

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 – February 2015

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE by Don Lehman

The West Maui Taxpayers Association Annual Meeting on January 8, 2015, once again brought together government officials, the community, developers and non-profit groups to educate and inform the West Maui community on programs, services and projects in the West Maui area.

Special thanks go to the following officials for their informative remarks: State Senator Roz Baker, State Representative Angus McKelvey, Mayor Alan Arakawa and Council Member Elle Cochran (West Maui).

Also, mahalo to the following community groups that roll up their sleeves to protect West Maui. They stayed throughout the meeting to answer questions and provided information displays and handouts. These individuals and groups were:

- Liz Foote and Tova Callender, for the Ka'anapali Makai Watch program and West Maui Kumuwai;
- Sandra McGuinness, Maui Coalition Coordinator for Hawai'i Nutrition and Physical Activity Coalition, NPAC;
- Saman Diaz and other representatives of the Maui Bicycle Coalition.

We also thank the following for providing special presentations to the community on their respective projects:

- Brian Hoyle, President of Newport Hospital Corporation, provided some very exciting news on the progress of the West Maui Hospital project.
- Stanford Carr, President, Stanford Carr Development LLC, provided the latest information on the Kahoma Village Project.
- Wesley Lo, Regional Chief Executive Officer of the Maui Region, gave an update on the status of Maui Memorial Hospital and the latest news on a potential public/private partnership.

Special guests in attendance included Council Members Don Couch and Robert Carroll; and County of Maui Transportation Director JoAnn Johnson-Winer;

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

- Java Jazz for the coffee service.
- Kaanapali Land Management for financial support.
- Lahaina Honolua Senior Center Members for helping serve dinner
- Zeke Kalua for his services and audio/visual equipment.
- Stanford Carr Development, LLC for its very generous financial support.
- West Maui Improvement Foundation for donating the desserts and miscellaneous supplies.

WMTA also thanks all the members of the community who joined us, especially the West Maui Seniors. Please visit www.WestMaui.org to find out when rebroadcasts of this event will air on Akaku. Together with WMTA members and the West Maui community, we look forward to 2015 being the best year ever for the West Maui Taxpayers Association and the West Maui community.

As I have made the very difficult decision to relocate to the mainland, this will be my last President's Report. I hope everyone reading this fully appreciates what a privilege it is to spend time in this beautiful locale, and to be part of such a unique community. I urge all of you who have supported WMTA to continue your support as it is important that we all continue to work to make West Maui all that it can be. Please note that there is a new level of membership we established to allow a broader base of the community to feel they are investing in West Maui. An expanded membership is very important if WMTA is to speak for all of West Maui. Also, please plan to join WMTA for a spectacular Whale Watch on February 21, 2015. Please refer to the flyer included in this newsletter for more information. Aloha.


President, WMTA

ALOHA, DON LEHMAN! by Joseph Pluta



As stated by outgoing WMTA President Don Lehman in his President's Message on the cover of THE VOICE, we will soon be losing him in that capacity, but importantly, not losing his friendship and support.

As an active member or Director on the Board of the WMTA in various capacities over the past 35 years, I have had the opportunity to work with many wonderful volunteers from our community who have graciously donated their time and efforts towards a better West Maui. We have all shared a deep love of Maui and this priceless community. Don's devotion and tireless efforts on behalf of the WMTA Board and Community were remarkable and will be long standing.

In all these 35 years, it's been a pleasure and a privilege to be a part of the evolving West Maui Community. We have more growth ahead in already approved developments and plans than any other area in Maui County. That means we will have an opportunity to have a vital contribution to how this unfolds.

We encourage any community member who is willing to devote their commitment to this process to let us know. We invite you to join with us.

Please email or call me personally, Joe Pluta, at 808-661-7990 to arrange a time when we can get together and discuss what board membership is all about.

Malama Pono ame Mahalo for your thoughtful consideration.

SAVE THE DATE & MAKE YOUR RESERVATIONS TODAY!



**"This time is the PEAK SEASON for the Maximum Number of Whales visiting Maui!
"We expect to Sell Out this event at this Great Price, so Please book early to ensure you are not left out!"**

**LOCATION: PACIFIC WHALE FOUNDATION,
MA' ALAEA HARBOR, MAIN LOADING DOCK
VESSEL: OCEAN DISCOVERY
CHECK-IN AT 1:30 PM
WHALE WATCH FROM 2:00 - 4:00 PM
SNACKS & DRINKS PROVIDED!
\$25 TICKETS! (\$15 FOR AGES 3-12)
FREE FOR AGES 2 AND UNDER
EACH ADULT TICKETS, GETS YOU 1 YEAR
ASSOCIATE MEMBERSHIP TO WMTA!**



**"A Whale Watch
Fundraiser"
A WHALE WATCH TO
SUPPORT THE WMTA!**

**DATE:
SATURDAY,
FEBRUARY 21, 2015
A FUN WAY TO SUPPORT YOUR
COMMUNITY ON A WHALE
WATCH CRUISE!**



See you There!!

