

HAWAII LABORER



Building A Better Hawaii!

End of an era; HMC-West closes its doors for good



Sad ending for proud Laborers

Local 368 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Peter Ganaban explains what help is available through the union and unemployment filing questions at a special meeting for members of the former Hawaii Medical Center-West. About 150 brothers and sisters are affected by the medical facility's closing in December of last year. Former HMC-West members collecting unemployment benefits are reminded to check-in the first five working days of each month or risk losing their benefits. HMC-West first opened its doors as Saint Francis Medical Center-West in 1990. It was sold to Hawaii Medical Center in 2007 by Saint Francis Healthcare System.

In a blow to the state's healthcare industry and a grim reminder of Hawaii's fragile economy, about 150 brothers and sisters of Local 368 lost their jobs with the closing of the Hawaii Medical Center West on Dec. 19, 2011.

"It's very disappointing and sad that this happened, especially during the holidays," said Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Peter Ganaban. "Our brothers and sisters at Hawaii Medical Center West deserve better than this."

Collectively, about 1,000 employees lost their jobs at both the Hawaii Medical Center West and East facilities. The closing comes after HMC filed a second Chapter 11 bankruptcy within three years. With the closing a total of 340 hospital beds were lost as well as a dialysis center and the only organ transplant facility in the Pacific. It also leaves the entire Oahu Westside without a major medical facility.

For employees like Starlyn Joseph, a pharmacy technician at HMC for four years, the closing came as a complete surprise. "I was shocked, shocked, totally shocked, because I thought that it was pretty much impossible for them to shut us down, given that we were once the biggest

(See 'HMC-West' on Page 3)

Hungarian artist's love of Hawaii, unions inspiration for mural

One of the first things you will notice, walking up the steps of Local 368's Oahu office, is a striking wall mural constructed of hundreds of ceramic tiles, depicting a construction worksite, with Diamond Head in the background.

That mural was commissioned to a then little-known Hungarian-born artist named Balazs Szabo. Prior to creating Local 368's mural in 1980, Szabo was commissioned by the State Foundation on Culture and the Arts in 1971, to create a 36 foot mural for the Kaimuki Regional Library - his first attempt at large-scale painting. *Bon Odori Hawaii* consists of nine separate panels, steel-bolted together to form 'seams' reminiscent of a traditional Japanese screen.

Szabo called the mural "a major success," recalling that even Gov. George Ariyoshi's mother (who was over 80-years-old at the time) danced



Artist Balazs Szabo (far right in white) examines the first fired tiles of Local 368's mural along with representatives of the Franciscan Tile Company in this undated photo.

the bon dance under the mural at its unveiling.

When Szabo received the call for the commission to create a ceramic

tile mural 23 feet by 13 feet for the entry of the lobby by Dennis Kimura of the architectural firm Kimura and Ybl of Hawaii, Szabo decided to use another medium besides paint and canvas. For Local 368's mural, he chose to use ceramic tiles, even though he admitted he had "never even fired a single ceramic tile in my career."

Szabo said he chose ceramic tiles to "symbolize the strength and durability of the union." Through his personal research, he chose a Los Angeles company, Franciscan Tile Company, which had a tradition of over 100 years of American ceramic tile creating and table ware.

After meeting with technicians at the tile company and revealing his design and idea, they expressed

(See 'Mural' on Page 3)

Straight talk with the business manager



Let me be clear to all: Local 368 will do whatever it takes to protect and preserve what is traditional Laborers' work. Rest assured, your leadership is in your corner, fighting for what is rightfully ours.

Recently, I was able to have a one-on-one meeting with Gov. Abercrombie, where I was able explain our position in this matter.

The governor has assured me that there will be no changes to the building codes or administrative rules that would take away work from our hard-working members. For this, I am grateful for Governor Abercrombie's kokua in this important issue. It is situations such as these that truly reflect the value of your union to be a politically active one. Like it or not, politics have a very direct effect on our families and livelihood.

Another political hot potato is the upcoming Honolulu mayor's race. Former governor Ben Cayetano has decided to throw his hat into the political ring, running on the single issue of killing the rail system.

Despite the fact that a majority of Oahu residents voted for the rail, he is trying to undo years of work and lobbying to make rail a reality on Oahu. Many of you know first-hand how rough the construction industry has been for the past three to four years.

