

WEST MAUI TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Advocating For You!

email: wmta@maui.net home page: www.westmaui.org
mailing address: PO Box 10338, Lahaina, HI 96761 phone: 808-661-7990 fax: 808-661-7992

A'ohē Hana Nui Ke Alu 'ia (No task is too large when we work together)

THE VOICE

Newsletter of the West Maui Taxpayers Association – March 2021

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Joseph D. Pluta



Aloha Dear Friends of West Maui,

We have concluded that it is impossible to even come close to describing the myriad of impacts and devastation this pandemic has wrought upon us all. It is simply un-describable. Therefore, we have decided that instead, we will focus on what we see as immediate needs made apparent as we witnessed the systemic failures revealed to us in the middle of this unprecedented storm.

At the very top of our list is the need to examine what immediate steps and actions can be undertaken to improve responses to the systemic failures of our health care system and our state and county governments abilities to appropriately respond where and when needed.

For the past 20+ years we have been striving to improve access to quality healthcare on Maui and especially West Maui where our isolation from our only 24/7 Hospital Emergency Room. Maui Island has less hospital beds per capita than any other island in the State of Hawaii and is not even in compliance with the State's own healthcare plans accordingly.

We believe that the State of Hawaii's Health Planning and Development Agency, SHPDA, who is tasked with administrating a Certificate of Need, or CON, is the culprit for Maui's healthcare crisis and the CON requirement needs to be abolished. When SHPDA denied the CON for the medical group of 100 doctors spearheaded by Dr. Ron Kwon for their Malulani Hospital project in 2008 to be located at the Kihei Research and Technology Park with \$500 Million in private financing, it sent a shock wave across the National Healthcare System. Since then Maui has been abandoned for consideration by National Health Care providers. Most of the States in the U.S. have abandoned any CON requirements and thrived thereafter by attracting major medical developments as a result.

We are urging our Maui Governmental Representatives to abolish this CON and repurpose the SHPDA to become a facilitating agency instead of the roadblock obstacle it is today. Further, to tie in with synergy the University of Hawaii Medical School and School of Travel Industry Management to promote a new medical tourism industry. Further synergized with that effort, the Maui Agricultural industry incentivized to grow medicinal crops for vaccines and medicines in our ideal climate and proven benefits of Noni and Aloe Vera.

Importantly, the State Tax Department should be offering the same excise tax rate for those in the medical field as the insurance industry who enjoy a .1% General Excise tax obligation instead of the current 4 to 4.5 % existing today. That reduction in fees will bring the doctors we need as well as other essential medical specialists necessary to ensure the success of these emerging new industries.

We have an ambitious agenda to lobby our governmental leaders to do the right thing and recognize what is being revealed during this pandemic. Your financial donation to assist us is a wise investment and now is the time to do it. Please do the right thing and be an active part of the solution. You will be richly blessed when you recognize how much your donation matters.

Mahalo nui loa. Joseph D. Pluta – President/ Treasurer

UHMC ADVISORY MEETING- Dean Louie



Our first Advisory Meeting on Feb 25, 2021 hosted By Coordinator Dean Louie and Student Support Julie Daliva, was well attended by West Maui supporters including Maui Mayor Victorino, Councilmember Tamara Paltin, TS Vice President Greg Ames, Restaurateur Paris Nabavi, UHMC Dean Kahele Dukalow, LLHS VP Ilima Grieg-Hong, Maui Prep's Keenan Reader, and many other notable leaders in Business and Education from our Maui Community.

In addition to sharing Lahaina Education Center resources, Louie will continue to initiate discussions on potential classes as discussed:

- First Aid, CPR Training, CBD Awareness for Parents
- Student/Professional Internship Center
- Trades and Forklift Certification Classes
- Youth Summer Classes
- Sanitation Certification
- Enhanced Gardening
- Dual/Early HS Enrollment

The public should call (808) 662-3911 or email: mcc96761@hawaii.edu for operational hours, tours or more information.

PROTECTING THE GOLDEN HOUR –

By Dennis A. Terpin, Ph.D., O.H.S.T., EMT-P, Safety Officer, Emergency Manager
West Maui Taxpayers Association (WMTA). Retired Emergency Manager University of Illinois
Chicago.