Book yours today <http://www.westmaui.org/whalewatch.html>

See Page 4 for More Details.

MAHALO FOR YOUR RESPONSE TO OUR CALL TO ACTION!

As I stated in our last Newsletter, this year marks the 35th anniversary of the existence of the WMTA. I unashamedly asked for a Call to Action to obtain necessary financial support and we received some very generous responses which we are very grateful for. Malama Pono!

This anniversary year has very special significance to me as 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.

This past Annual Meeting, we laid out our accomplishments to the hundreds of community members who attended and received wonderful feedback and appreciation from attendees, some of whom were unaware of how many times WMTA had a role in Community Improvements here in West Maui.

Please review the Revenue by District West Maui Fiscal Year 2014 vs 2015 pictured below. The significance of West Maui's contribution to the economy of the entire County of Maui is nearly 40% of the total in property tax revenues. This number will grow more in the next 10 years than any other area of Maui County as approved developments come to be a reality.

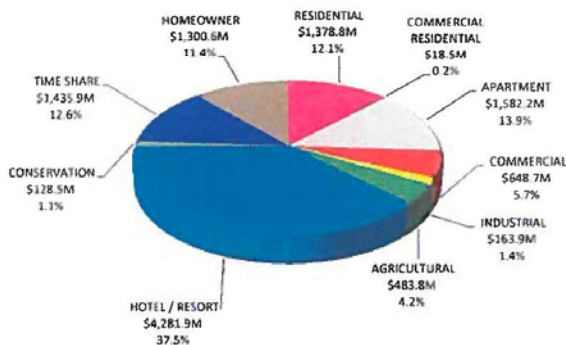
Our role in this process to represent you cannot be overstated. Our governmental leaders serve the voters, not the people, and if you are not a registered voter, the WMTA is your essential advocate. Let us continue to help you with your financial support. We have lots of work ahead of us and together, we can make a difference.

**REVENUE BY DISTRICT
WEST MAUI
FISCAL YEAR 2014 VERSUS 2015**

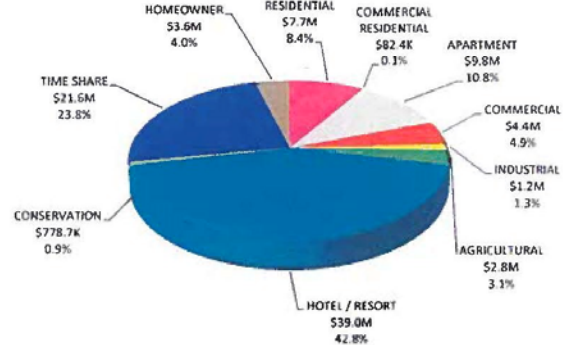
CLASSIFICATION	FY 2014 TAX RATES	FY 2014 CERTIFIED VALUE	FY 2014 CERTIFIED REVENUE	FY 2015 APPROVED RATES	FY 2015 NET TAXABLE ESTIMATED VALUE	50% OF APPEALS TO DATE	FY 2015 CERTIFIED VALUE	FY 2015 ESTIMATED REVENUE*	PERCENT CHANGE	FY 2014 CLASS COUNT	FY 2015 CLASS COUNT	COUNT CHANGE	PERCENT CHANGE
TIME SHARE	\$ 15.55	\$ 1,348,264,850	\$ 20,965,518	\$ 15.07	\$ 1,437,379,800	\$ 1,466,300	\$ 1,435,913,500	\$ 21,639,216	3.21%	2,055	2,192	137	6.67%
RESIDENTIAL	5.75	1,550,473,950	8,915,225	5.57	1,384,412,000	5,625,220	1,378,786,780	7,679,842	-13.86%	1,727	1,546	-181	-10.48%
COMMERCIAL RESIDENTIAL	4.60	28,464,000	130,934	4.48	18,468,800	0	18,468,800	82,371	-37.09%	14	11	-3	-21.43%
APARTMENT	6.40	1,620,577,200	10,371,694	6.20	1,587,215,800	5,058,100	1,582,157,700	9,809,378	-5.42%	3,018	2,918	-100	-3.31%
COMMERCIAL	7.05	679,526,800	4,790,664	6.83	658,254,700	9,547,725	648,706,975	4,430,669	-7.51%	496	492	-4	-0.81%
INDUSTRIAL	7.30	159,927,400	1,167,470	7.07	163,929,900	0	163,929,900	1,158,984	-0.73%	69	66	-3	-4.35%
AGRICULTURAL	6.05	515,136,800	3,116,578	5.86	489,854,600	6,010,800	483,843,800	2,855,325	-9.02%	711	705	-6	-0.84%
CONSERVATION	6.25	140,377,500	877,359	6.08	167,254,200	38,754,200	128,500,000	778,710	-11.24%	172	172	0	0.00%
HOTEL / RESORT	9.40	3,515,468,000	33,045,399	9.11	4,287,391,100	5,483,775	4,281,907,325	39,008,176	18.04%	5,058	5,384	326	6.45%
HOMEOWNER	2.87	1,182,858,100	3,394,803	2.78	1,301,594,000	1,043,100	1,300,550,900	3,615,532	6.50%	3,125	3,104	-21	-0.67%
TOTALS		\$ 10,741,074,600	\$ 86,775,645		\$ 11,485,754,900	\$ 72,989,220	\$ 11,422,765,680	\$ 91,038,202	4.91%	16,445	16,590	145	0.88%

