

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 – December 2014


PRESIDENTS MESSAGE by Don Lehman

WMTA thanks all the participating candidates and the voters who attended the 2014 WMTA Candidates Night. We had a large crowd and enjoyed some very spirited discussions. We also thank our sponsors and the WMTA members whose financial support makes our Annual Meetings and Candidates Nights possible.

WMTA has been concerned with the low voter participation rate for years, and has actively worked to combat voter apathy. It was heartening to see more interest in voting in response to the GMO Initiative, but it was disheartening to see the campaign devolve into angry rhetoric, demonization and hyperbole. As the lawsuits filed since the Initiative passed demonstrate, initiatives often have serious shortcomings. It is easy to be impatient with the legislative process, but open debate and deliberation serve a purpose and generally produce a fair and effective end product. At this point it appears the only winners in the GMO Initiative battle will be the lawyers.

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the 2015 West Maui Taxpayers Association Annual Meeting on January 8, 2015. The WMTA Annual Meeting is always well attended by those interested in a better West Maui, and offers a unique opportunity to hear from government officials and others about the many issues and challenges facing West Maui. The 2015 Annual Meeting will be especially informative as the successful candidates in the recent election will have their first opportunity to detail their plans and objectives for the coming year. More information can be found in this newsletter, and on the WMTA web site at www.westmaui.org.

Best wishes for Happy Holidays and a healthy and prosperous 2015 from WMTA.


President, WMTA

Mahalo to the 2014 Candidates Night Sponsors

West Maui Taxpayers Associations sends many thanks to our sponsors
Who helped make the Candidates Night possible through financial donations and in-kind donations.

AKAKU: MAUI COMMUNITY TELEVISION for Broadcasting Services

EZEKIELA KALUA for Audio Services,

FARZAD, OWNER OF JAVA JAZZ for coffee service

WEST MAUI IMPROVEMENT FOUNDATION for Clerical/Administrative Support & Refreshments

Details

WMTA Annual Meeting
Lahaina Civic Center - Social Hall
Thursday, January 8, 2015
5:00 PM

Short Business Meeting for Election of Directors

will be followed by Special Presentations.

More details to be posted at

www.WestMaui.org when available.

WMTA Annual Meeting 2015

Confirmed Guests

(as of Wednesday, December 3, 2014)

- Senator Rosalyn Baker, Senate District 6, The Senate-State of Hawaii
- Representative Angus McKelvey, House District 10, House of Representatives-State of Hawaii
- Mayor Alan Arakawa, County of Maui
- Council Member Elle Cochran, Maui County Council/West Maui, County of Maui
- Brian Hoyle & Michelle Berner, Newport Hospital Corporation / West Maui Hospital Foundation, Inc.
- Wesley Lo, Regional Chief Executive Officer of the Maui Region, Maui Memorial Medical Center – Healthcare on Maui
- Stanford Carr, President, Stanford Carr Development - Kahoma Village
- Bob Pure, Vice-President, West Maui Taxpayers Association – Transportation





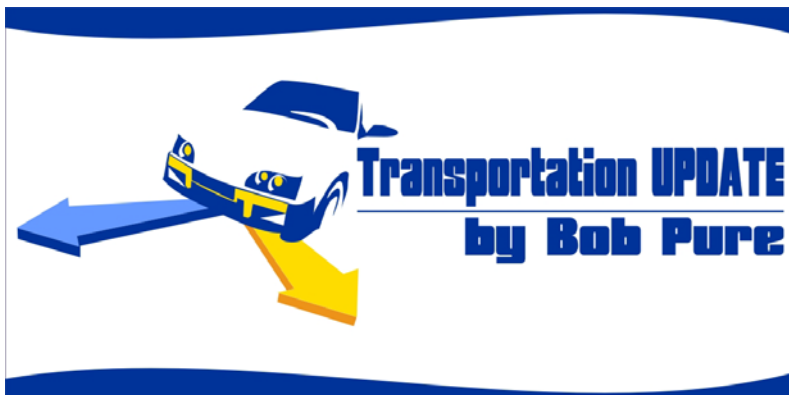
**Don't let the
WMTA Ship sink!**

I personally had the privilege to officially be responsible as a board member in charge of membership in naming the West Maui Taxpayers Association Inc., (WMTA) from the Honokowai-Napili-Kapalua Taxpayers Union, (HNKTU), in 1980 and accordingly, this year marks the 35th anniversary of the existence of the WMTA.

