

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 2011

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

By Don Lehman

It is time to mark your calendars! The WMTA Annual Meeting is set for January 12, 2012. The Annual Meeting is your opportunity to hear the latest on WMTA's issues, and to hear from your government officials. We expect to have some very exciting news on several fronts for West Maui at this meeting, so please plan to join us.

The first item of business is always the official organizational business for WMTA. The one disappointment last year was the poor showing of hands by dues paid members voting on official WMTA business. We urge anyone who can to please show their support for WMTA by joining before the Annual Meeting. Your membership is an investment in a better West Maui. Thank you.

We are coming to the end of a very busy year for WMTA as shown by the following highlights.

- As usual, the first months of the year are dominated by legislative proposals affecting taxpayers where it really hurts. The end of the session saw several proposals enacted with little chance for review, and WMTA and our affiliated interest groups will be reviewing the impacts of those laws and urging corrections where needed.
- At the County level, the early months are devoted to the budget process. WMTA submitted testimony urging the allocation of capital improvement funds to improvements to the waste water pumping station at Kaanapali to address the long standing odor problem there. That problem places our Kaanapali properties at a distinct disadvantage in a highly competitive market. Given what they pay in taxes and fees, those properties deserve better. WMTA also testified in support of funding for the Maui Visitors Bureau to further support our always important visitor industry.
- The County is also continuing to work on the General Plan Update. WMTA and other interest groups have joined together to share information on the progress and to respond to potential problems, especially as they impact our visitor and construction industries.
- WMTA responded to a request from the Charter Commission to comment on the fairness of the current scheme for voting for County Council seats. WMTA is hoping that the Commission can find a way to have more fair representation for Maui County voters.
- The County Planning Department gave a presentation to the WMTA Board on the proposed ordinance for Short Term Rentals. The Board had several suggestions around stronger enforcement and pursuit of violations. WMTA will continue to follow this issue with West Maui interests in mind. WMTA also reviewed and commented on the proposed Home Based Business ordinance.
- Most recently, WMTA testified in support of the Kahoma Residential Subdivision before the County Land Use Committee. This infill project along Kahoma Stream near the old mill site represents the best opportunity we have seen in a long time to provide affordable housing in Lahaina. WMTA has testified in support of affordable housing at every opportunity, including Pulelehua earlier this year.

WMTA Annual Meeting
Thursday, January 12, 2012
5:00 PM

Lahaina Civic Center
 (Main Meeting Room)
1840 Honoapiilani Hwy
Lahaina, HI 96761

See Page 3 for more details
 See Page 6 for Proxy for and a
 membership form to join or renew.

Affordable housing, traffic problems and health care have traditionally been the top three issues identified by our WMTA members. WMTA is always working with the West Maui Improvement Foundation to bring a critical access hospital to West Maui, and strongly supports the many successes of Lahaina Bypass Now! to address West Maui traffic problems.

If anyone has other issues you feel WMTA should address, please call and arrange to attend a WMTA Board meeting to discuss your issue. We are dedicated to doing all we can to ensure West Maui is the best it can be.

See you January 12, 2012!

Sincerely,


 Donald E. Lehman
 President, WMTA



West Maui Taxpayers Association

P.O. Box 10338•Lahaina, HI 96761•Office (808) 661-7990• Fax (808) 661-7992 • Visit www.WestMaui.org

GOALS & OBJECTIVES 2012

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 1) Promote the development and construction of a critical access medical facility in West Maui with associated facilities.

TRAFFIC AND ROADWAYS

- 1) Promote the completion of the Lahaina Bypass and other traffic mitigation projects in West Maui.
- 2) Pursue completion of the upgrades and paving of lower Honoapiilani Road.
- 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.

AFFORDABLE HOUSING

- 1) Continue to support well planned housing projects in West Maui that include both affordable and work force elements. (ie: Waine'e, Kahoma Stream infill, Villages at Leialii, Puukolii Village Mauka, Pulelehua, etc.)

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 to provide treatment, storage and distribution systems to reuse treated waste water instead of using injection wells. Support development of new water sources essential for economic growth and public safety.
- 3) Expedite the construction of the planned West Maui skate park.
- 4) Support development of an off-highway bicycle greenway for West Maui.

VOTER / TAXPAYER REPRESENTATION

- 1) Press for reform of the County employee pension system so it is fair to taxpayers and more equivalent to the private sector.
- 2) Support effort to reform the permitting process and change the Planning Department focus more to customer service with fewer bureaucratic hurdles.
- 3) Represent taxpayers in the budgeting process, with an emphasis on right-sizing government and greater efficiency in government programs.
- 4) Promote business friendly regulatory and tax policies for enhanced job creation, especially in the hospitality industry.
- 5) Support fairness and certainty in real property taxation.
- 6) Support the Charter Commission effort to bring fairness and true voter representation to the Maui County election process for Council seats.
- 7) Promote communication between West Maui taxpayers and their government with annual WMTA meetings and WMTA Candidates Night, the only such forum on the West side.