Protecting the Golden Hour From Movement of Injury/Illness to Definitive Hospital Care

Based on a Maui news article “Maui County officials say that a proposal to slash 10 to 20 percent from Emergency Medical. Services is not “set in stone,” though they are still bracing for cuts as the state looks to save money during the pandemic”. Any cut in Maui EMS services would further prolong response times to the hospital. The state Department of Health, which proposed changes said it has been in talks with EMS providers in all four counties. over the past few months in preparation for potential statewide budget reductions for the coming year.

Rapid onset of Illness and Trauma Survival

The **E**mergency **M**edical **S**ervice pre-hospital (out-of-hospital) **Golden Hour** is the period after a rapid onset of illness and/or traumatic injury during which there is the highest likelihood that prompt medical care, transport and surgical treatment will increase survivability and even prevent death.

The prehospital (Golden Hour) time starts from the moment of injury or illness and includes the time to call 911, dispatch EMS units, response to the scene, time on the scene to assess and manage and response to the hospital.

Challenges Facing the Golden Hour in West Maui include possible decrease in prehospital services, Problems contacting emergency services and delayed responses. Hospital availability and access (reaching care within the “golden hour” – (Total Response Time), Communications capabilities, Weather impact on mobilization and deployment of resources, Integration into healthcare delivery system, Personnel, and equipment out of service for other calls during extended travel time, Political and cultural landscapes, and Rural-urban paradox of prehospital care.

The West Maui Taxpayers Association has set three goals to Protecting and Improving Pre-hospital care on West Maui. First, the WMTA plans to work with Maui Health Systems to establish 24/7 Emergency Department with 4-5 ER Beds and Urgent Care Component. Second, WMTA Plans to work with Landowners in Olowalu to establish another fire and ambulance station there. Third, WMTA needs a “boots on the ground” command center during Emergencies with West Side Fire and Police connectivity.

We all need to work together to protect our pre-hospital care on West Maui and bring the West Maui 24/7 Emergency Department, 4 to 5 ED-Beds and Urgent Care component to reality.

WEST MAUI LIFESAVER CAMPAIGN – Joseph D. Pluta

We all need some good news in the new normal and we want to share some with you.

Thanks to your support and encouragement, the WMTA and WMIF have continued our push for access to Emergency Health Services on West Maui and we have some results to report.

1. We are hopeful that Emergency Medical Service Access for West Maui is back on the radar! The West Maui Taxpayers Association Board of Directors Meeting on February 9, 2021 was joined by Brian Hoyle, President of Newport Hospital Corporation and the West Maui Hospital Foundation. He has re-instated his intention to move forward with a revised version of the West Maui Critical Access Hospital, (WMCAP). This new version will be a 5 bed CAH with a 24/7 Emergency Room! Construction may start in 2022 or early 2023.
2. The West Maui Cancer Center is still awaiting approval on its Certificate of Need approval from the State of Hawaii Health, Planning and Development Agency. We pray that this application will be deemed Complete soon to allow us to testify at the necessary public hearings tied to the approval process.
3. The Maui Health Systems have submitted their reinstatement of commitment to bring urgent care to West Maui! (Statement submitted is included in this newsletter)

We urge you to consider how vitally important it is for us to have success in obtaining access to 24/7 Emergency Acute Care Services on our isolated West Maui. Lives are literally at stake in this endeavor!

Your volunteer board members are putting their time and treasure behind our efforts and we urge you to do so as well. Please consider that you can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving. Please allow me to repeat that again. I said, you can give without loving, but you cannot love without giving.

When we are generous, we will reap generously. Please send us your generous tax-deductible donation today! Mahalo.



MAUI HEALTH SYSTEMS STATEMENT- JAMES DIEGEL, Chief Strategy Officer- Maui Health

Maui Health understands the importance of a presence on the west side of the island and had planned to identify a site for an urgent care, staffed by emergency trained health care professionals, in 2020. However, with the advent of the pandemic and the need to shift priorities many of Maui Health's strategic initiatives and plans, including the west side urgent care, were postponed. It is anticipated that the planning, including identifying a site, will occur sometime this year. Thank you for your support and patience.

