

WEST MAUI TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION'S

THE VOICE

"Coming together, uniting West Maui as ONE Voice"

PO Box 10338 ♦ Lahaina, HI 96761 ♦ www.WestMaui.org ♦ WMTA@maui.net

Newsletter of the West Maui Taxpayers Association – March 2014

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE by Don Lehman

In most years this message would be a recap of the January 9, 2014, WMTA Annual Meeting, but if you read the January 30th edition of the Lahaina News you saw a comprehensive recap of the meeting by our talented Administrative Assistant, Aldrina Meier. If you missed the Lahaina News, the article is also included in this newsletter.

I would like to note two items that speak to the effectiveness of WMTA. Mayor Alan Arakawa's presentation at the Annual Meeting included a comprehensive listing of infrastructure projects underway or soon starting in West Maui, along with their cost. His concluding statement indicated that WMTA has been successful in ensuring substantial investment in West Maui infrastructure.

In the February 8, 2014, edition of the Maui News, Maui Council Chair Gladys Baisa mentioned WMTA as one of the community organization meetings that council members should be able to attend without burdensome reporting requirements. WMTA agrees that council participation in these meetings is important, and the WMTA Board voted to support HB 2139 and SB 2962 to promote such participation. Both items bolster the argument that supporting WMTA is a wise investment.

Wesley Lo, Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Health Systems Corp., gave a rather alarming update on Maui health care at the Annual Meeting, describing the program as being in a fiscal death spiral. He urged support for legislation that would allow hospitals to join public/private partnerships to better provide health care. The WMTA Board has voted to support such legislation. There is legislation moving in the legislature, but it limits the partnerships to Hawaii based entities. This appears to be in conflict with the Interstate Commerce Act, but there is still time to amend the legislation to make it more beneficial.

The Board also voted to support a measure to remove the \$93 million cap on the counties' share of transient accommodations tax revenue.

WMTA members have participated in the Community Fire Protection Planning Meetings for West Maui Communities. Given the heavy rains this year, the coming fire season is certain to have abundant fuel for wild fires. WMTA will be working with the Hawaii Wildfire Management Organization to promote education, fuel abatement, and firefighting programs in West Maui. We urge all West Maui residents to participate as these programs take shape.

While WMTA does not endorse candidates for public office, the WMTA Board does invite any candidate wishing to learn more about West Maui issues to join us at our board meetings the second Tuesday of every month at 8:00 AM in the Maui College Learning Center on Kenui Street. Please contact our office on 808-661-7990 to make arrangements. Please come and introduce yourself to the Board.


President, WMTA

VOTE 2014

Save the Date

WMTA Candidates Night
Lahaina Civic Center - Social Hall
Friday, October 24, 2014
5:00 PM

More details to be posted at
www.WestMaui.org when available.

*IF NO VOTE,
NO CAN GRUMBLE!*
Vote 2014

County of Maui has a population of 154,924 (County of Maui Data Book 2012) yet, only 86,053 (55%) are registered.

Of the 86,053 registered voters for the General Election 2012, only 56.8% of Registered Voters actually voted?

West Maui has 12,255 registered voters, yet only 48% voted.

Statistics

<http://hawaii.gov/elections/results/2012/general/>

IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

- Primary Registration Deadline: July 10
- Primary Absentee Application by: Aug 2
- Primary Election: August 9 Polling Place Hours: 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.
- General Registration Deadline: October 6
- **WMTA CANDIDATES NIGHT: OCTOBER 24**
- General Absentee Application by: Oct 28
- General Election: November 4, 2014
Polling Place Hours: 7:00 a.m. - 6:00 p.m.

ANNUAL MEETING MAHALO

The West Maui Taxpayers Association Annual Meeting on January 9, 2014, once again brought together government officials, the community, developers and non-profit groups to educate and inform the West Maui community of programs, services and projects in the West Maui area.

A short business meeting kicked off the evening which included the Election and Installation of Board Members. (Pictured Below)

Thank you to the following for their informative remarks: Representative Angus McKelvey, Mayor Alan Arakawa and Council Member Elle Cochran (West Maui).

Mahalo to the following community groups that roll up their sleeves to protect West Maui. They gave a short introduction into their mission and programs, as well as stayed throughout the meeting to answer questions and provide information displays and handouts. These individuals and groups are:

- Liz Foote, Hawaii Field Manager for the Coral Reef Alliance, and the Coordinator of the Ka'anapali Makai Watch program;
- Sandra McGuinness, Maui Coalition Coordinator for Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition, NPAC;
- Ekolu Lindsey: Director of Polanui Hiu Community Managed Makai Area;
- Tova Callender: Coordinator of the West Maui Watershed Project, West Maui Ridge to Reef, and West Maui Kumuwai programs.

