HCATF APPRENTICESHIP & TRAINING NEWSLETTER Q3 • 2026

haumana

KAUAI • OAHU • MOLOKAI • LANAI • MAUI • KONA • HILO









COVER STORY / P.03

Building what's next with mass timber

02 Executive Director's Message

04 Hawaii Mass Timber Conference

06 First UBC MVP Hawaii Graduates

08 Career Connections 2026

EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR'S MESSAGE

Building the Future of Hawaii's Construction Industry

This quarter, we celebrated several important milestones that reflect HCATF's commitment to strengthening Hawaii's construction industry and building a sustainable workforce for generations to come.

We brought together more than 200 building industry leaders for Hawaii's inaugural Mass Timber Conference, creating an opportunity to learn, collaborate and explore how this new building system could help shape construction in our islands.

We also celebrated people embarking on exciting new careers. Seven participants graduated from the first UBC Military Veterans Program Hawaii cohort, while 21 young people completed our Career Connections summer internship and gained firsthand experience working on active construction sites across Hawaii.

While each of these efforts is different, they share the same goal: creating strong pathways into the skilled trades and ensuring Hawaii has a highly trained workforce ready for the opportunities and challenges ahead.

Mahalo to our instructors, contractors, industry partners, educators and community leaders who make this work possible. Most importantly, congratulations to everyone who reached a new milestone this quarter. We are proud to be part of your journey and look forward to celebrating your future successes.



Mahalo,

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

QUARTER AT A GLANCE

200+
industry leaders at the first Hawaii Mass Timber Confernce

7
veterans in the first UBC MVP Hawaii graduating class

21
Career Connections summer interns statewide

One Goal: Strong pathways into the skilled trades.



03 • INNOVATION IN TRAINING

Building What's Next: Hawaii Explores the Potential of Mass Timber

For two days in September, HCATF's Kapolei training center became a gathering place for a big conversation about the future of building in Hawaii.

More than 200 industry professionals came together Sept. 15 and 16 for the inaugural 2026 Hawaii Mass Timber Conference: "Stronger By Design - The Workforce Behind Mass Timber," hosted by HCATF. Developers, architects, engineers, contractors, government officials, and agencies connected with manufacturers and workforce leaders to explore what it takes to expand the utilization of mass timber in the islands. Experts from Hawaii and across the country shared experience and explored a common question:

What could mass timber mean for Hawaii?

200+
ATTENDEES

15–16
SEPTEMBER
KAPOLEI

Mass Timber Video Recap

MASS TIMBER CONFERENCE

A New Way to Think About Building

Mass timber uses engineered, large-scale structural wood components for elements such as floors, walls, beams and columns. The building system has attracted growing interest in the industry because of opportunities related to prefabrication, construction efficiency, design flexibility and reduced embodied carbon.

But bringing any new building system to Hawaii requires understanding more than the material itself. That is why the conference looked at mass timber from nearly every angle, including design, procurement, cost, construction, sustainability, installation and workforce development. Discussions also focused on challenges especially relevant in the islands, from shipping and supply chains to termite mitigation, material protection and coordination among the many teams involved in delivering a project.





KEYNOTE

Governor Josh Green, M.D.

Delivered a keynote address focused on building Hawaii's future through innovation and sustainable construction, while contractors with firsthand mass timber experience shared practical lessons from projects on the mainland.

MASS TIMBER CONFERENCE

Preparing the Workforce Alongside the Industry

Construction innovation and workforce development must advance together. New materials and construction systems only deliver their full potential when skilled people are prepared to work with them safely and efficiently.

“The goal is to make sure Hawaii is adopting and implementing these processes and systems that will help us continue to build the much-needed infrastructure,” said Edmund Aczon, HCATF executive director. “We want our developers, designers, contractors and craftspeople to have the knowledge and training to evaluate these systems and, where they make sense, successfully put them to work here.”

The conference represented an important first step toward building that knowledge locally and creating connections among the people who will ultimately determine how mass timber fits into Hawaii’s construction landscape.

> **“We could not have successfully executed this event without the help of our key partners, Hawaii Regional Council of Carpenters, Pacific Resource Partnership and Woodworks. Mahalo for your support!** - EDMUND ACZON, HCATF EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR









SUPPORTING HAWAII VETERANS

From Military Service to a New Career

For seven members of HCATF's inaugural UBC Military Veterans Program Hawaii cohort, September marked both an ending and a beginning.