*The estimated revenue does not include the Minimum tax or Circuit Breaker credits

**CERTIFIED VALUES
BY DISTRICT
WEST MAUI**



**ESTIMATED RPT REVENUES*
BY DISTRICT
WEST MAUI**



WHALE WATCH TICKETS!

Make your reservations online at www.westmaui.org/whalewatch, or complete the Form to the Right to Purchase Your Whale Watch Tickets by Check, (Keep this slip to for details and information.)



Details:

- Saturday, February 21, 2015
- Loading at 1:30 PM at Ma'alea Harbor Main Loading Dock
- Whale Watch Cruise from 2:00 – 4:00 PM on the Pacific Whale Foundation Ocean Discovery.
- Snacks & Drinks Provided.
- 1 Year Association Membership to WMTA for Each Adult Ticket Purchased

Information:

- We need all names for Boarding Manifest. The manifest will be given to the Crew of Pacific Whale Foundation and the only way you will be able to Board.
- Tickets are Non-Refundable. Name changes are allowed until Thursday, 2/19/2015, 12 noon. E-mail wmta@maui.net
- Seats are limited! First come, first serve. Last day to purchase tickets is Thursday 2/19/2015 at noon, unless we sell out sooner.
- All activities are at your own risk. No liability, expressed or implied, rests with West Maui Taxpayers Association, Pacific Whale Foundation Eco-Adventures or its subsidiaries or officers. All reservations are non-refundable and reschedules are not permitted as this is a private charter. All no-shows are nonrefundable. Pacific Whale Foundation reserves the right to reschedule or cancel due to weather at the discretion of the Captain. Destinations, menus and equipment subject to change without notice."

Return this section to:
WMTA, PO Box 158, Lahaina, HI 96767

Your Name: _____

Your Phone Number: _____

Your Email: _____

of Adult Tickets (age 13 +) _____ x \$25 = \$ _____

of Child Tickets (age 3-12) _____ x \$15 = \$ _____

of Infant Tickets (age 0-2) _____ x FREE = FREE

Total Enclosed: \$ _____
(Make checks payable to "WMTA")

Name of Adults (13+):

Name of Children (3-12):

Name of Infants (0-2)

(attach additional sheet if more space is needed)

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

- I am a member and renewing my dues
 I **am not** a member but would like to join

Membership Levels

- o Community Supporter \$25/year
- o Community Leader \$50.00/year
- o Families \$100/year
- o Businesses \$100/year
- o AOA – email wmta@maui.net

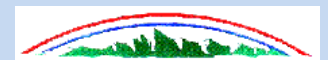
\$ _____ DONATION WMTA is a 501-c-4 Non Profit Organization. "Contributions to civic leagues or other section 501(c)(4) organizations generally are not deductible as charitable contributions for federal income tax purposes. They may be deductible as trade or business expenses, if ordinary and necessary in the conduct of the taxpayer's business." (Source: IRS.Gov). Please check with your tax adviser.

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

NWS2015-02

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A 501-C-4 Community Organization

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Visit www.WestMaui.org
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Look for us on

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