Now, Mr. Cayetano wants to

drive a stake through the heart of this project at the eleventh hour, just as it is going through the final process of becoming a reality.

This is the first major public works project since the construction of the H-3 Freeway during the early 90's. The build-out will take some 20 years to complete. If allowed to proceed, some of you may even start and end your construction careers with this project. Additionally, development around the rail stations (called Transit-Oriented Development) will give even more Laborers work opportunities.

Let's send a strong message to Mr. Cayetano this September at the polls that he should stay retired at his Hawaii Loa Ridge mansion.

Finally, I hope everyone takes the time to say a quick prayer for our brothers and sisters of the now closed Hawaii Medical Center-West facility.

The bankruptcy and closing of both HMC East and West is a harsh reminder of how fragile our economy is. Despite signs that the economy is moving in the right direction, it couldn't come fast enough for our 150 members at HMC-West.

To our displaced brothers and sisters, rest assured that Local 368 will do everything in our power to help you out in anyway possible during this difficult transitional period.

Aloha my brothers and sisters!

It is said that politics is a double-edged sword. In the hands of our enemies, it can be a dangerous weapon. One only has to look at the state of Wisconsin, where Republican Governor Scott Walker is trying to rollback all the gains made by unions over the past 50 years, such as the right to collectively bargain.

Closer to home, it's unfortunate that certain building trades are trying to use political leverage to gain jurisdiction over work that is traditionally and rightfully ours. This is being done through attempts to change state law or administrative rules.



Peter Ganaban
Business Manager/
Secretary-Treasurer



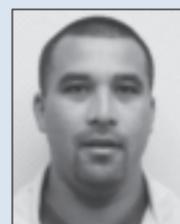
Alfonso Oliver
President



Joby North, II
Vice President



Toni Figueroa
Recording
Secretary



Thomas
Cathcart
Executive Board



James
Drumgold, Jr.
Executive Board



Leimomi
Johnson
Executive Board



Mark
Magusara
Auditor



Mark
Travalino
Auditor



Joseph Yaw
Auditor



Pete Lindsey
Sergeant-At-Arms

The 'Hawaii Laborer' is the official publication of the Laborers' International Union of North America, Local 368, 1617 Palama St., Honolulu, HI 96817; ph. (808) 841-5877 or 1-800-372-4077 from the Neighbor Islands.

News/Photo Editor:
Rich Nishie

2012 MCAH scholarship application available

The Mason Contractors Association of Hawaii is once again taking applications for its annual scholarships. A total of four \$1,500 scholarships are available to graduates of Hawaii high schools entering or currently attending an accredited college in Hawaii or the U.S. Mainland.

Selection will be based on academics, financial need, community involvement, special awards and honors, including athletic achievement and other evidence of personal motivation and eagerness to learn.

At least one of the parents must be a Hawaii resident and a member of Local 368. Applicants may be from private or public schools.

Applications are available at the Oahu, Maui and Big Island offices and on Local 368's website: www.local368.org

Laborer's unique method nets nice grab of a crab

Laborer Robert Coe, Jr. uses an unusual method of catching Samoan Crabs from shore - a popular island delicacy.

Instead of using a circular crab net, which most crabbers use, Coe uses a heavy-duty spinning rod and reel to reach areas not usually accessible to other crabbers.

Using a piece of lead and a single hook to hold the bait, Coe also ties a series of slipknot loops on the fishing line, surrounding the hook, to snare unsuspecting crabs.

Coe said he has perfected his set-up through the years to enable him to catch Samoan crabs of all sizes.

After casting his setup into a possible crab spots, he waits to see the 'twitching' of his rod tip, signalling a crab is trying to take the bait back to its lair. He then takes up the slack in the line and gives a quick jerk on his pole.

Hopefully, the loops do its job and snare the crab's legs and pincers. From there, it's just a matter of being able to reel it into to shore and into his bucket and eventually to his dinner table.

Coe said his favorite crabbing spots are 'secret' locations on Oahu's



Member Robert Coe, Jr. stopped by the Union Hall to show-off this huge Samoan crab from his secret crabbing spot. Coe uses a rod and reel with a single hook and a series of loops to snag the crabs. This one was reeled-in after a 20-minute tug-of-war contest, which saw it lose one of its massive pincers during the battle.