CULTURAL PROTECTION

- 1) Assist efforts to preserve and promote Hawaiian culture.

WMTA ANNUAL MEETING



The community is invited to attend the West Maui Taxpayers Association (WMTA) Annual Meeting on Thursday, January 12, 2012. Join us as we celebrate the accomplishments of the past year, and share with you our goals of the upcoming year.

It will be at the Lahaina Civic Center Main Meeting Room beginning with Food Service at 5:00 PM. There will be regular business and the Election of Board of Directors starting at 5:30 PM, followed by speakers and special presentation such as State and County officials and directors, as well as various speakers on West Maui projects as the Skate Park, By Pass, Hospital and more! Visit www.WestMaui.org for updates and changes, as the speakers are subject to change.

Dinner & drinks will be provided courtesy of local West Maui restaurants and businesses. To learn how you can become a sponsor, please contact President Donald Lehman at 661-1370.

Everyone is invited but be reminded that voting and oral participation is restricted to dues paid WMTA members of record.

Enclosed in this newsletter is a proxy statement and membership form (page 6) for those who will not be able to attend in person. Should you have any questions or concerns please call the Admin office at 808-661-7990

HALLOWEEN ON FRONT STREET By Bob Pure

This year, in response to the closure of Front Street and all of the efforts made to have a well monitored and well organized event, residents and visitors showed up in record numbers. Everyone seemed happy to be there and the enthusiasm and excitement on Front Street was readily apparent.

Many of our local residents took the time to come up with spectacular and creative costumes.

Everyone was on their best behavior. To my knowledge, there was not a single arrest all night. The closure of Front Street ensured a safe and worry free night.

The merchants and the restaurants reported record breaking sales and they were packed full throughout the evening.

Halloween on Front Street has overwhelming and ongoing community support. Many thanks and congratulations to Mayor Alan Arakawa and Zeke Kalua, his Executive Assistant, for all of their hard work in making sure our Halloween event was well structured, properly supervised and an event we all could be proud of. It came off without a hitch.

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE By Bob Pure

The construction of the first two Phases of the Lahaina Bypass are on schedule. Barring any unforeseen delays, the Bypass should be open to motorists next July. This will give motorists the option of "bypassing" all four streets in Lahaina Town in order to proceed north.

These first two Phases will begin at Hokiokio (opposite Puamana on the mauka side) and end at Keawe St.(going north).

The State Department of Transportation has been advised and notified of the potential impact of the increased Bypass traffic on the Keawe Street intersection with the highway and will be looking at possible solutions.

We will also be working with the DOT to determine future Phases of the Bypass moving both north and south as to timing and funding.

As of now, traffic in West Maui, for the most part, has been moving smoothly with a minimum of backups. The widening of the highway coming into Lahaina, the synchronization of the traffic signals and the adjustment in the signal "green times" in critical areas, have all contributed to keeping the traffic moving.

The Lahaina Bypass, upon completion, will insure an even better traffic flow now and for the future.

EROSION BY LAUNIUPOKO By Joe Pluta & Ezekiela Kalua

These pictures below, taken by Ezekiela Kalua, present a compelling case of how close we are to a road closure at Launiupoko with the next large storm swell. Daily swells cause continuous erosion. The West side needs to get united on this! Contact State officials and let them hear your voice to get this fixed as soon as possible. Action is urgently needed as we know how devastating loss of the road would be to West Maui businesses, workers and state and county revenues!



For additional photo's please visit www.WestMaui.org

WHO TO CONTACT REGARDING THE EROSION	
Honorable Neil Abercrombie Governor, State of Hawai'i - Executive Chambers, State Capitol 415 South Beretania St Honolulu, HI 96813 Fax: (808) 586-0006	Stephen T. Rodgers State of Hawai'i Department of Transportation 871-3535
Representative Angus McKelvey House District 10 - Hawaii State Capitol, Room 427 415 South Beretania St Honolulu, HI 96813 Fax: 808-586-6161 E-mail: repmckelvey@Capitol.hawaii.gov	Senator Rosalyn Baker District 5 - Hawaii State Capitol, Rm 230 415 South Beretania St Honolulu, HI 96813 Fax: 808-586-6071 E-mail: senbaker@Capitol.hawaii.gov

MEMBERSHIP / TREASURERS REPORT By Joe Pluta

West Maui has many needs. West Maui Taxpayers Association Inc. and West Maui Improvement Foundation Inc. have been dedicated to improving the quality of life by identifying community needs, determining how they can be met, and then working together to get the job done in the most efficient way possible. If you know anyone who is not a member of the WMTA and owns property here, please ask them to join our membership ranks today! This is very important and deserves your attention accordingly.