WEST MAUI AFFORDABLE HOUSING SURVEY



The WMTA is conducting a survey to understand where people who currently live or work in West Maui would like to see housing built for you and your family. It's already been proven that affordable housing is needed. The mission of this survey is to "...have the West Maui Community Plan, WMCP, reflect the opinions and direction the West Maui residents and employees believe are important which will encourage affordable mixed use development in West Maui areas of Olowalu and Launiupoko".

The West Maui Affordable Housing Survey, is brought to you by the West Maui Taxpayers Association (WMTA), a non-profit community association that has been advocating for West Maui for over 40 years, to gather the voices of the community on affordable housing in West Maui. We are seeking the input of parents, neighbors, small business owners, visitor industry staff, and more to help us collectively inform decision makers of what the residents need for a safe and healthy community (part of the WMTA mission since the beginning).

Take the Survey The West Maui Affordable Housing Survey will end on Friday, April 2, 2021. To take the survey visit: <http://www.westmaui.org/survey2021.html>

Participation in this survey is voluntary and anonymous. Questions can be sent to WMTA@maui.net

WMTA MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Joseph D. Pluta, President

Some of you know that 41 years ago, the WMTA was formed from the Honokowai, Napili, Kapalua Taxpayers Union, HNKTU. I was the new director assigned to increase membership and stated that the name needed to be changed from HNKTU to WMTA to unify all of West Maui. It's Unity in purpose for the entire West Side that was recognized and all of West Maui coming together, was essential for that unification.

Well, we have had our ups and downs since then, but more ups than downs!

The WMTA has literally accomplished more for it's community than any other organization in County of Maui these past 41 years!

We respectfully suggest that it's time for a re-unification as Covid-19 has shown new challenges to confront including the fact that we pay the highest prices in the World for medicine and access to health care.

We are appreciative of your help...and we hope that the WMTA can count on your continued support in 2021. We need your ongoing backing to face these major challenges ahead in the coming year. Remember, we do not receive governmental financial assistance. We exist solely on the basis of members dues and donations.

Membership dues only go so far, and your additional financial support is needed to fund our efforts to continue to advocate on your behalf. Our track record proves that we have been providing our community an excellent return on their investment in supporting us. The needs are immense, and we are asking you to join us with a generous contribution to aid our work in 2021. Our sister organization, the West Maui Improvement Foundation Inc. is a 501-c-3 Charity for 100% tax deductible treatment.

WMTA and WMIF urgently need your recommitment to support our advocacy efforts on your behalf. Please use the donation form attached or donate via our web site at www.westmaui.org. Do it today! Mahalo nui loa

1st VIRTUAL WMTA ANNUAL MEETING

The West Maui Taxpayers Association (WMTA) held its **WMTA 2021 Annual Meeting Thursday, January 7** via Zoom. Mahalo to those who sent us in their proxies and those who participated. Official WMTA business, including the Election of its Board of Directors, kick started the meeting. Slate of Directors include Lee Chamberlain, Dean Louie, Richard Jarman, Rick Nava, Gregg Nelson, Jess "Joe" Park, Joseph Pluta, John Seebart, Fereshteh Tali, and Dennis Terpin.

The major purpose of the meeting is to have elected officials address issues of interest to the West Maui community, and to have special presentations on major project impacting the Isolated West Maui Community as illustrated above. A replay can be found here: <http://www.westmaui.org/news-blog/2021-annual-meeting>

West Maui is a unique and vibrant community that provides employment opportunities and generates significant tax revenues for all levels of government. WMTA is also unique in that our mission is to promote efficient use of the taxes generated to invest in infrastructure, services and amenities that help ensure that West Maui remains one of the best places to live, work and visit in the world. For any questions, please email wmta@maui.net or call 808-661-7990.

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

You can also pay online at <http://www.westmaui.org/joinnow.html>

Member Name: _____
 Check here to have your name kept private in publications and acknowledgements.

