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Commercial Real Estate

Honolulu Builders leases its first AI robot to help with construction



Workers for Honolulu Builders are pictured using the AI-powered Dusty Robotics tool to lay out construction elements.

HONOLULU BUILDERS



By [Alexander Lugo](#) – Commercial Real Estate Reporter, Pacific Business News
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Story Highlights



- Honolulu Builders deployed its first AI-powered robot for construction layout work in February.
- The FieldPrint Platform robot reduced layout time from weeks to days with one operator.
- Hawaii Carpenters Apprenticeship & Training Fund is training carpenters to use the new technology.

Honolulu Builders has begun using its first AI-powered robot on job sites this year, marking a shift toward automated construction technology.

The robot uses artificial intelligence to map and mark project layouts directly onto a foundation, identifying precise locations for key project elements. It can do the same with tilt-up wall construction, laying out where features – such as entryways – are to be placed.

Dusty Robotics, the California-based company that developed the FieldPrint Platform robot, is leasing one of its robots to Honolulu Builders.

Subbu Venkataraman, president of Honolulu Builders, declined to comment on the price of the lease.

“It's basically a robotic printer,” he said. “When you have a slab that's poured, and you have the layout file that you upload into the printer, it drives around and it just prints on the slab where the walls should be.”

The company began leasing the robot in January and deployed it on its first assignment at James Campbell Co.'s Kapolei Harborside warehouse project in February. The robot helped lay out some project elements before its tilt-up walls went up just last week.



The Kapolei Harborside Warehouse is seen on May 5, 2026, in Kapolei. The James Campbell Co. is the owner, while Honolulu Builders is the general contractor of the industrial real estate project.

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Prior to the robot, Honolulu Builders used a total station for the same function, which required two workers and several weeks of physically mapping out the layout. The new robot has reduced the layout work to one operator that can finish the layout within days.

Venkataraman emphasized that this kind of technology is not replacing humans on construction sites, especially as the industry [faces a worker shortage crunch](#).

“You still have people running these tools,” he said. “It’s just more efficient and saves us time to deliver projects faster, so it’s not necessarily replacing. Once the layout is done, you still have to do other things that are still done by our workers.”

Meanwhile, the Hawaii Carpenters Apprenticeship & Training Fund is setting up training programs that teach carpenters how to use the technology, according to Edmund Aczon, executive director of HCATF.

“We want to get ahead of this technology,” he said. “We cannot stop it. It’s here, so we want to make sure that our members are ready and equipped to use those robotic layouts.”