North Shore area.

Coe has been a member of Local 368 since 1993.

Construction jobs focus of Legislative session

For the first time in many years, the governor, the Hawaii State Senate and the Hawaii House of Representatives are speaking as one on job, jobs, and more jobs and they are doing something about it legislatively and administratively.

Gov. Neil Abercrombie said as he spoke to a joint Senate and House session that, "After my initial discussion with the House and Senate, I know that we are all committed to looking at an aggressive budget schedule for these repair and maintenance construction projects. I am committed as well to working with you (the Legislature) to make sure that we have a healthy and strong construction budget and a solid plan to continue

our investment in our economy."

Economic Recovery and Jobs

Abercrombie submitted a capital improvement plan in 2011 for \$2.7 billion through 2013. In his State-of-the-State speech on Monday, Jan. 23, 2012, the governor said economic recovery is a top priority. "All the signs show that private investment and construction appears hesitant and tentative," said Abercrombie in his speech. "Therefore, it is the public sector (government) that must step up to invest in repairs and maintenance, construction projects and infrastructure improvements. By aggressively putting these projects into action, we will ensure that job creation continues."

Speeding Up Procurement

There are about two dozen bills that aim to speed up the procurement and bidding process, to the award phase and then, to the notice to proceed phase with construction projects. One important theme is to limit or waive the protest phase, which often takes months to resolve and usually ends up in court. These bills, if enacted, will save time and money and more importantly, will put people to work faster than the current system.

Public Land Development Corp.

One of the most innovative ideas to speed up the development and construction of homes and commercial facilities is the Public Land Development Corporation (PLDC).

Act 55, passed in 2011, created this new agency within the Department of Land and Natural Resources to develop state lands. Senate Bill 2330, sponsored by Sen. Malama Solomon of Hawaii and Sen. Donovan Dela Cruz of Oahu and others, will increase the power, functions and authority of the PLDC to develop state lands by taking on the functions and powers of the Hawaii Housing Financing Development Corporation and the Hawaii Community Development Authority, which develops state properties.

The PLDC will be able to move faster to develop state lands and help create many jobs for Hawaii workers, especially in the construction trades.

HMC-West: Sad ending for many

(Continued from Page 1)

E.R. on the island. I was shocked and saddened at the same time knowing I was losing my job along with everybody else. It was a very sad day for me."

Since the closure, Joseph said she has put in applications to other hospital facilities and has gone back to college to further her education, but admits that there is "not much options out here."

As a Local 368 member, Joseph said she is appreciative that she does not have to look for three jobs on a weekly basis to collect her unemployment benefits. "That takes some stress off of our shoulders. It does help out a lot."

For a few fortunate employees like Russel Souza, a member of the facilities management department, they are actually still employed to keep the facility running, as it also services a nearby clinical service building.

Souza said he helps maintain the air conditioning units and exhaust fans.

"We work day-to-day," said Souza. "There is a plan to let us go. From there we're not really sure, we'll see what they want to do."

Souza hopes to hold on to his job as long as possible, but is realistic.

"We have to put our applications out there as well, to see if anybody will pick us up. You always got to have a 'Plan B,'" he said. "It's kind of like having blindfolds. You're not sure what direction you're going, but you just try to do your best."

In 2007, St. Francis Healthcare System divested its two medical centers (St. Francis Medical Center in Liliha and St. Francis Medical Center-West.

The two hospitals were sold for \$46.5 million to Hawaii Medical Center LLC, a joint venture between the Hawaii Physician Group, comprising of local doctors, and Wichita, Kansas-based Cardiovascular Hospitals of America.



Local 368's Second 'Golden Member'

Manuel Nicholas, Jr. (left) became Local 368's second member to be honored and recognized by LIUNA and Local 368 as having 50 continuous years of service. Nicholas, Jr. was presented with a 50-year gold card, plaque, certificate and special Polo shirt by Local 368 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Peter Ganaban and President Alfonso Oliver at the Oahu Retirees' Christmas Party. (See page 5 for more retiree Christmas party photos from around the state.)

