight UH app prior to coming to campus.

As of August 23, 2021, unvaccinated students and staff are required to be tested weekly for the COVID-19 virus and to upload their negative test result into the LumiSight UH app prior to coming to campus. This includes unvaccinated students who received a medical and/or religious exemption. UH is currently developing a student COVID-19 testing program. Details are being finalized and will be announced as soon as possible. If testing sites are not free, the cost could range from \$50 to \$125 depending on the test site.

As soon as a vaccine is approved, the University of Hawaii will make it mandatory to take the vaccination. All their staff and students will have to show proof of vaccination by uploading their card to the LumiSight before they can go to any UH campus. In the meantime, we must comply with the University's COVID-19 guidelines and try to keep our apprenticeship programs COVID-19 free. 🙏

Floor Layers Report

As we try to persist through the struggles of this pandemic, we are still fortunate enough to be able to move forward and work to make things better for our flooring industry.

Recently, I met with the flooring committee at the annual IUPAT Leadership Conference. In discussing many issues with the floor layers business representatives from other councils across the country,



we were able to share and gain many different insights into what we can improve on in the flooring industry.

Some of the main goals are: 1) increase hours and jobs, 2) increase membership, 3) increase market share as in more union projects, 4) establish more floor layer recognition, 5) achieve third party nationally recognized certification, 6) improve pension funds, 7) have manufacturers such as Mannington, Mondo, Nora-Forbo, Armstrong, Tarkett, Uzin, Ardex, Mapei, and Johnsonite



certify our installers and build relationships with distributors such as Shaw, Mohawk, Bentley, Karastan, Milliken, and Wagoner Meter-Rapid PH. There was also discussion about sending a journeyman and an apprentice to compete in hard surface and carpet against other locals on the mainland.

I will be going to multiple job sites to take photos and videos of our installers to include in a national floor layer recruitment video.

Please continue to wear your mask and be very vigilant about Covid precautions. Aloha! 🙏



Future of Flooring

The future of flooring is here. With the COVID-19 pandemic sequestering people in their homes, the demand for home improvement products and services exploded. Our services – both flooring installation and restoration – fit the needs of these booming industries perfectly. With people returning to offices, the demand continues for changes in the workplace as well.

As the flooring industry continues to evolve and architects

and designers become more demanding, flooring methods must continue to evolve as well. With this boom, it is common knowledge that more effort into surface preparation will benefit any floor covering installation and benefit our trade. Not only will the floor covering be easier to install, but a truly flat floor will have an aesthetic quality that occupants will appreciate.

While there are many minimal industry standards for achieving a flat floor, the question remains, do we go far enough?

Today, there is a growing demand for vinyl planks and sheet goods. This requires proper specification and execution of floor preparation, particularly to floor flatness, which is critical to any successful floor covering installation. The demand for proper training is high and continues to change. One would say the flooring industry, like technology, is always evolving and improving. 🧐



Maui Moratorium Threatens Jobs

Recently, the Maui County Council passed Bill 60 (2021) that would have imposed a moratorium on the issuance of building permits for new visitor housing accommodations (essentially new hotel units) in South Maui and West Maui. This moratorium would have lasted for two years or until a new county plan was enacted. An early version of Bill 60 even tried to prohibit building permits for any renovations to existing hotel units. As you all know, hotel work on Maui provides a great deal of work hours for our members on Maui as well as the other islands.

Maui Council members Kelly King, Keani Rawlings-Fernandez, Gabe Johnson, Mike Molina and others claimed that immediate moratoriums were needed because of “unprecedented” tourist overcrowding, even though tourism levels on Maui had not yet reached pre-pandemic levels. In a slight-of-hand maneuver, these Council members reassigned Bill 60 from a committee where bills of this sort would normally go to an environmental committee that was packed with supporters of the bill.

DC50 advocated for a different solution to visitor overcrowding that would not hurt the livelihood of our members. Our position was met with scorn and outright rejection by some of the Council members listed above who seemed not to care that livelihoods would be affected.

Worse, the Council members who passed this bill offered no alternatives for persons affected by this bill to provide for themselves and their families in this time of economic, social and health crisis.

Thankfully, Mayor Michael Victorino vetoed Bill 60, citing concerns about legal challenges over the way Bill 60 was adopted, and indicating his preference for alternative ways of addressing any overcrowding. The Council was unable to override Mayor Victorino’s veto. In part, this was because one Council member preferred another bill that she introduced that prohibits the issuance of hotel development permits island-wide on Maui (i.e. she prefers a bill that is even worse than Bill 60).