Neither WMTA nor WMIF receives any monies or grants in aid or financial support from any sources except the private contributions from our community members. While we are doing the best we can with the resources available to us, we regret that our paid memberships are down over 50%. Donations and contributions are down to the extent that we can no longer afford to employ an Executive Director. Your volunteer board works very hard for you without pay. Still, we have basic expenses sharing office rent, utilities, office supplies, telephone, printing, and share the cost and time of one paid office assistant. Examine our Goals and Objectives in this newsletter. It makes sense to support our efforts with a financial donation. Financial donations to the WMIF are 100% tax deductible!

WMTA aggressively campaigns and lobbies County and State politicians to recognize and support our requests. After all, over 50% of all transient accommodations are located in West Maui and we generate over 50% of the entire economic contribution to the State and County in general excise taxes, transient accommodations taxes and real property taxes. We need and deserve better highways, an improved sewage treatment plant, affordable housing, the West Maui Acute Care Hospital, and more! Every neighbor island is lobbying the State for more funds and every district in Maui County is doing the same for needed improvements in their community. While West Maui contributes more into the pot than any other district, there is an alarming disparity in our returns. We are fighting for you to enhance and protect your investment in West Maui.

Please consider that it makes sense to help us with increased financial support now more than ever before to permit us to continue to represent your needs and protect the value of your investment. We cannot do it without your continuing financial support! Please send us a donation today! Thank you!

WEST MAUI HOSPITAL UPDATE By Joe Pluta

As followers of our efforts to bring life saving access to acute care to West Maui know, we have already accomplished what everyone said was "the impossible," and have been diligently working on the remaining "possible" elements.

Everyone wants to know, "when is the hospital going to be built?" That's an excellent question and we are very much looking forward to the day when we can provide a definitive time line accordingly.

In the interim, financial contributions to the WMIF to support our efforts have been dismal. We expect it's due to frustrations as well as overall economic conditions. As the end of the year approaches, please be reminded that contributions to the WMIF are 100% tax deductible. How much is your life worth? Please use the convenient return envelope and make a financial donation today!

The WMIF Agreement and arrangements with Sanderling Healthcare LLC are ongoing. According to Dr. Jerome S. Tannenbaum, M.D. PH.D., FACP, his negotiations on our behalf have generated positive interest from an experienced hospital operating company who currently owns and/or manages five critical access hospitals, who is refining their internal financial projections. Dr. Tannenbaum believes that they are moving quickly to make this happen!

Once this operator has committed in writing, we will be prudently disclosing information about them and negotiating with Kaanapali Land Management Corporation and Newport Hospital Corporation to expedite required cooperative agreements for development of our West Maui Hospital.

A full presentation of where we are in this process will be made at the WMTA Annual Meeting on January 12, 2012.
Stay Tuned!

West Maui Improvement Foundation Donation IRS EIN 99-0275775 NON PROFIT 501C (3)

West Maui Taxpayers Association continues to collaborate with the West Maui Improvement Foundation in its efforts to bring a hospital to West Maui. Please read the hospital update above by Joe Pluta, WMTA Treasurer/President Emeritus, as well as President of the West Maui Improvement Foundation. If you can give a gift, no matter the amount, it would be greatly appreciated.

Donor Name: _____ Email: _____

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

Payment Info:

\$____ Check Enclosed
Payable to **West Maui Improvement Foundation**
Amount: \$25 \$50 \$365 Other \$_____
 Credit Card (fill out information to the right.)

CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD –

ALL INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR CREDIT CARD DONATIONS:

CARD TYPE Visa MasterCard

Amount: \$25 \$50 \$365 Other \$_____

Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____ Phone Number: _____

Billing Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Signature _____

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Mail Checks, and Send Comments to:
West Maui Improvement Foundation
PO Box 158 • Lahaina, HI 96761
Phone: 808-661-7990
Visit www.WestMauiHospital.org

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 12, 2012**, 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 9, 2012**
 - (C) The Board of Directors requests that a unanimous ballot be cast in favor of the Board Members to be elected as listed below.
 Yes (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.**

WEST MAUI TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION, 2012 ANNUAL MEETING- ELECTION OF DIRECTORS

SLATE OF DIRECTORS

Paul Brown	Jim Hentz	Ezekiela "Zeke" Kalua	Donald Lehman	Joseph Pluta	Uwe Schulz
Pam English	Richard Jarman	Byron "Pat" Kelly	Gregg Nelson	Bob Pure	Richard Starkweather

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: _____ Phone: _____ Fax: _____

- Please correct my information as noted above.
 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

\$ _____ **DONATION:** In addition to my
membership, here is an ADDITIONAL DONATION

Membership Levels

- Individuals may join at \$50.00 per year.
- Families may join at \$100.00 per year
- Businesses may join at \$100.00 per year
- Associations, please contact us directly

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Look for us on
facebook



and Twitter!

Visit www.WestMaui.org
for links.

Memberships effective for one year upon receipt of membership dues payment.

Mail Checks, payable to "West Maui Taxpayers Association, to:

West Maui Taxpayers Association

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