Special presentations were provided by a number of organizations. We thank them for providing an update to the community on their respective projects –

- Bob Pure, Vice-President, WMTA, provided an update on transportation issues in West Maui, including the recently completed second phase of the Lahaina Bypass.
- Michelle Berner, Corporate Counsel for Newport Hospital Corporation provided the latest status for the West Maui Hospital.
- Wesley Lo, Regional Chief Executive Officer of the Maui Region, provided information on Maui Healthcare in the past, present and the future.

- Stanford Carr, President, Stanford Carr Development LLC provided information on the proposed Kahoma Village Project.
- Rory Frampton, Planning Consultant for the West Maui Land Company provided an update on their Kahoma Residential project.

Special guests in attendance included Council Member Mike Victorino (Wailuku, Waihee, Waikapu); Council Member Don Guzman (Kahului); County of Maui Transportation Director JoAnn Johnson-Winer; Sergeant Melvin Johnson Jr, MPD who is Community Liaison for West Maui

We also thank our sponsors for helping to defray the costs of hosting the Annual Meeting:

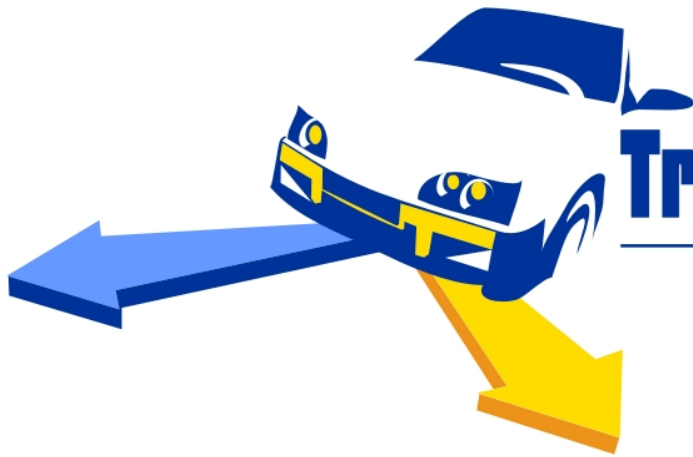
- Paradise Grill/David Mello and Art Ortiz for once again donating all the food for the complimentary dinner service.
- Zeke Kalua for donating audio/visual services and use of equipment.
- West Maui Improvement Foundation for donating the water and miscellaneous supplies
- Java Jazz for a special discount for coffee service, and
- Akaku for a special discount for video service.

Thank you to all those WMTA members and community members who came to be informed of WMTA and happenings in West Maui. One of the attendees at the event appreciated the time we took at the meeting to explain the difference between WMTA and the WMIF and WMHMC (also posted on our website) as they had been confused that WMTA was too tied up with the West Maui Hospital Efforts and fundraising. Now, they understand the difference and say that we should be promoting all the accomplishments of WMTA and be declaring that. The attendee also agreed with us that WMTA NEEDS MORE MEMBERS declaring that "If you are a taxpayer in West Maui, you can't afford to not join us. Help us make a difference!"

Together with members and the community, we look forward to 2014 being the best year ever for West Maui Taxpayers Association and the West Maui community. Please stay informed, and VOTE



Gregg Nelson, Don Ferguson, Bob Pure (Vice President), John Seebart, Don Lehman (President), Jim Hentz, Pat Kelly, Paul Brown, Joe Pluta (Treasurer/President Emeritus), Richard Jarman and Zeke Kalua



Transportation UPDATE

by Bob Pure

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE by Bob Pure

When the Lahaina Bypass opened, the State Dept. of Transportation put a 25 and 30 MPH speed limit on the entire Bypass. This didn't pass the "common sense" test. Our main stop and go highway was 45 MPH and the new limited access open "bypass" was set at 30 MPH. In discussion with the Dept. of Transportation in Honolulu it was pointed out that a 30 MPH speed limit made no sense and defeated the very idea and purpose of a "bypass" and it would discourage people from ever using the road.

The DOT agreed and has revised the speed limit to 45 MPH on the section of the Bypass between Lahainaluna and Hokikio. The rest of the Bypass will be at 30 and 35 MPH with the exception of the entry and exit portions which will remain at 20 and 25 MPH. The new speed limit signs are already up.

In another discussion, before the Bypass opened, it was suggested to the DOT to lengthen the left turn access lane onto Keawe Street to allow more cars to "stack up" in that lane in order to take the Bypass going south. Currently that lane only "holds" six cars. The DOT has agreed to make the change and has begun the re-striping process.

Both of these revisions should make the Bypass faster and easier to use.

IMPROVEMENT ALERT



WMTA lobbied the State DOT to raise the speed limit on the new bypass! DONE!

