

COVER STORY

ROOFING STORIES AND EVENTS THAT ARE MAKING HEADLINES

ROOFING RETURNS TO ITS ROOTS

Hawaii Local 221 Roofers Install a Modern-Day “THATCH” ROOF

No tar, no shingles, no slate/tile or any type of single-ply system. Only on the islands of Hawaii would you find roofers re-creating a village paradise of “thatch”-topped buildings.

The village is Aulani, Disney’s latest foray into standalone resorts. And the thatch? “It’s like real thick pieces of fishing line. It’s not thatch at all,” says Vaughn Chong, Business Manager of Local 221, Honolulu, HI.

The sprawling, beachside resort sits on 21 acres on Oahu’s Leeward Coast in the Ko Olina development, known for its white sand and picturesque sunsets. It’s a nice departure from the tourist-laden neighborhood of Waikiki, just an hour away.

Employees of contractor Beachside Roofing and members of Local 221 are in process of roofing the immense project, which will ultimately comprise over 800 hotel rooms and time-share units, restaurants, a convention center, a 15,000-square-foot spa and massive water park. According

to an economic impact study commissioned by Disney, Aulani is expected to generate 4,800 jobs during construction.

As far as the unique thatch roofing material being used, which Brother Chong describes as very similar to what you find at the end of a weed whacker, it’s rare but not unheard of. “We’ve seen it done a few times before, but this is the most we’ve seen at one particular site,” he says.

The photograph featured on the cover looks like it could be the roof of a luxury island guestroom, but in actuality it’s the part of the structure that houses the electrical equipment. “They are facades,” says Brother Chong. They will line the two main housing structures which form a U-shape surrounding a swimming pool.

There is still plenty of work to be done on the project, which is scheduled to open next fall. “We still have a lot of flat decks and waterproofing left to do,” says Brother Chong—a good thing to hear in times like these.



Disney’s Aulani Resort in Ko Olina, Hawaii.



Local 221 roofers apply a faux-thatch finish to the structures at Aulani Resort.



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Venerando Aquino applies thatch.



Clayton Rivera measures protection board.



Aaron Rabanes fills a spray machine.



Nelson Vallo practices safety from the top.



The ocean makes a nice backdrop for Eugene Balictar, Zachary Balasi and Pete Rivera with Beachside Roofing.



Local 221 employess of Beachside Roofing in the process of laying thatch product on the Disney Aulani Resort.



Gus Hoapili fills a pitch pan.



Sheldon Kahanaoi cuts insulation.