

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, July 2011

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE By Don Lehman

Even though WMTA has worked with and for the West Maui community for over 35 years, few are fully aware of the broad range of issues WMTA addresses. With a focus on improving the quality of life on West Maui, WMTA is an aggressive advocate for anyone who lives, visits or owns property in our community. Historically, WMTA has argued that there should be a reasonable investment of tax dollars in three key areas:

- HEALTH CARE (Napili fire and ambulance station, West Maui hospital, waste water odors, etc.)
- TRAFFIC PROBLEMS (Lahaina bypass, roadways, etc.)
- AFFORDABLE HOUSING (support for several work force and affordable projects)

However, WMTA goes well beyond these three areas in its advocacy. WMTA has submitted testimony and written letters to PRESERVE THE COUNTY SHARE OF THE TRANSIENT ACCOMODATION TAX, and SUPPORTED OUR VISITOR INDUSTRY with written and oral testimony urging FUNDING FOR THE MAUI VISITORS BUREAU. WMTA has joined with like-minded organizations to PROTECT TAXPAYERS AND BUSINESSES FROM REGRESSIVE TAXATION AND REGULATION and to argue for EFFICIENT USE OF TAXPAYER DOLLARS. Each year, in the budget process, WMTA fights for FAIR ALLOCATION OF INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT in West Maui facilities.

What do these efforts mean to you? Only increased property values, more job and business opportunities, and improved living conditions in West Maui. How does WMTA reach its goals? By developing good relationships with state and county officials so there are receptive ears when WMTA needs to advocate an issue. WMTA also gives the West Maui community opportunities to meet these officials by inviting them to speak at the WMTA annual meetings, and by conducting the only candidates' night on the west side.

WMTA also quietly supports important community groups like the ROYAL HAWAIIAN GUARD, as they are important parts of the West Maui mosaic.

WMTA is really privileged to represent a wonderful and unique community with such cultural richness. We hope you share our goals and can find a way to support our efforts. Working together, and with your generous support, we can continue to work for a better West Maui. We also welcome YOUR ideas on how to improve West Maui.

WEST MAUI HOSPITAL UPDATE By Joseph Pluta

We have recently been mentioned in a Maui News Article concerning the sudden departure of financial commitments by Newport Hospital Corporation and its principal Brian Hoyle.

It's unfortunate that Newspapers sometimes confuse their readers in stories which may be well intended, but are inaccurate and misleading accordingly.

What we know for certain is that we must have an acute care hospital located in West Maui due to our dangerous isolation from the Emergency Room at Maui Memorial Medical Center beyond the "Golden Hour."

We know that our community does not want to be forced to be dependent upon some new proposed ordinances whereby taxpayers would have to pay for the development and ongoing subsidy of a West Maui Hospital. Accordingly, we have initiated negotiations with a professional health care developer whereby we have arranged for a Qualified Hospital Operator who will financially commit to all the necessary expenses for development of a West Maui Hospital.

Qualified Hospital Operator: For the purpose of the Agreement we have negotiated, a Qualified Hospital Operator shall mean an entity with the following attributes of the entity or its parent entity:

- a. It will own and operate no fewer than 5 fully operational hospitals, which hospitals shall be located in no fewer than 2 states
- b. The entity or its parent entity has no less than \$250,000,000 of tangible net worth,
- c. The entity or its parent entity has no less than \$100,000,000 in available cash or Existing Credit available for the development of the WMHMC project. Existing Credit shall mean a credit line which is in-force, and exercisable at the Entity's option, with a Bank having more than \$1 Billion in assets.
- d. The entity or its parent entity (in combination with its relevant subsidiaries) will have no less than \$50 Million of EBITDA based on audited financial statements during the most recent 2 fiscal years.

Con't from Page 1 (West Maui hospital)

We have a meeting scheduled with the State Health Planning Development Agency in Honolulu mid July for discussions on issues pertaining to the Certificate of Need.

