



# HAWAII CARPENTERS APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING FUND

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

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## **NEWS RELEASE**

### **BUILDING INDUSTRY CELEBRATES NEW CLASS OF JOURNEYMEN CARPENTERS**

(Kapolei, O'ahu) – In a time of ongoing labor shortages across many sectors, the building industry welcomed over 190 newly minted journeymen carpenters today at the Hawaii Carpenters Apprenticeship & Training Fund (HCATF) Journeymen Recognition Ceremony.

This group of 192 individuals – 159 carpenters and 33 drywall workers - successfully completed HCATF's rigorous apprenticeship program, marking a major milestone in their careers.

"Construction continues to be an important sector for our local economy," said Edmund Aczon, HCATF Executive Director. "Bringing in this new class of highly-skilled journeymen is crucial for meeting current and future building needs across Hawaii, while also providing our laborers with viable career options to earn a living wage."

The step from apprentice to journeyman takes approximately four to five years to complete, with a required combination of 500 to 600 classroom hours and 8,000 on-the-job work hours. Through extensive training through HCATF, journeymen gain superior craft knowledge and are better equipped to develop leadership, mentoring, coaching, and communication skills, which impact the next generation of apprentices.

HCATF is a partnership between the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters, the General Contractors Labor Association, the Building Industry Labor Association, the Wall and Ceiling Industry Association of Hawaii, the state and federal government, and the University of Hawaii. Together, these organizations provide the funding, guidance, training and industry insight to ensure apprenticeship success.

"Construction is lifelong learning, and we want to ensure that union carpenters continue to improve their skills and do their best work to get ahead and stay ahead. It also supports a safe work environment at job sites for both those who are construction the project to the end users," added Aczon.

Among the newly minted journeymen is **NAME**, of **CONTRACTOR** who is working on **XX** project.

"I joined the apprenticeship program in **YEAR**, and the work is incredibly rewarding. You get to build and create something that will benefit local families and our community. And being a part of the carpenters union allows for continued grow opportunities and to earn a good salary," said X.

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

"We're extremely proud of these journeymen," said Aczon. "They exemplify the quality workmanship and professionalism our industry demands."

Those interested can learn more about HCATF's apprenticeship opportunities at [hicarpenterstraining.com](https://hicarpenterstraining.com).

HCATF has also partnered with the Hawaii State Department of Education to create trades pathways for high school students, the University of Hawaii Community Colleges, and other workforce development organizations. To learn more about HCATF visit <https://hicarpenterstraining.com/>

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\*\*\* Link to video and photos \*\*\*

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