After eight intensive weeks of training at HCATF's Kapolei facility, Aron Cabacungan, Joreese Jackson, Joel Ormeno, Shemaiah Peretania, Nehemiak Ross, Davion Smith and Jason Terwilliger became the first graduates of UBC MVP Hawaii.

The milestone was about much more than completing a training program. It represented the beginning of a new path after military service.

CLASS OF 2026 • COHORT

- Aron Cabacungan
- Joreese Jackson
- Joel Ormeno
- Shemaiah Peretania
- Nehemiak Ross
- Davion Smith
- Jason Terwilliger

Building on Skills That Already Matter

100,000+	8 weeks	DoD
VETERANS ACROSS HAWAII	INTENSIVE HAND-ON TRAINING	APPROVED SKILLBRIDGE PRE-APPENTICESHIP

With more than 100,000 veterans across Hawaii, the UBC MVP Hawaii program is an approved Department of Defense SkillBridge pre-apprenticeship designed to prepare transitioning service members for careers in the skilled trades.

Participants receive hands-on construction training and industry-recognized certifications while preparing to move directly into apprenticeship opportunities in the construction trades. The program builds upon strengths veterans already bring with them, including teamwork, discipline, leadership and a commitment to getting the job done.

> **“The UBC MVP Hawaii program gave me a clear direction for what comes next after military service**
>
> – SHEMAIAH PERETANIA • GRADUATE
>
> Peretania credited the program with giving him the training and opportunity to transition into a union apprenticeship, where he can continue developing his career and providing for his family.









CAREER CONNECTIONS

Turning a Summer Experience Into a Career Path





This past summer HCATF recognized 21 young people across Hawaii who successfully completed the Career Connections summer internship program. The six-week paid experience that gives young people the opportunity to work alongside construction professionals and see firsthand what it takes to build a career in the skilled trades. Interns worked with signatory contractors on projects ranging from housing to hospitality.

21

INTERNS • 6 WEEKS PAID

CLASS OF 2026 • BY ISLAND

13 Oahu	7 Kauai	1 Maui

INTERN SPOTLIGHT

Rane Kawakami

“The classroom learning helps you prepare, but nothing compares to working on an active job site and seeing how you’re contributing to a structure or building,”

A recent high school graduate who spent the summer working with contractor Albert C. Kobayashi, Career Connections provided the confirmation he needed. Following graduation from the summer program, Kawakami plans to continue into an apprentice carpenter career.

PATHWAYS INTO THE TRADES

Building Skills. Creating Opportunities. Strengthening Hawaii.

From introducing high school students to their first construction jobsite, to helping veterans begin their next chapter, to preparing Hawaii's workforce for emerging construction technologies, HCATF is committed to creating pathways into successful careers while ensuring our industry is prepared for what comes next.

FOR STUDENTS

Career Connections

A first construction jobsite while still in high school.

FOR VETERANS

UBC MVP Hawaii

A clear next chapter for transitioning service members.

FOR THE INDUSTRY

Emerging Technology

Preparing Hawaii's workforce for systems like mass timber.

START YOUR APPENTICESHIP

Carpentry • Drywall • Millwright

Paid on-the-job training plus classroom instruction.

HICARPENTERSTRAINING.COM

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.

TRAINING COORDINATORS BY ISLAND

OAHU

Harold Calventas
(808) 807-3480
hcalventas@hicarpenterstraining.com

KAUAI

Darrell Seto
(808) 859-2470
dseto@hicarpenterstraining.com

HILO · KONA

Mereane Hamatake
(808) 859-3983
mhamatake@hicarpenterstraining.com

MAUI · LANAI · MOLOKAI

Errol Kusunoki
(808) 223-9500
ekusunoki@hicarpenterstraining.com

MAIN OFFICE

1311 Houghtailing Street, Ste. 201
Honolulu, HI 96817
(808) 848-0794
hcatfhelpdesk@hicarpenterstraining.com
hicarpenterstraining.com

LIKE US. FOLLOW US. TAG US.

#HCATFHAWAII

@hcatfhawaii

@hcatfhawaii

@hicarpenterstraining