FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

BIA Hawai‘i Celebrates First Hilo PACT Program Graduates Expanding Construction Workforce Development to Hawai‘i Island

Six-week pre-apprenticeship program connects participants with hands-on training, safety education, and career opportunities in construction

HILO, Hawai‘i (October 28, 2026) – The Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA Hawaii) proudly celebrates the successful completion of its first Hilo Pre-Apprenticeship Construction Training (PACT) Program, delivered in partnership with Keaukaha One Youth Development (KOYD). The six-week program, held September 14 through October 23, 2026, marks an important milestone in expanding construction workforce development opportunities to Hawai‘i Island.

The Hilo cohort represents BIA Hawai‘i’s 11th PACT cohort since the program restarted in September 2024. Through a combination of classroom instruction, hands-on learning, safety education, career development, and real-world construction experience, PACT helps prepare participants to explore career pathways and take the next steps toward employment and apprenticeship opportunities in the construction industry.

The October 23rd graduation celebration featured U.S. Representative Jill Tokuda as the keynote speaker, recognizing the accomplishments of the graduates and highlighting the importance of investing in Hawai‘i’s future construction workforce. BIA Hawai‘i extends its appreciation to Representative Tokuda for participating in this milestone celebration and supporting workforce development in Hawai‘i.

“Hawai‘i needs a strong pipeline of skilled construction professionals to meet our housing, infrastructure, and community needs,” said Roseann Freitas, BIA Hawaii CEO. “PACT provides participants an opportunity to explore these careers while gaining practical skills, safety training, industry connections, and greater confidence about their next step. Just as importantly, the program shows what we can accomplish when industry and community organizations work together.”

The successful launch of the Hilo PACT program reflects the value of collaboration among industry partners, community organizations, instructors, and supporters.

(continued on next page)

Financial contributions, donated materials, tools, and other resources helped make the program possible and provided participants with opportunities to learn about construction careers in a practical, supportive environment.

BIA Hawai‘i gratefully acknowledges the following organizations for their contributions and support:

- Kosasa Foundation
- HPM Building Supply
- Armstrong Builders, LLC
- DeWALT

BIA Hawai‘i also recognizes the instructors and industry professionals who generously shared their knowledge, experience, and time with the Hilo cohort:

- Bruce Albers
- Lisa Lucia, Stillwater Wellness, LLC
- Steven Loo, Loss Control & Safety Management
- Lloyd Narimatsu
- Hinano Nahinu
- Naomi Ahu
- Tiare Lando

Their collective efforts helped deliver an engaging training experience and introduce participants to the skills, safety practices, and professional expectations that are essential to success in the construction industry.

BIA Hawai‘i’s PACT program connects education, hands-on training, job readiness, and industry exposure to help participants pursue employment, apprenticeship, and additional training opportunities in construction. By working alongside community partners such as KOYD, BIA Hawai‘i continues to strengthen connections between aspiring construction professionals and the industry while supporting Hawai‘i’s long-term workforce needs.

The completion of the first Hilo PACT cohort marks an important step in bringing these opportunities to more communities across the state and building a stronger, better prepared construction workforce for the future.

Event photos link: https://tinyurl.com/BiaHiloPhotos

(continued on next page)

A fifth 2026 PACT program cohort will be graduating on O'ahu on November 20th at BIA Hawaii in Waipahu. The public is invited to this free event. Learn more and register at www.biahawaii.org

About the Building Industry Association of Hawaii
The Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA Hawaii) is the voice of the construction industry and Hawaii's leading not-for-profit trade organization chartered by the National Association of Home Builders (NAHB) in 1955, with more than 300 professional members across the industry including developers, contractors, suppliers, realtors, and associate companies.

BIA Hawaii is a proud supporter and advocate of housing at all price points, and our members work together to build the living spaces that kama'aina call home. Together, we educate, advocate, and grow. Industry Elite Partners are Armstrong Builders, Castle & Cooke Homes Hawaii, Gentry Homes, Honsador Lumber, and HPM Building Supply. 2026 Corporate Sponsors include Hawaiian Dredging, Haloa Construction, Inspired Closets Hawaii, Lung Rose Voss Wagnild, Hawaiian Electric Company, Howard Hughes Communities and Kapili Roofing and Painting.

Visit www.biahawaii.org to stay informed of industry news and view the membership directory, calendar of events, and our class schedule.

For more information contact:
Holly Kessler, Communications Director
holly@biahawaii.org
808-629-7505

###