We need to continue negotiations with KLMC on securing our ability to utilize the already approved and zoned land for our hospital near the Lahaina Fire Station.

In the next 30-90 days, we will be very busy working on completing negotiations and cannot prudently discuss details of those negotiations prematurely. As soon as prudently acceptable by all parties, a press release will be issued appropriately.

In the interim, please note that your support is vital to our success. Please send your tax-deductible donations to assist us in our mission to bring life saving acute care emergency medical services to West Maui. There are many agencies seeking financial contributions, but please consider one who is fighting to save lives here that are tragically being lost at this time!

How much is your life or the lives of your family and friends worth?

Thanks to people like you in the community, willing to give their 2-cents now and then. Again, all we're asking is to please put aside two pennies a day for a year. It adds up to \$7.30. Will you send a check now for \$7.30 now and start saving those pennies to "pay yourself back?"

Maybe you can spare a nickel/day (\$18.25/year) - or even a dollar a day (\$365/year) because EVERY PENNY COUNTS!

MAY WE COUNT ON YOU? Please complete the form below and donate today.

✂ Cut and return bottom portion with your WMIF donation ✂

West Maui Improvement Foundation Donation

IRS EIN 99-0275775 NON PROFIT 501C (3)

Donor Name: _____

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

Phone: _____ Email: _____ Fax: _____

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:

\$7.30 \$36.50 \$365 Other \$_____

Credit Card (fill out information to the right.)

CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD –

ALL INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR CREDIT CARD DONATIONS:

Visa MasterCard

American Express Discover

Amount:

\$7.30 \$36.50 \$365 Other \$_____

Card # _____

Expiration Date: _____ Phone Number: _____

Billing Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Signature _____

Mail Checks, and Send Comments to:

West Maui Improvement Foundation

PO Box 158 • Lahaina, HI 96761

Phone: 808-661-7990

Visit www.WestMauiHospital.org

LAHAINA SKATEPARK – GROUNDBREAKING

By Pamela English

The West Maui Skate Park is a reality! Ground breaking ceremonies were held on the site behind the Lahaina Aquatic Center on Monday June 20th. Contractor BCP construction from Oahu plans to begin site preparations immediately with a construction duration of six months. West Maui Taxpayers Association worked alongside the County of Maui Parks Department to secure a half a million dollar grant from the National Parks Service to augment County funds for the park. Total project cost is \$1.3 million dollars. Special thanks go out to Donovan McNab, owner of the Lahaina Skate Company, who has been working with the County of Maui to bring this state of the art skate park to West Maui for over 12 years! Way to go Donovan!!!! Imua Lahaina Skate Park.



ROYAL HAWAIIAN GUARD

WMTA was presented with a great opportunity be a part of the efforts of the Royal Hawaiian guard, and take part in a great tradition brought forward by one of Hawaii's most memorable monarchs, King **David La'amea Kamanakapu'u Mahinulani Nalaiaehuokalani Lumialani Kalākaua** and sometimes called **The Merrie Monarch**.

West Maui Taxpayers Association will sponsor the second annual *Hawaii Drill Experience* hosted by The Royal Hawaiian Guard (a nonprofit organization). The Hawaii Drill Experience will be conducted on the island of Maui from **July 18-23, 2011**. This event goal is to provide instructors and participants the tools necessary to understand, develop, and achieve drill skills, in order to accomplish a high level of "advance sequencing" as an art form; while utilizing Hawaiian cultural knowledge to strengthen themselves, physically, spiritually, emotionally and intellectually to understand a sense of place.

They will be holding fundraisers to help raise monies for their programs and uniforms, so please visit www.RoyalHawaiianGuard.com for events in planning.