Bill 60 was nothing more than a power play by a disgruntled few to stop development on Maui. It would have cost our members jobs as well as many jobs in hotels and retail establishments on Maui. Bill 60 is a good example of what can happen if you do not get involved in supporting your union. The Council members who were responsible for Bill 60 are hard at work on other bills that are even worse than it, and DC50 will continue to fight against such legislation and for the jobs of our members. To prevent more legislation like Bill 60, we remind you to register to vote and to remember what happened with Bill 60 as you vote in the next election. 🧐

Kamehameha Schools MOU Signed!

On June 28, 2021, leaders representing the Hawaii Building and Construction Trades Council and the Hawaii Construction Alliance gathered in Kakaako to solidify a new partnership with Kamehameha Schools, represented by CEO Jack Wong and Chairman Lance Wilhelm.

The auspicious ceremony took place at “The Barn,” a collection of shops and eateries in Kaka’ako. It began at 10 a.m. with the blowing of Hawaiian conch shells. The sound of “pu” resonated throughout the entire hall and marked the official beginning of this new agreement.

This historic moment came to fruition after numerous

meetings and negotiations. After much deliberation, the 20-year Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was reached and promises to provide work for members in both the commercial sector as well as on school campuses throughout the state.

Kamehameha Schools is the state’s largest landowner, with

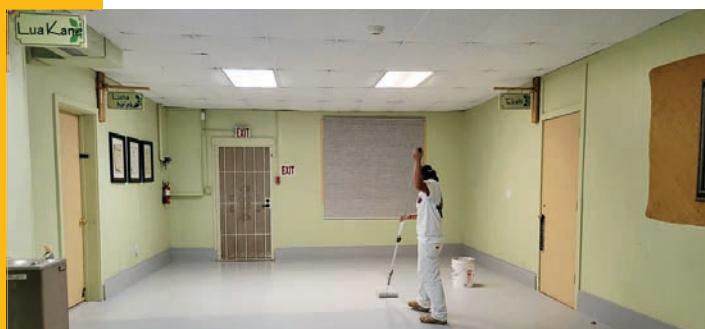
multi-billion-dollar estate holdings. District Council 50 has much to look forward to with the culmination of this MOU and future PLAs. A huge “mahalo” goes out to BMST Valmoja and his Servicing, Organizing, and Government Affairs departments for a job well done in working to secure this agreement. 🙏



Front L-R: Rick Paulino, Sheet Metal LU293; Peter Iriate, Masons LU630; Peter Ganaban, Laborers LU368; Ronald Taketa, Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters; Damien Kim, Electricians LU1186; Valentino “Val” Ceria, Plumbers LU675; Jack Wong, Kamehameha Schools; Joseph O’Donnell, Iron Workers LU625; Lance Wilhelm, Kamehameha Schools; Gino Soquena, HBCTC; Back L-R: John Frigillana, Jr., DC50; Doug Fulp, Insulators LU132; J. Duff Janus, Kamehameha Schools; Melvin Silva, Bricklayers LU1; Wayne Kaululaau, Teamsters, LU996; Vaughn Chong, Roofers, LU221

Community Service: Nanakuli Housing Corporation

On July 24, 2021, the District Council 50 Painters Apprenticeship Program in collaboration with Hawaii State AFL-CIO and Rainbow State Paint-Benjamin Moore was able to give back to the community by painting the Nanakuli Housing Corporation warehouse floors in Kapolei. For District Council 50, a couple of apprentices and an instructor were able to repaint the non-profit’s office floor.



The Nanakuli Housing Corporation provides a variety of services, creates opportunities, and dedicates itself to making affordable housing and homeownership a possibility for all Native Hawaiians.

Executive Director Kapiolani Barber informed us that since its creation in 1989 the organization has partnered with various community and government agencies to provide culturally based services on financial literacy, homebuyer education, owner/builder process, wealth building, self-help home repair, affordable home

replacement, new and used building/housing materials, and more. A huge “mahalo” to all of the volunteers who helped to make this project a huge success! 🙏



Breanne Geronimo, Painters Training Coordinator; Marlo Garcia, Painting Apprentice; Robin Schilitzkus, Painters Business Representative; Peter Pascua, Painting Instructor; Paul Tamashiro, Representative, Rainbow State Paint-Benjamin Moore; and Melody Pastor, Painting Apprentice.

Glaziers: Keeping it Real



We could tell you that the work forecast calls for Glaziers to be extremely busy from now to 2023. And, we could say that currently we are still trying to wrap up the Central Ala Moana and Azure projects. Lilia Waikiki should be done by 2022. The Ko'ula at Ward Village, the Alder St., the rail stations, and the Sky projects will dip into 2022. Victoria Place and the Elderly have just broken ground. Coming up are the Mandarin Oriental Honolulu and Hilton Grand Vacations. But, amidst all these jobs, lies the most frequently asked question: Where is the Union at with vaccinations?