Both Nicholas, Jr. and former Local 368 Secretary-Treasurer Liborio "Larry" Cadiz are Local 368's first two members to reach the 50-year milestone. Both joined Local 368 on May 22, 1961 and have paid their monthly union dues continually, without becoming delinquent. As 50-year members, they are now exempt from paying Union dues.

Mural: Cermic tiles chosen to symbolize Local 368's strength and durability

(Continued from Page 1)

doubt in the artwork. Szabo wanted to blend colors on the mural, which the technicians said glazes do not do and "has not been done in the history of glazing for 6,000 years."

Though initially discouraged, he was also intrigued. He told the technicians he "was an ignoramus and if they lock me up in the lab, I may stumble upon something as a solution because I don't know the limitations and restrictions to influence my mind."

Fortunately for Szabo, he did come up with a solution. You can see the center of the mural on a wide band, as the colors begin with a white color, morphing into an orange shade. In just 11 days, Szabo fired all 400 pieces at the tile company, amazingly losing not a single piece during the process. (The usual damage rate is between 20 to 30 percent.)

After delivery of the tiles by Matson, Szabo insisted that the tiles be installed by union workers to make it more meaningful. "Local 368 was at that time, protecting the basic labor force in Hawaii, so my theme was the representation of such labor," Szabo explained. "The upper left (corner) is Diamond Head. Below, are many geometric forms indicating the further development of the island with the sweat and hard work of cement pouring, wheeling heavy loads and carrying sewage pipes, surrounded by the symbolic elements of Hawaii, with palm trees, rainbows and rain. The two center figures were the two founders (Elmo Samson and Norman Janicki, Sr.), whose portraits I represented in the center as they are laying out and studying the future of the union."

Not long after Szabo completed the mural, the financially-ailing Franciscan Tile Company was purchased by the world-famous British Wedgwood porcelain company for a few

million dollars. When Wedgwood realized how valuable the land was that they had purchased, they turned around and sold it for 15 times the original price, effectively closing the factory.

"An American tradition of over 100 years was destroyed and 400 loyal workers most of them experts in their field were out on the street, unprotected by a union!" said Szabo. "A very sad ending. I felt fortunate to have the last big and quality project created there making the Laborers' Union mural a historic piece of art and an example of what can happen without proper protection of workers in such a case."

Originally from Hungary, Szabo he fled his country in 1956, at the age of 13, when the revolution against communist rule failed. He managed to board a train bound for Austria and freedom, which was attacked by grenades and machine gun fire near the border. "Someone threw me out of a window and I began to run," he re-

called. "As I crossed over the border, I scooped up a handful of Hungarian soil, a souvenir of my homeland." Szabo was reunited with his family, who had escaped Hungary by other means, in an Austrian refugee camp, and together they emigrated to the United States.

Szabo's other commissioned works in Hawaii includes an exterior 80 foot mural for the gymnasium at Waiialua Intermediate and High School. Dedicated in 1983, *A Waiialua Day* chronicles the development of this once sleepy sugar plantation town, depicting decades of change in the passing of a single day.

The 69-year-old Szabo currently resides in Hillsborough, North Carolina and keeps himself busy raising funds for *The Balazs Artist Discovery Museum*, which will also be located in Hillsborough, North Carolina. This museum will launch young North Carolinian artists' careers as well as teach them how to successfully manage their livelihood.

HILTP celebrates 2011 Apprenticeship graduates



Oahu's seventh graduating apprentice class is all smiles at their graduation ceremony. Joining the graduates are HILTP's training instructors and apprenticeship coordinators, as well as union representatives and special guests such as Pacific Southwest Regional Manager Rocco Davis and LIUNA Training & Education Fund Executive Director John LeConche. Graduation ceremonies on the Big Island also marked Maui's fifth graduating class and the Big Island's first graduating class of apprentices.



Maui Apprenticeship graduates were flown to Hilo for their graduation ceremony. Pictured from left to right are: Director of Training Francis Tau'a, Big Island Apprenticeship Coordinator Lamar DeRego, Wayne Sonan, Phillip Pelekane, Patrick Ramos, Training Trustees Joby North, II and Pete Lindsey and Dean Kimura, Pacific Administrators representative.