TRANSPORTATION SUMMARY By Bob Pure

The first two Phases of the Lahaina Bypass, from Hokiokio to Keawe Street, are due to be completed about a year from now, in the summer of 2012. Current progress is on schedule. In conversation with our Legislators and with the State Dept. of Transportation, the next Phase of the Bypass will move north from Keawe Street. Design funds are in the budget for 2012. The plan is to move the road north before it moves south.

We have also made the State DOT aware that the intersection of Keawe Street and the Highway will become problematic when the first two Phases of the Bypass are completed and a combination of Bypass traffic wanting to go north and school traffic from Lahainaluna schools, also wanting to go north, converge in that intersection. The DOT is committed to make whatever "fixes" necessary to insure a smooth traffic flow.

And, finally, the one mile widening of the Highway, coming in and out of Lahaina, with its tree-lined median, has proven to be a great success in eliminating prior bottlenecks and traffic slowdowns. It has made a big difference.

LAHAINA EDUCATION CENTER SEEKS COMMUNITY PARTICIPATION VIA ON-LINE SURVEY!



It's been five years since Maui College's Lahaina Ed Center first opened its doors in the Front Street Apartments on Front and Kenui Road in Lahaina.

The WMTA holds monthly board meetings there and Treasurer/Past President Joseph Pluta is on their advisory committee. Facility and Faculty Coordinator, Marti Wukelic is doing an excellent job and requests our assistance. This outstanding facility has been a welcome addition to Lahaina and is actively seeking feedback from the community via an On-Line Survey. Please participate.

Here is the link: <http://www.surveymonkey.com/s/9JPTLFR>

TREASURER'S REPORT By Joseph Pluta

The WMTA IS REACHING OUT TO THOSE WHO ARE NOT CURRENTLY ACTIVE MEMBERS BY SENDING THEM A DIRECT APPEAL TO RENEW THEIR ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP. Separate letters to them have been mailed last week. Please keep your WMTA membership active. It's really a very reasonable investment considering what the WMTA is doing for our community. For example, anyone who owns real property here in West Maui knows that without WMTA's dedicated lobbying efforts, we would not have been successful getting support for our Napili Fire and Ambulance Station from the County and the savings in fire insurance premiums alone annually are more than triple what the annual membership fee is. That's a conservative estimate of return on investment for WMTA membership.

Why you should renew your membership dues to WMTA?

President Don Lehman says: "Anyone with the good fortune to have some connection to West Maui knows what wonderful and exceptional place it is. Supporting WMTA is a relatively painless way to give back and improve our community in countless ways. I can assure you that every dollar you contribute to the cause will go toward a better West Maui. Please be a part of the effort. Thank you."

Vice President, Bob Pure says: "WMTA consists of a dedicated group of volunteers working tirelessly, for over 30 years, on behalf of all residents, both full and part time, to act as your watchdog to insure fair and equitable treatment on all compelling issues affecting your well being. We need you on our side; WMTA membership is an investment in your future."

Membership Chairman Paul Brown says: "Do you have Time? Do you have the time to attend all of the community meetings and share your concerns with the officials present?"

- Do you have the time to monitor legislation moving through the state legislature and county council which will have an impact on your tax liabilities?
- Do you have time to lobby your representatives to work to ensure that the infrastructure in your community is maintained at optimum levels?

It's important to be able to have a strong membership base in the WMTA as the WMTA is able to actively involve its organizational resources in direct political lobbying campaigns and directly lobbying officials for our community needs accordingly while the WMIF cannot be involved in political contests without jeopardizing its non-profit charitable status with the IRS. We are doing our part. May we please ask you to do the same? Thank you.

Yes! You can count on me. Please find enclosed my donation of _____.

West Maui Taxpayers Association 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

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

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 • Phone: 808-661-7990 • Visit www.WestMaui.org

THE VOICE



"Coming together, uniting West Maui as ONE Voice"

Quarterly Newsletter of the
West Maui Taxpayers Association
July, 2011

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
and **Twitter!**

Visit www.WestMaui.org
for links.