First, let us say that we believe that every member should have the right to choose to get vaccinated or not. However, it is the Union's responsibility to keep our members safe! We are constantly monitoring each project to try to prevent our members from contracting the corona virus. It's a constant work in progress to develop protocols with our contractors when our members do test positive. As our City and State governments are requiring their workers to either be vaccinated or show proof of a negative test result each

New Subdivision in Kalaeloa by Gentry Homes

Construction barriers have started to go up on Franklin D. Roosevelt Ave. in Kalaeloa (behind Costco Kapolei). Hunt Companies is partnering with Gentry Homes, which will purchase and build a new subdivision that will have 250 multi-family attached units and 130 single family homes on 30 acres of vacant land. Work will be starting soon, with the first houses expected to be delivered in 2023.

This development will be pedestrian-friendly and green, with recreation areas that will give this area a new and welcomed look. Twenty percent of this project will be sold under the reserved housing rules set by the Hawaii Community Development Authority, which governs development in Kalaeloa. This will help working families get affordable housing in a great location.

This area – formerly the Barbers Point Naval Air Station – was acquired from the Navy by Hunt Cos. in 2017. Now, this area will be transformed from a military base into a modern local community that is close to beaches, schools, shopping centers and businesses. For the finishing trades and other contractors, this project will create work for a couple of years and add to the pool of jobs that will keep construction busy in the coming years. 🧑‍🔧

week, it is only a matter of time before the general contractors and owners of our projects will start requiring the same of us.

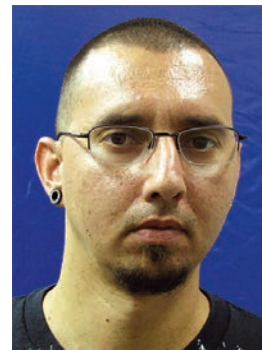
Our Apprenticeship program is through HCC and, as soon as the FDA approves one of the vaccinations, the University of Hawaii has said they will not allow anyone on campus without being vaccinated. Both Journeymen as well as Apprentices will then be required to get vaccinated to receive the training that's necessary to be a Glazier.

Our suggestion is to go and get vaccinated if you haven't been yet. Why wait? The vaccines have been shown to be effective in providing protection and minimizing the destruction that Delta variants can cause. Most cases of the Delta variants have been contracted by the unvaccinated population. The numbers do not lie. More unvaccinated people have not only caught the virus, they are being admitted to hospitals at a far greater rate than vaccinated persons.

Help us keep one another safe! Get vaccinated! If you get infected with COVID you not only put your families at risk, but your fellow Union brothers and sisters as well. You will be required to quarantine yourself as will anyone else that was exposed to you at work. This can have serious ramifications for a company as well as our Union because we may not be able to provide adequate experienced manpower during this period. So again, why wait? Get vaccinated! 🧑‍🔧

New to the Training Team!

We would like to welcome new Glazing Instructor Arthur Mosher to the team. A 16-year member of the Glaziers



Local Union 1889, Arthur has always shown his willingness to learn while going through the apprenticeship and now as a journeyman worker. Arthur takes every opportunity to give back to the program by taking the time to teach the apprentices what it takes to become a journeyman glazier. Arthur has always shown interest in becoming an instructor, gaining knowledge to become a better tradesman, and helping the next generation of apprentices. Arthur enjoys working on home projects and spending time with his family in his spare time.

We would also like to welcome new Glazing Instructor Freddie Bermudes to the team. Freddie has been in the glazing industry for 10 years and is a member of the Glaziers Local Union 1889 for eight years. Freddie has come through the glazier apprenticeship program and knows what it takes to successfully make it through the program. Through teaching – and as a journeyman worker – he wants to share his knowledge and experience with the new generation of glaziers. Freddie enjoys working and spending time with his family and friends. 🧑‍🔧





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

District Council 50 Meetings

- Retirees Club meeting – have been CANCELED until further notice.
- 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 4:45 p.m.
- Membership meetings – Last Thursday of the month at 4:45 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 - LUI791	808-941-0991
Tapers - LUI944	808-946-6621
Glaziers - LUI889	808-946-3329
Floor Layers - LUI926	808-942-3988
SpecialtyWorkers-LUI941	808-941-0991
Toll-Free Neighbor Island	888-811-4020

**DC 50 Joint Apprenticeship Training
808-947-6606**

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

IN MEMORIAM

ALBERT G. NISHIMURA, LU1889

JOEL HAWTHORNE, LU1944