haumana

APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING NEWSLETTER

Kauai • Oahu • Molokai • Lanai • Maui • Kona • Hilo

HCATF Graduation

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Aloha

This summer, we are proud to share the continued progress and momentum of the Hawaii Carpenters Apprenticeship & Training Fund, and more importantly, the people and partnerships that make our work possible.

At the heart of this issue is the celebration of 193 new journeyworkers who have successfully completed their apprenticeship and stepped into the next phase of their careers. We are especially proud to recognize the first graduates of our Career Connections program who have now reached journeyworker status. Their journey highlights the importance of early exposure to the trades and reinforces our commitment to building strong career pathways for Hawaii's students. With another cohort of Career Connections interns already underway this summer, we continue to invest in the next generation of skilled professionals who will carry our industry forward.

At the same time, we are expanding opportunities for those who have served our country. The launch of the UBC Military Veterans Program (MVP) Hawaii marks an important step in supporting transitioning service members and veterans.

As Hawaii's construction industry continues to grow, the strength of our industry remains critical to building housing, infrastructure, and economic resilience across the state. Programs like apprenticeship training, Career Connections, and UBC MVP – Hawaii, play a vital role in meeting workforce demands while creating opportunities for local residents to thrive in the trades.

Mahalo to our partners across labor, industry, education, and government—including the Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters, our contractors and industry partners, the State of Hawaii, the Department of Education, and the University of Hawaii Community Colleges. Your support is essential in helping us build careers, strengthen communities, and shape Hawaii's future.

Together, we are not just training workers—we are building futures, strengthening communities, and shaping the next chapter of Hawaii's construction industry.

Mahalo for your continued support.

Edmund C. Aczon
Executive Director
Hawaii Carpenters Apprenticeship
& Training Fund

> *"Together, we are not just training workers—we are building futures, strengthening communities, and shaping the next chapter of Hawaii's construction industry.*

JOURNEYWORKERS RECOGNITION

Celebrating a New Generation of Builders in Hawaii

There was a strong sense of pride and purpose in Kapolei as the Hawaii Carpenters Apprenticeship & Training Fund (HCATF) welcomed 193 newly certified journeyworkers into the next chapter of their careers this June. Surrounded by family, friends, mentors, and industry leaders, the ceremony was a celebration of perseverance, community, and the future of Hawaii's construction industry.

193 NEWLY CERTIFIED JOURNEYWORKERS	**6** CAREER CONNECTIONS FIRST GRADUATES	**100s** CLASSROOM HOURS EACH	**1,000s** ON-THE-JOB TRAINING HOURS

Built Through Hard Work—and a Strong Foundation

The path to becoming a journeyworker is no small feat. Each graduate must complete hundreds of classroom hours and thousands of on-the-job training hours. Through that process, they learn technical skills while building discipline, pride, and a sense of responsibility that will carry forward into their careers and their communities.

> *"Reaching journeyworker status is not the finish line, but the beginning of something greater. The evolving construction landscape—from new technologies to sustainable practices—will require these graduates to remain adaptable, committed to lifelong learning, and ready to lead,"*
>
> EDMUND ACZON
> HCATF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

HIGHLIGHTING CAREER CONNECTIONS

From Classroom to Career

A particularly meaningful milestone this year was the recognition of six journeyworkers who were the first graduates of the Career Connections program.

Career Connections introduces high school students to the construction trades through real-world jobsite experience—helping them discover not only the skills required, but also the possibilities for a rewarding, stable career. What started as an introduction for these students has now come full circle, as they return as skilled professionals and role models for those just beginning to explore the trades.

Their journey reflects the vision behind Career Connections: building early pathways, expanding opportunities, and strengthening Hawaii's workforce from the ground up. In fact, the next cohort of Career Connections interns is already underway this summer, continuing to connect students with hands-on learning and career exploration.

APPRENTICE SPOTLIGHT

Elijah-Noah Rodriguez

Participated in the first Career Connections summer internship program. He knew early on that he wanted to go into the trades, and the program allowed him to jumpstart his career.

"The Career Connections program was the best thing for me to work on a real job site as a high school senior," said Rodriguez. "I was able to work for a drywall company but also discovered through the process that I wanted to pursue a carpentry career. It was hard work to get here, but I feel so accomplished, and I love the work. I earn a good wage, and I'm on my way to homeownership at 23."

Strengthening Hawaii's Workforce Together

The ceremony also underscored the importance of partnerships that make programs like HCATF and Career Connections possible. From industry organizations and contractors to public agencies and educators, these collaborations are building a pipeline of skilled workers ready to meet Hawaii's growing construction needs.