WEST MAUI HOSPITAL by Joseph Pluta

We are happy that the West Maui Hospital is back in the news! I personally have been working towards the realization of a West Maui Hospital for over 15 years. We understand that some folks have been confused about who is directly developing the hospital and who the others are assisting in the process, but with different roles and responsibilities.

It's important to start off this update to clarify who the stakeholders are with respect to the West Maui Hospital and their respective relationships.

While each of these organizations share mutual goals, there is not any legal or taxable affiliations between them and they operate with their own agenda, articles of organization, taxable liabilities and governing boards.

1. Newport Hospital Corporation Inc.,(NHC), President and Sole Stockholder, Brian H. Hoyle, who is the existing holder of the State of Hawaii "Certificate of Need," or C.O.N.- A fundamental prerequisite for any Hospital in Hawaii.
2. West Maui Hospital Foundation Inc.,(WMHF) –Newly formed Non-Profit Corporation which has been the designated to be the owner/lessor of the West Maui Hospital to be managed by Critical Access Hospitals LLC.
3. West Maui Improvement Foundation Inc. , (WMIF) The Non-Profit Foundation who began the research and effort to obtain support for a West Maui Hospital from the Community and who formed a relationship and agreements with landowner, Kaanapali Land Management Corp,(KLM), and the Developer, Brian Hoyle and NHC, to join together and obtain the necessary consultants and planners to be able to successfully obtain the State Certificate of Need, (CON) in March of 1979.
4. West Maui Hospital and Medical Center Foundation Inc. (WMHMCF), a nonprofit public charity 501-c-3 designed specifically to be the ongoing bridge between the community at large and the West Maui Hospital. This important link needs financial support to fund the framework for a Hospital Auxiliary Support Group of Volunteers, Resource Development of Community Interactions with Community and Visitor Industry Operational Inter-relationship synergies and Protocol development. The time to start this planning is now and it requires dedicated planning funds accordingly. This is outside the direct operations of the Hospital itself, and separately funded and integrated as a bridge between the community and the Hospital with a voice and an ability which will be essential to fully integrate community needs synergistically and efficiently.
5. West Maui Taxpayers Association Inc. (WMTA) is a non-profit 501-c-4 lobbying organization seeking governmental recognition of the economic importance of the West Maui Region to the County and State Government. Educating government on our rationale for keeping West Maui Community Infrastructure on a par level consistent with protecting that revenue stream. The WMTA can and does engage in essential political lobbying and that's what the WMIF and WMHMCF are prohibited from engaging in due to IRS restrictions.

All of the organizations above are committed to addressing our isolation from essential emergency medical services at a fully licensed, equipped and staffed lifesaving Emergency Room as identified and approved by State Health Planning and Development Agency in the Certificate of Need granted for the West Maui Hospital.

We have Good News!

1. The Certificate of Need Holder for the West Maui Hospital, Newport Hospital Corporation's Brian Hoyle, informed us on February 28th, that meetings with the County Government's Mayor and County Council Members that day were excellent favoring expediting approvals for the development to move forward. Thanks to this expediting, we could be moving dirt for site development of the hospital by the end of this year and officially accepting patients for opening sometime in late part of 2015 or early 2016.
2. H.B. 2213 is moving through the legislature and would authorize the issuance of special purpose revenue bonds to assist the proposed West Maui Hospital and Medical Center Foundation Inc. in establishing a hospital in West Maui. (The last private hospital built in Hawaii was the North Hawaii Community Hospital in Waimea/Kamuela on the Big Island of Hawaii, with a smaller population than West Maui and they received a direct contribution payment of \$8 Million from the State of Hawaii to assist them)

We've already done the impossible, all we have now is the possible. Thank you for your continued support!

West Maui Hospital & Medical Center Foundation / IRS EIN 26-3774305 NON PROFIT 501C (3)

The Mission of the WMHMCF is to improve and enhance access to life-saving healthcare, and to provide healthcare related facilities and healthcare related facilities and healthcare services in West Maui Community.

Donor Name: _____ Email: _____

Billing/Mailing Address: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Check here to have your name kept private in publications and acknowledgements. Check here to have your e-mail address added to our "WMIF E-Alerts" List

Donation Amount: \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

Check Payable to **WMHMCF** is enclosed. Or Charge my credit card (complete all information above and below)

CARD TYPE Visa MasterCard Card # _____ Expiration Date: _____ Security Code: _____

Phone Number: _____ Signature _____

WMTA Members Survey



WMTA has always been proud of our responsiveness to our members and supporters. For many years WMTA asked attendees at the WMTA Annual Meeting to list and prioritize the issues that WMTA should address. As the key issues raised were the same every year (Traffic, health care, affordable housing), WMTA has not done a serious survey for several years. The WMTA Board recognizes that we can better serve the West Maui community if we ask our members to share their ideas on what is important to West Maui.