Some of the projects the community desired which the WMTA has been a part of the past 35 years had been declared impossible before they were done. i.e. The building of our Napili Fire and Ambulance Station with Private Funds, Fee Simple conversions of Condominiums from Leasehold, Lahaina By-Pass, An aquatic center, Senior Center, straightening Lower Honoapiilani Road at "S Turns and adding a park there, a Skate park in Lahaina town, and testifying to the State of Hawaii on behalf of the developer in obtaining a Certificate of Need for a West Maui Hospital are amongst those most notable.

Your volunteer board of directors have been operating the WMTA without the benefit of an Executive Director the past 4 years thanks to God and sharing costs with other organizations with the same interests. Without the benefit of cost sharing the WMTA would have been forced to close its operations! Unfortunately, that's what may happen without your immediate attention and assistance.

This is an urgent call to action! The WMTA has not been able to maintain meeting its meager annual budget under \$26 k, and pay its share of rent, utilities, and office expenses. We are at a turning point at this time. It has been said that "the importance of the WMTA cannot be overstated." I hope you agree and will evidence it by your making a year-end donation to the WMTA today. Time is of the essence. Please evidence your support and thanks for what the WMTA has done and continues to do to represent your interests on Maui. Please use the form attached to this newsletter and send in your donation today! Thank you.



My report is not specific to West Maui but it will affect everyone reading this newsletter in a positive way.....

currently there is a two phase construction project underway in and around the airport.....the Kahului Access Road and the Airport Loop Road.....

this will go a long way in having both residents and visitors avoid the Dairy Road/Hana Highway intersection, the busiest in the County.....

the first phase of the project is scheduled to be completed in March of 2015 and the second phase by January of 2016.....

when both phases are completed you will be able to access the airport without going through that intersection if you so choose.....you will also be able to go to Costco without going through that intersection also.....

so, it's about a 13 month project from December 1st.....and certainly will be transformative for Maui County and for all Maui residents.....

and, FYI, all the rental car facilities will be moving to a new location as part of this project and resurfacing and upgrading the runways will also be happening.....

WMTA GOALS AND OBJECTIVES

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 1) Promote the development and construction of a critical access medical facility in West Maui with associated facilities.
- 2) Support emergency preparedness programs for West Maui.
- 3) Support budget requests for MEO projects and improved police and fire fighting facilities in West Maui.

EDUCATION

- 1) Lobby for funding for the Lahaina Complex After School Tutoring Program.

TRAFFIC AND ROADWAYS

- 1) Promote the completion of the Lahaina Bypass and other traffic mitigation projects in West Maui. Support design and construction of alternative roadways to reduce traffic on Honoapiilani Highway (ie Kahua Street).
- 2) Pursue completion of the upgrades and paving of lower Honoapiilani Road from Kahana to Napili
- 3) Promote improvements to Honoapiilani Highway from the Pali to Lahaina Town to protect the single access in and out of West Maui.
- 4) Spur County to complete Shaw Street sidewalk from Front Street to Honoapiilani Highway as promised.
- 5) Promote implementation of the Maui County Complete Streets Ordinance on all West Maui projects, especially pedestrian safety improvements at the Front Street/Fleming Road and Honoapiilani Highway intersection.
- 6) Support expansion and improvement of County public transit service in West Maui.
- 7) Support moving the southern terminus of the Lahaina Bypass to Cut Mountain.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- 1) Continue to support well planned housing projects in West Maui that include both affordable and work force elements. (ie: Wainee Village, Kaanapali 2020, Kohoma Stream infill, Villages at Leialii, Puukoolii Village Mauka, Pulelehua, 'Kahoma Village, etc.)
- 2) Support the expansion of the Ka Hale A Ke Ola Homeless Resource Center to address the homeless encampment problems in West Maui.

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENTS

- 1) Press for improvements to the pump station at Honoapiilani Highway and Ka'anapali Parkway to address the sewer odor problem.
- 2) Pursue funding for improvements to the Honokowai sewage treatment plant, including completion of the ultraviolet canal, to provide treatment, storage and distribution systems to reuse treated waste water instead of using injection wells, and to address odor problems.
- 3) Support the operation/preservation of the new West Maui skate park.
- 4) Support development of an off-highway bicycle greenway for West Maui.
- 5) Urge the County to aggressively develop under-utilized water resources to ensure adequate supply for current and future needs
- 6) Support purchase of land at Makila for the development of a new county shoreline park from Launiupoko to Cut Mountain
- 7) Urge completion and promotion of a shoreline walkway from 505 Front Street to Honokowai.