As construction activity continues across the islands—supporting housing development, infrastructure improvements, and economic growth—the demand for skilled tradespeople remains strong. Programs like Career Connections, along with ongoing apprenticeship training, are essential in sustaining this momentum and creating long-term opportunities for local residents.

With tools in hand and strong support behind them, this new class of journeyworkers is ready to shape Hawaii's future—one project, one skill, and one opportunity at a time.

NEW TRAINING PRE-APPRENTICESHIP PROGRAM • SUPPORT HAWAII VETERANS

Opening Doors for Those Who Served

UBC Military Veterans Program Comes to Hawaii

This summer, the Hawaii Carpenters Apprenticeship & Training Fund (HCATF) will welcome its first Hawaii-based cohort of the UBC Military Veterans Program (MVP) training program starting July 13.

Over the course of eight weeks, transitioning service members or military veterans will gain hands-on experience, industry-recognized certifications, and a direct pathway into apprenticeship programs in carpentry, drywall, and millwright work. A second cohort is already planned to follow soon after, reflecting the strong demand and growing momentum behind the program.

Supporting Those Who Have Served

Hawaii is home to a large and proud veteran community, with more than 100,000 veterans across the state. For many, the transition from military to civilian life comes with uncertainty—but also opportunity.

Programs like UBC MVP – Hawaii help bridge that gap.

By allowing service members to begin training during the final months of active duty, the program creates a seamless transition into meaningful civilian careers—ones that offer stability, purpose, and a living wage

From Service to Skilled Trades

What makes the UBC MVP – Hawaii program especially powerful is how naturally it builds on veterans' existing strengths.

Leadership. Discipline. Teamwork. A strong sense of mission.

These are the same qualities that define success in the construction industry. Through HCATF's training, participants will refine those strengths while learning the technical skills needed to succeed on jobsites across the state.

> *"Creating viable pathways for veterans is not just important—it's essential. The trades provide long-term careers that contribute directly to Hawaii's economy and future,"*
>
> EDMUND ACZON
> HCATF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

THE PROGRAM OFFERS:

- ✓ Free, 8-week hands-on training
- ✓ Earn-while-you-learn opportunities
- ✓ Industry-recognized certifications
- ✓ Direct entry into apprenticeship programs
- ✓ A clear career pathway in Hawaii and nationwide

Just as importantly, participants become part of a larger community—one grounded in mentorship, shared purpose, and a strong sense of brotherhood and sisterhood.

UBC MVP - HAWAII

Building Hawaii's Workforce and Its Future

The launch of UBC MVP - Hawaii comes at an important time.

Construction continues to play a vital role in the state's economy—supporting housing, infrastructure, and long-term resilience across the islands. As demand for skilled workers grows, programs like UBC MVP - Hawaii help ensure Hawaii is developing a strong, local workforce ready to meet that need.

This initiative not only addresses workforce shortages—it strengthens communities by helping veterans build stable futures for themselves and their families.

There's still time to apply or learn more. Active-duty service members approaching separation are welcome to explore this opportunity.

FOR MORE INFORMATION OR TO APPLY

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SAVE THE DATE

MASS TIMBER
HAWAII

Explore Mass Timber and the Future of Construction

HCATF will hold the inaugural **Hawaii Mass Timber Conference** at the Kapolei ballroom and training facility. The day-and-a-half event will bring together developers, architects, engineers, contractors, manufacturers, and policymakers to explore advancements in mass timber, sustainable construction, and innovative building systems.

DATE

Tuesday, September 15
Wednesday, September 16

LOCATION

Hawaii Carpenters and Drywall Training Fund Center

2040 Lauwiliwili Street
Kapolei, HI 96707

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Any other information we want to put here? Info on sponsorships? Contact info for you?

COMMUNITY • MENTORSHIP

Kamali‘i Mentorship

We’re proud to support the Kamalii Mentorship Summer Program, a collaboration with the Partners in Development Foundation, Kiapu Program, and Liliuokalani Trust. This year, twenty-six (26) kamaliis explored our apprenticeship program, taking part in guided, hands-on activities that introduced them to foundational tools and concepts in the construction industry. Our Training Coordinators shared their own journeys—offering real-life insight, encouragement, and motivation for the next generation.

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KAMALI‘I WELCOMED THIS SUMMER

Contact Us

Know someone who'd be a great fit as an apprentice?

Visit hicarpenterstraining.com/apply or contact a Training Coordinator to learn more about what it takes to join the trades.

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