With this in mind, we ask that anyone interested in sharing their ideas on West Maui issues and efforts please fill out this form with KEY ISSUES in priority order, and share any additional ideas on where WMTA should focus our efforts. Please fax your completed form to 661-7992, or mail to P.O. Box 10338, or email to WMTA@maui.net. Thank you.

KEY ISSUES:

1. _____
2. _____
3. _____
4. _____
5. _____

ADDITIONAL COMMENTS ON HOW WMTA CAN BETTER REPRESENT WEST MAUI, AND ANY OTHER ISSUES:

COUNTY ODOR CONTROL PROJECT From Kyle Ginoza, County Director of Environmental Management and Waste

As far as the upgrades to the Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility above Times Supermarket, we have a comprehensive odor control project. The Odor Control project is currently under design, and we are targeting construction to start after construction funds become available in FY15 (July 1, 2014). In our estimation, it should get rid of 90% of the smells from this facility. The project will be complete in a year after we execute the construction contract, meaning the project will probably be done around the fall of 2015. Another major odor control project for the Lahaina area is the replacement of the Lahaina Pump Station #2, north of the Kaanapali Resorts intersection (This is the one across Honoapiilani Highway and pretty much just mauka of the Kaanapali driving range and Roys). We are renovating the entire pump station. Construction of the new pump station replacement, including a brand new odor control system, is scheduled to start within the next 60 days.

MEMBERSHIP & TREASURERS REPORT By Joe Pluta, Treasurer/President Emeritus, WMTA

It's been stated that "You simply cannot afford NOT to be financially supporting the West Maui Taxpayers Association." Why? Because they have already saved every property owner significant dollar savings over what an annual membership fee cost is and the results will continue to do that and more for the West Maui Community.

Please look at the chart below illustrating the fact that every property owner in West Maui would be paying fire insurance premiums at more expensive protection class ratings and spending more for this necessary expense were it not for the fact that WMTA spearheaded the effort in synergy with the WMIF to fund and develop the Napili Fire and Ambulance Station. Lives have been saved as well as Dollars!

That has never happened anywhere else in the entire State of Hawaii before or since and it continues to save lives as well as lowered your insurance costs.

Property	Amount of Coverage (Dwelling)	Protection Class 10 (P/C 10) (Base Premium)	Protenction Class 5 (P/C 5)	Total Savings Since 1992 (21 years) (\$)	Savings/Year Since 1992 (\$)	Savings/Year Since 1992 (%)
Kapalua Plantations H.O.	2,500,000	5,017	3,042	41,475	1,975	61%
Honolua Ridge H.O.	3,000,000	7,240	4,391	59,829	2,849	61%
Honolua Ridge - Second Home/Vacation Home	3,000,000	8,326	5,941	50,085	2,385	71%
Condo - Vacation Rental	10,000	352	176	3,696	176	50%
Kaanapali Vista / Hillside	1,500,000	3,100	1,850	26,250	1,250	60%

Are you a dues paid member of the WMTA? If you are, then please accept our thanks and please consider an additional donation to help us continue to help you. It's an Election year and we need additional funds towards the only West Side Presentation of those who want to represent us in Local Government at our "Candidates Night-October 24, 2014." An aggressive voter information and registration campaign is a high priority.

It's time that we all recognize that financially supporting the WMTA may be one of the most important investments that could be made to enhance and support a vibrant West Maui Community. Please encourage your friends and neighbors in West Maui to join in with you in supporting the WMTA! Our track record speaks for itself.

West Maui Taxpayers Association
MEMBERSHIP FORM - IRS EIN 99-0160368 - NON PROFIT 501C (4)

Member Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____ Fax: _____

Check here to have your name kept private in publications and acknowledgements.
 Check here to have your e-mail address added to our "WMTA E-Alerts" List

\$ _____ MEMBERSHIP <input type="checkbox"/> I am a member and renewing my dues <input type="checkbox"/> I am not a member but would like to join	Membership Levels <input type="radio"/> Individuals \$50.00/year <input type="radio"/> Families \$100/year <input type="radio"/> Businesses \$100/year <input type="radio"/> AOA – email wmta@maui.net
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\$ _____ **DONATION**

Memberships effective for one year upon receipt of membership dues payment.
Mail Checks, payable to "West Maui Taxpayers Association", to:
 West Maui Taxpayers Association PO Box 158 • Lahaina, HI 96761

NWS2014-03

THE VOICE



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Look for us on

 **facebook** and  **Twitter**
 (www.WestMaui.org has links)