



HAWAII CARPENTERS APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING FUND

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NEWS RELEASE

BUILDING INDUSTRY CELEBRATES NEW CLASS OF JOURNEY WORKERS – INCLUDING FIRST MILLWRIGHT JOURNEYWORKERS

(Kapolei, O‘ahu) – Marking a significant advancement for Hawaii’s construction workforce, the building industry celebrated the graduation of 200 newly certified journeyworkers today at the Hawaii Carpenters Apprenticeship & Training Fund (HCATF) Journeyworker Recognition Ceremony.

In a historic milestone, this year’s class includes HCATF’s first-ever millwright graduates, adding crucial specialized skills to Hawaii’s clean energy infrastructure capabilities. The graduating class comprises 159 carpenters, 39 drywall specialists, and two pioneering millwrights. These skilled professionals will serve communities across the Hawaiian Islands with 139 on Oahu, 35 in Maui County, 21 on Hawaii Island, and 5 on Kauai.

"Hawaii's construction industry continues to be a cornerstone of our local economy and workforce development," said Edmund Aczon, HCATF Executive Director. "This year's class is particularly significant with our first millwright graduates, who will play a vital role in supporting Hawaii's clean energy industry. There continues to be a significant pipeline of construction work across the state, and we continue to work with the industry to ensure we have the workforce to support the needs of our local industry."

The step from apprentice to journeyworker 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, journeyworker 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.

"The building trades are constantly evolving with new technologies and sustainability demands," Aczon emphasized. "Our training programs have adapted to ensure Hawaii's workforce remains at the cutting edge. The introduction of millwright training specifically addresses the growing need for technical specialists who can install, dismantle, maintain, repair, and troubleshoot sophisticated mechanical equipment critical for energy projects across our islands."

Among the newly minted journeyworkers is Andrew Maberry, one of two millwrights working for American Piping & Boiler who joined the apprenticeship program in 2019.

"I joined the apprenticeship program for a more stable career, better pay and benefits," said Maberry. "Initially, I started as a carpenter, but my employer needed a millwright, so I switched

paths and have really enjoyed the work and challenge. It was hard work getting here, but I plan to continue on this path and learn more skills in the field as well as leadership skills.”

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

“Every year I have the pleasure of welcoming a new group of Journeyworkers at their Recognition Ceremony at the HCATF Training Center in Kapolei,” said Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters Executive Secretary-Treasurer Ron Taketa. “I meet the families that supported and sacrificed while their loved ones put in the years of hard work and training to achieve Journey status. The goal of the Hawaii Carpenters is to produce the most competent labor force in the world and these new journeyworkers—with their skills, knowledge, and attitude—will become the future leaders on their jobsites and in our industry.”

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

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*** Link to video and photos ***

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