

COMMUNITY

3rd construction apprenticeship expo is Thursday

Students from Ka'u to Honokaa will be bused in for event

On Thursday, Feb. 21, training and apprenticeship coordinators will once again converge at the Hawaii Army National Guard Armory to highlight the skills, compensation, benefits and career tracks for their respective trades. At least 10 construction trades organizations will be on hand to provide interactive demonstrations to the general public from noon to 2 p.m.

This year, the event will be held in conjunction with the Department of Education's Summer Opportunities Expo 2008 taking place at the Sangha Hall next to Starbucks in downtown Hilo.

"This partnership with the coordinators of the Opportunities Expo will allow for more high schools visiting both events," explained Blayne Hanagami, Hawaii Branch manager of the Workforce Development Division.

After a successful event last year, most of the apprenticeship trades organizations have agreed to return along with some new exhibits.

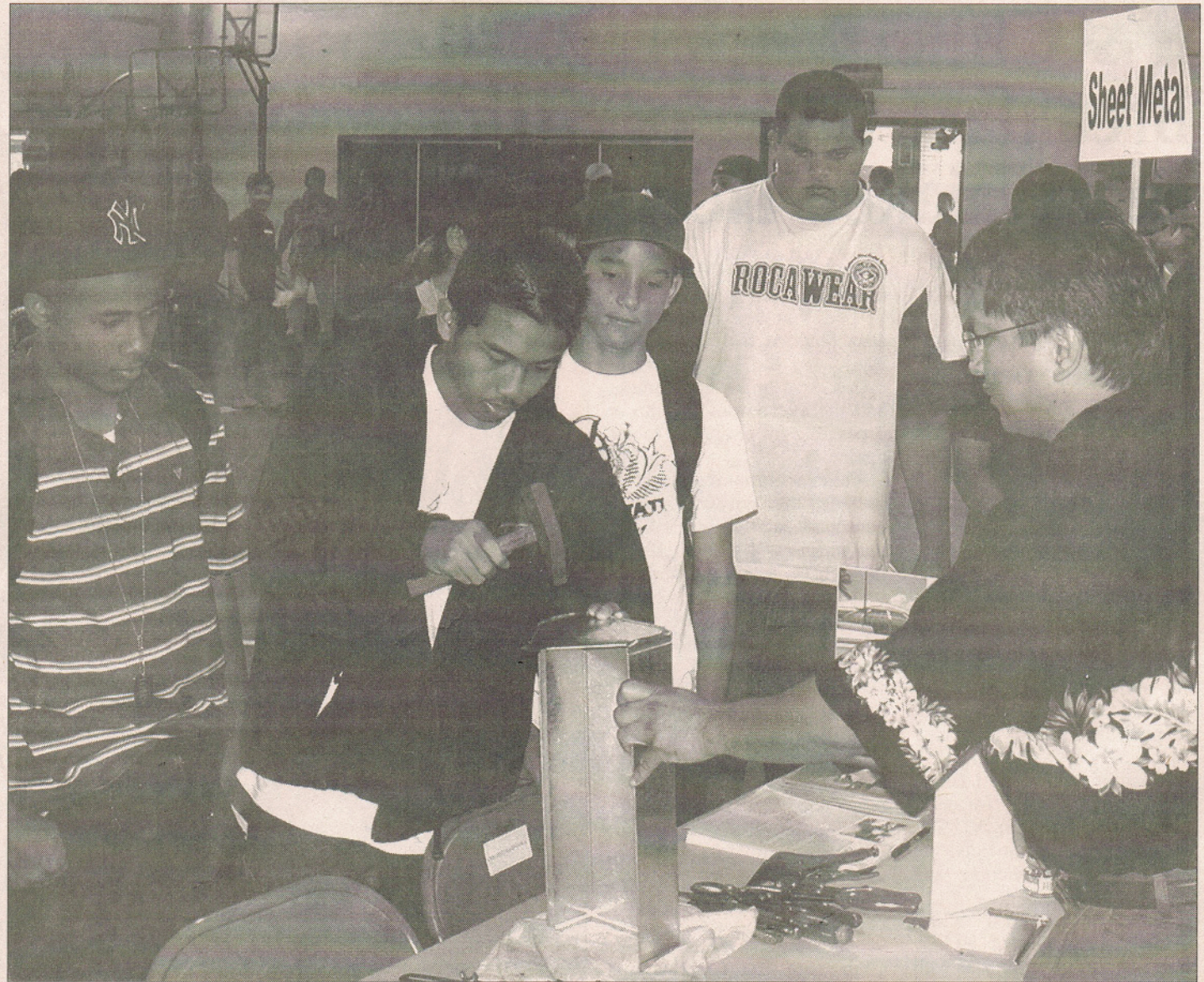
These organizations include: HI Carpenters Union

Local 745, Laborers Union Local 368, HI Electricians Training, International Union of Elevator Constructors Local 126, HI Masons & Plasterers Training, Sheet Metal Workers International, Hawaii Community College's Construction Academy, Apprenticeship, and Career & Technical Education Programs, and associated builders and contractors.

"We are extremely excited to have these training coordinators — most of them from Oahu — return to East Hawaii to share with the public the wonderful careers available in the construction trades," said Hanagami. "Schools from Honokaa to Ka'u are planning to bus in students for the morning sessions and the public is invited to attend from noon to 2 p.m.," added Hanagami.

"The Hawaii Community College is proud to be a part of this partnership with the Department of Education and the Workforce Development Division," said apprenticeship coordinator Wilt Watanabe. "And, of course, we wish to thank all of the trades organizations for the generous donations of time and resources."

Department of Education Career & Technical Education Coordinator Dan Banks echoed these sentiments and added, "I would also like to



Courtesy photo

On Thursday, Feb. 21, training and apprenticeship coordinators will once again converge at the Hawaii Army National Guard Armory to highlight the skills, compensation, benefits and career tracks for their respective trades.

add my appreciation to the Hawaii Army National Guard for providing a great venue for these live demonstrations."

All three Department of

Education districts are involved in this collaborative venture with the construction industry, as this event will host the following Big Island schools

from 8:30 a.m. to noon: Hilo, Waiakea, Keaau, Pahoa, Kamehameha-Hawaii, Ka'u, Laupahoehoe, Honokaa High Schools and Paauilo Middle

School. The public is invited from noon to 2 p.m. There is no cost for this event. For more information, please call Leonard Chow at 981-2860.