



# HAWAII CARPENTERS APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING FUND

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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### NEWS RELEASE

#### HCATF CELEBRATES NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

#### *Tour of HCATF's Kapolei Training Center to Highlight Workforce Development in the Building Industry*

(Kapolei, O'ahu) – National Apprenticeship Week (NAW) 2024 is the nationwide celebration to showcase the value and success of apprenticeships in strengthening the economy by developing a highly skilled workforce to meet industry needs and create viable career options.

As part of this year's recognition, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) coordinated a tour of the Hawaii Carpenters Apprenticeship and Training Fund's (HCATF) state-of-the-art facility in Kapolei. More than 100 attendees, including state and county officials, members of the construction industry, educators, and workforce development advocates, had the unique opportunity to get a firsthand look at how the building industry is preparing the next generation of skilled workers, driving economic prosperity, and creating good-paying career pathways.

"Apprenticeship programs are a critical tool for building our state's infrastructure and providing workers with the skills needed to thrive in one of our state's most vital sectors that continues to boom," said Edmund Aczon, HCATF Executive Director. "Our newest facility also allows us to train millwrights which is a growing and important specialty that is critical in the clean energy sector."

HCATF has trained more than 3,000 apprentices who have gone on to become journeymen or foremen in the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters working on job sites across the state with member contractors. Additionally, HCATF offers over 18 courses to ensure apprentices and journeymen are current on the skills and training that translate to safe job sites.

"Apprenticeships in the building trades help to ensure that workers gain the practical skills, hands-on experience that is critical in today's rapidly evolving construction industry and the tour offers a chance to see how apprenticeship programs are not only preparing individuals for the workforce but are also key to supporting the growth of our state's infrastructure," said Jade Butay, director of DLIR.

In addition to the Registered Apprenticeship program, HCATF has been working with students at high schools and now middle schools through the Career Connections program where students take classes to gain experience and eventually allow for direct entry into the apprenticeship program. More than 18,000 students have gone through the program since its inception in 2017.

In 2024, HCATF also worked with the Department of Public Safety to offer the apprenticeship training program to both the men's and women's correctional facilities where were able to complete the rigorous six-week training course.

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## HCATF CELEBRATES NATIONAL APPRENTICESHIP WEEK

Page 2

“As we evolve and expand our programs and offerings, we want to ensure a healthy workforce for our contractors and attract a diverse and sustainable labor market while offering a viable career option,” added Aczon.

As the state's construction activity maintains momentum, HCATF and its partners remain focused on recruiting motivated candidates and providing exceptional training for apprentices.

Those interested can learn more about HCATF's apprenticeship opportunities at <https://hicarpenterstraining.com/>.

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\*\*\* [Link to video and photos](#) \*\*\*

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