VOTER/TAXPAYER REPRESENTATION

- 1) Represent taxpayers in the budgeting process, with an emphasis on right-sizing government and greater efficiency in government programs.
- 2) Support effort to reform the permitting process and change the Planning Department focus more to customer service with fewer bureaucratic hurdles and a less expensive permitting process.
- 3) Promote business friendly regulatory and tax policies for enhanced job creation, especially in the hospitality industry.
- 4) Support fairness and certainty in real property taxation.
- 5) Support the effort to bring fairness and true voter representation to the Maui County election process for Council seats.
- 6) Promote communication between West Maui taxpayers and their government with the annual WMTA meetings, the WMTA Candidates Night (the only such forum on the West side), and aggressive get-out-the-vote efforts.
- 7) Build awareness of West Maui harbor needs and support harbor area revitalization.

CULTURAL PROTECTION

- 1) Preserve and promote Hawaiian cultural efforts, such as:
 - a. Support the efforts of the Royal Hawaiian Guard and its efforts with Na Kia'i O Wainee to honor the monarchs at Wai Ola Cemetery.
 - b. Support funding for the Lahaina Honolua Senior Citizens Club.
 - c. Support the creation of a new cemetery in West Maui
 - d. Support restoration of Moku'ula

WEST MAUI TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION – PROXY

The undersigned does hereby constitute and appoint the West Maui Taxpayers Association Board of Directors as attorney or agent, with full power of substitution, to act in the undersigned's name, place and stead, to represent that member for quorum purposes only so that the business that properly comes before the meeting can be conducted by those present. It is valid only for the ANNUAL MEETING of the WEST MAUI TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION to be held on **Thursday, January 8, 2015**, at The Lahaina Civic Center Main Meeting Room, Lahaina, Hawaii. Any WMTA member present in person may elect to vote upon such business that may properly come before the meeting, including the election of Directors. This Proxy will be valid only for the above-cited meeting and adjournments thereof, may be revoked prior to its exercise and shall be returned upon request if the undersigned attends the meeting and desires to vote in person.

DATE SIGNED: _____ (Required by law)

NAME OF MEMBER (PRINTED-required by law)

SIGNATURE OF MEMBER

1. Please sign your name as it appears in YOUR WMTA MEMBERSHIP records. Executors, Administrators, trustees, guardians, conservators, and corporate officers are to add their Titles and, if not already done. Submit a copy of their appointment.
2. For this proxy to be valid:
 - a. The proxy giver must provide his or her printed name, signature, and the date that this proxy was signed.
 - b. This proxy must be received by the Association's Secretary at 181 Lahainaluna Road, Suite I, Lahaina, Maui, HI 96761, **no later than 2:00 p.m. on Monday, January 5, 2015**
3. The Board of Directors requests that a unanimous ballot be cast in favor of the Board Members to be elected as listed below. Check this box to vote unanimous in favor for the Slate of Directors)

PROXY: Please Use Return Envelope and Return the Portion Above to WMTA, PO Box 10338, Lahaina, HI 96761 or 181 Lahainaluna Road, Suite I, Lahaina, HI 96761.

ELECTION OF DIRECTORS - SLATE OF DIRECTORS

Paul Brown	Ezekiela "Zeke" Kalua	Gregg Nelson
David Ferguson	Byron "Pat" Kelly	Joseph Pluta
Jim Hentz	Donald Lehman	Bob Pure
Richard Jarman	Rick Nava	John Seebart

The WMTA Bylaws state: "There shall be a total of 12 Directors, including the Officers. No person shall be empowered to vote or be eligible for election to any office in the Organization whose membership dues have not been paid in full."

REMINDER: ONLY ACTIVE DUES PAYING MEMBERS ARE ALLOWED TO VOTE!

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

\$ _____ DONATION - Please Don't Let the Ship Sink!

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**

NWS2014-12

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Visit www.WestMaui.org
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Look for us on



and [Twitter](https://twitter.com/WestMaui)
(www.WestMaui.org has links)