The Big Island's first graduating apprenticeship class is all smiles at their graduating ceremonies. Pictured from left to right are: Big Island Apprenticeship Coordinator Lamar DeRego, Director of Training Francis Tau'a, Edward Santos, Mosese Vaka'uta, David Jones, Shannon Davis, Triva Alves, Nicholas Quaglietta, Wayne Cordero, Storm Kepoo-Sabate, Training Trustees Joby North, II and Pete Lindsey and Pacific Administrators representative, Dean Kimura.

Guest speakers...



Pacific Southwest Regional Manager and LIUNA Vice President Rocco Davis.



LIUNA Training & Education Fund Executive Director John LeConche.



Local 368 Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer and Training Fund co-chair Peter Ganaban.



Training Fund co-chair, Leonard Leong.



Big Island's class speaker, Edward Santos.



Maui's class speaker, Patrick Ramos.



Oahu's class speaker, Malachi Atoia.

HILTP's 2011 statewide Apprenticeship Program graduates

Oahu graduates

Aana, Charles
 Acasio, Kalani
 Agno, Edwin
 Atoia, Malachi
 Aupito, Joseph
 Baptista, Teddy
 Bonilla, Elmer
 Cardon, Roderick
 Clark, William
 Corpuz Jr., Valeriano
 Crisostomo, Shawn
 Custino Jr., Edward
 Demello-Key, Guy
 Duncan, Kainoa
 Enos Jr., Norman
 Eperiam, Quinten
 Faoa, Iefata

Flamar, James
 Freitas, Kenneth
 Gomes, Rupert
 Huynh, Thomas
 Ireland, Christopher
 Jose, Virgilio
 Kaaui, Gareth
 Laguna, Ariel
 Leafa, Matthew
 Lee, Anthony
 Mabanag, Steve
 Mayola, Evianniel
 Melchor, Michael
 Mundon, Garrett
 Murga, Carlos
 Nakai, Adrian
 Onzuka, Travis

Paia, Josiah
 Papalii, Milton
 Passi, Conrad
 Perkins, Charles
 Perreira Jr., Paul
 Phillips, Cliff
 Pule, Jeremiah
 Quinata, Travis
 Ramseyer-Ho, Kamakakoa
 Robinson, Robert
 Sanchez, Josue
 Simon, Criston
 Smith, Darin
 Spears, Michael
 Tabilang, Jesse-Paul
 Tamayo Jr., Donato
 Tenoso, Guillermo
 Toliniu, Jerry

Tominiko, Robert
 Tugaoen Jr., Ernesto
 Tuiolemotu, Aoniutea

Big Island graduates

Alves, Triva
 Cordero Sr., Wayne
 Davis, Shannon
 Jones, David
 Kepoo-Sabate, Storm
 Quaglietta, Nicholas
 Santos, Edward
 Vaka'uta, Mosese

Maui graduates

Asuncion, Michael
 Pelekane, Phillip
 Ramos, Patrick
 Sonan, Wayne

Local 368's Retiree Corner...

Retirees celebrate Christmas around the state



Big Island Retiree Richard Kela helped with the entertainment with Theodore Angelo.

Retirees across the state got into the holiday spirit with Christmas parties on the islands of Oahu, Maui, Kauai and the Big Island during the month of December. Parties were coordinated by Local 368 field representatives, staff and retirees on the respective islands.

At the various parties, friends and fellowship were common themes, as retirees were able to meet, 'talk story' and reconnect with each other. Plenty of prizes and good food also helped make

the parties memorable events.

"We are honored to help our retirees enjoy their holidays. By having a party on each island, we hope all retirees are able to enjoy themselves during the holiday season," said Business Manager/Secretary-Treasurer Peter Ganaban. "Retirees truly form the backbone of Local 368 and this is just a small way to say 'thank you' for all that they have done through their many years of service and hardwork."



Theodore Angelo once again entertained with his singing and funny jokes.



Retirees and their guests came from across the Big Island to celebrate Christmas in Hilo.



Big Island retirees Vicente Domingo gets ready to receive his flu shot, while Generalissimo Madriaga fills-out his paperwork. Flu shots were available at most of the retiree Christmas parties, thanks to Pacific Administrators and Kaiser Permanente.



Kauai retirees, guests and Local 368 officers and staff.