Join the WMTA Email List: _____

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

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____ Fax: _____

<p>\$ _____ MEMBERSHIP</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am a member and renewing my dues</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am not a member but would like to join</p>	<p>Membership Levels</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><input type="radio"/> Community Supporter \$25/year<input type="radio"/> Community Leader \$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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\$ _____ ADDITIONAL 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 10338 • Lahaina, HI 96761

NWS2021-03

THE VOICE

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West Maui Taxpayers Association
March 2021

**"Bringing the West Maui
Community Together,
Advocating for You"**
A 501-C-4 Community Organization

PO Box 10338 - Lahaina, HI 96761

Phone: 808-661-7990
Fax: 808-661-7992

Visit www.WestMaui.org
Email: WMTA@maui.net

Look for us on

facebook

(www.WestMaui.org has links)

WEST MAUI IMPROVEMENT FOUNDATION

WEST MAUI LIFESAVER CAMPAIGN

PLEDGE INFORMATION



JOSEPH, I WANT TO STAND FOR LIFE!

Here's my gift to help take action to save lives in West Maui.:

\$50 \$100 \$1,000 \$_____ Other

This will be a recurring donation as noted in information below

WEST MAUI LIFESAVER INFORMATION

Please fill out **ALL the information below.**

Donor Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ Phone: _____

City, ST Zip: _____ Country: _____

Contact me about leaving a legacy through Estate Planning, Non-Cash Gifts, Planned Giving & Tax Savings.

FINANCIAL INFORMATION

One Time Donations

Cash Enclosed

Check Enclosed (*Make checks payable to "WMIF"*)

Donate Online <http://www.westmauiimprovementfoundation.org/westmauilifesaver.html>

Donation by Credit Card: Visa MC AmEx Discover

Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____ CSV/CID/CVV: _____ Phone: _____

Print Full Name on Card: _____

By signing you agree to the Terms and Conditions as applicable to your gift.

Signature: _____

Giving by EFT (Electronic Funds Transfer): Checking Savings

Routing Number: _____ Account Number: _____

Print Full Name on Account: _____

By signing you agree to the Terms and Conditions as applicable to your gift.

Signature: _____

Recurring Monthly Donation

Monthly Donation by check payable to "WMIF" in the amount \$_____ on the 1st / 5th / 20th (please circle one)

Monthly Donation via credit card set up at <http://www.westmauiimprovementfoundation.org/westmauilifesaver.html>

Monthly Donation via credit card, Visa MC AmEx Discover, processed on 1st / 5th / 20th (please circle one)

Card Number: _____

Exp. Date: _____ CSV/CID/CVV: _____ Phone: _____

Print Full Name on Card: _____

By signing you agree to the Terms and Conditions as applicable to your gift.

Signature: _____

Terms and Conditions I hereby request and authorize my bank or credit card company, as provided by me, to pay and charge to my account transfers made by and payable to the order of West Maui Improvement Foundation (WMIF), provided there are sufficient funds in my account to pay the same upon presentation. I agree that WMIF's right to such payment shall be the same as if it were a check drawn on or a charge to my credit card and signed personally by me. They will be fully protected in honoring any such payment. This authorization will remain in effect until I notify WMIF or my financial institution in writing that I wish to end this agreement, and WMIF or my bank has had 5 days after receiving written notice to act on it; or until WMIF or my bank account has sent me 5 days written notice that will end this agreement. A record of my donation will be included in my bank statement or credit card statement. Also, a record will be issued by WMIF.

WMIF Inc., PO Box 10338, Lahaina, HI 96761 * Visit www.WestMauiImprovementFoundation.org * Phone: 808-661-7990

General Email: wmifinc@gmail.com / President Joseph Pluta: pluta@maui.net (please add as cc on all emails)

WEST MAUI IMPROVEMENT FOUNDATION
WEST MAUI LIFESAVER CAMPAIGN

SHARE YOUR STORY



Please write us a letter of support for a West Maui Cancer Center.

Donor Name: _____ Email: _____
Address: _____ Phone: _____
City, ST Zip: _____ Country: _____

Please keep my name anonymous in publications

CONTACT WMIF

To update your information or to make changes, please contact us at:
WMIF Inc.
PO Box 10338
Lahaina, HI 96761
Visit www.WestMauiImprovementFoundation.org
General Email: wmifinc@gmail.com
President Joseph Pluta: pluta@maui.net (please add as cc on all emails)
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