On Kauai, Valentine Ako shared what it was like to work as a Laborer when the union first came to Kauai, as Joby North, II, who also served as the emcee, listens intently.



Pleasant weather helped bring a nice turnout for the Maui party.



Lucky number winner Leo Kaeo of Maui looks over the prize table as Myra Carvalho of the Maui office assists him.



Oahu retirees arrived early in anticipation to the annual Christmas Party. Oahu Retirees Club volunteers helped with the sign-in process. Lots of food and prizes were common themes at all retiree Christmas parties.



Local 368 officers and the Oahu Retiree Club also honored long-time International Representative Ron Myers (far left in hat) for his many years of service. Also in attendance were International Representative Rob Trenkle and Pacific Southwest Manager Rocco Davis (to the left of Myers).



It's electric! Oahu retirees, guests and Local 368 officers and staff got down on the dance floor to do the 'Electric Slide.' A fun time was had by all who attended.

**CONSTRUCTION AND GENERAL LABORERS' UNION
LOCAL NO. 368 OF THE LABORERS' INTERNATIONAL
UNION OF NORTH AMERICA
1617 PALAMA STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96817**

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Laborers' Calendar

FEBRUARY 2012

WEDNESDAY 1	THURSDAY 2
Maui Informational Meeting Maui Office - 610 Kolu St. #102 6 p.m.	Oahu Retirees' Meeting Oahu Union Hall 9 a.m. Kauai Informational Meeting King Kaumualii School 7 p.m.
TUESDAY 14	MONDAY 20
<i>Valentine's Day</i>	Construction Industry Holiday <i>Presidents' Day</i>
WEDNESDAY 22	SATURDAY 25
General Membership Meeting Oahu Union Hall 6 p.m.	Oahu Union Hall Open 8 a.m. - 12 noon New Member Orientation 8 a.m.

MARCH 2012

THURSDAY 1	WEDNESDAY 7
Oahu Retirees' Sea Life Park Excursion 8 a.m.	Kona Informational Meeting Kealahou High School 6 p.m.
THURSDAY 8	SATURDAY 17
Hilo Informational Meeting King Kaumualii School 7 p.m.	<i>St. Patrick's Day</i>
WEDNESDAY 28	SATURDAY 31
Oahu Membership Meeting Union Hall Auditorium 6 p.m.	Oahu Union Hall Open 8 a.m. - 12 noon New Member Orientation 8 a.m.

International Convention mandates implemented

Effective Jan. 1, 2012, two changes required by decisions made at the International Convention have been implemented.

\$2 Monthly Dues Increase

For active members paying construction dues, the monthly rate increased from \$36 per month to the current \$38 per month. For active members paying non-construction dues, the monthly rate increased from \$31 per month to the current \$33 per month.

This increase will not affect retirees' dues, which will remain at \$20 per month.

Hiring Hall Code of Performance

The International Union has required Local Unions to implement a Code of Performance in our hiring hall procedures. Local 368 was able to get the International to agree to modifications in what we needed to include, since our hiring hall already included similar provisions.

The one big change we had to include was that members terminated for excessive absenteeism or tardiness, insubordination or theft will be suspended from the hiring hall for one month. A second termination for these reasons results in a six month suspension. A third termination for these reasons results in indefinite suspension. Members facing this suspension may appeal their suspension in writing.

The purpose of the Code is to encourage members to display responsible and productive work habits in this difficult economic period in the construction industry.

Obituaries

In memory of our brothers and sisters who now rest in peace, we extend our sincere condolences to the families of:

**Sotero Aguinaldo
Pedro Augustin, Sr.
Marino Badua
Alfred Bautista
Rolando Bautista
Domingo Cabudol
Mila Castro
Calixto Corpuz
Nancy Cui
Masako Dagulo
Rodrigo Diamsay
Dominator Duquez
Mauro Gante
Marko Gjonai**

**Stephen Hagi
Shirley Ann Kealoha
Rudolph Kim
Felix Labenia
Charles Lopes
Remedios Mendoza
Juan Pasion
Howard Plunkett
Manuel Ponce
Bernard Sanford
Robert Sharpe
Lawrence Smythe
Donato Tamayo, Sr.
Melchor Tenoso**

Bienvenido Villator

To their families, we express our deepest sympathies.