

WEST MAUI TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION'S

THE VOICE

"Coming together, uniting West Maui as ONE Voice"

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Newsletter of the West Maui Taxpayers Association, September 2013

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE By Don Lehman

Things are happening in West Maui! Some of the news is about progress on some issues that WMTA inherited from Lahaina Bypass Now! (LBN). Thanks to the dogged determination of LBN member Lisa Cabingas and the good work of State Representative Angus McKelvey, the Fiscal Year 2014 Capital Improvement Budget includes funds to correct the serious pedestrian safety issues at Lahaina Intermediate and Princess Nahienaena schools.

Another LBN project that WMTA assumed is the paved walkway through Wahikuli Beach Park being constructed in conjunction with the waste water force main project. WMTA thanks former LBN members Leilani Pulmano and Harold Hyman for their vision of a shoreline walking path from 505 Front Street to Honokowai, which is now near completion.

WMTA is also proud to have been a force behind the shoreline improvements to the Honoapiilani Highway discussed in this newsletter. One can only imagine the economic and safety disaster West Maui would face if we lose any portion of the highway, and that was certainly a possibility without the remedial actions currently under way. WMTA thanks Zeke Kalua, former WMTA Executive Director and current WMTA board member, for his efforts in this area, and for his continuing efforts as Executive Assistant to Mayor Arakawa.

We also thank Bob Pure, former President of LBN and currently Vice president of WMTA, for constantly monitoring the progress on the bypass and other West Maui traffic issues. As you can see from Bob's regular traffic reports, he is an active partner with the State and County Departments of Transportation.

WMTA also thanks Steve Parabolici, Wastewater Operations Program Superintendent for Maui County, for attending the WMTA Board meeting on September 17, 2013 and giving a detailed briefing on wastewater issues. The West Maui odor problems have been on the WMTA Goals and Objectives for a long time, and the meeting with Steve was a good opportunity to see how WMTA could help in addressing that issue. The meeting was very productive and informative, and it is good to see that there is definitely some light at the end of the tunnel. WMTA has pledged to help in any way to support and accelerate the planned improvements to wastewater processing outlined by Steve in this newsletter.

WMTA learned that the recent increase in the odors at the Honokowai facility was the result of a long overdue repair to a major piece of equipment. That repair is complete so the abnormal odor problem should be over. Pictures of the repair are below.



Steve also shared some ideas on how everyone in West Maui can help: First- conserve water. Second- NEVER PUT GREASE DOWN THE DRAIN! Soak up cooking grease in a paper towel and put in the trash!

The Maui County Council is currently deliberating the Mayor's proposal to purchase 186 acres along Honoapiilani Highway in Launiupoko. WMTA strongly supports this purchase as a rare opportunity to preserve a large open space for recreation in a unique location. More importantly, placing the property in the public domain will greatly facilitate placing the southern terminus of the Lahaina Bypass at its most logical location, Cut Mountain. WMTA urges all West Maui residents to contact the County Council and express their support for this historic investment in West Maui.

Please visit westmaui.org to see the full run down on WMTA issues in the Goals and Objectives, and let us know if there are other areas where you think WMTA should be involved.

Donald E. Lehman

President, WMTA



The second and connecting phase of the Lahaina Bypass has been completed. Unfortunately there are still some ongoing legal issues between the land owners and the State DOT that have not yet been resolved and those issues are preventing the road from opening to traffic.

According to my sources on both sides, these issues are now moving along more quickly toward resolution than they have been and are close to being finalized.

As of now, the State DOT is talking about the Bypass opening sometime in October.

The Force Main Sewer Project on the highway at Wahikuli Wayside Park has been completed and is about to be hooked up to the existing sewer lines and turned on. That's one traffic headache eliminated.

The State DOT will now move in to do some re-striping and other work at the Fleming Road/Front Street/ Highway intersection to extend and create a real continuous walking path that will be safe for pedestrians.

The other Force Main Sewer Project going north from Kaanapali Parkway is due to be completed by November 1st. The construction project is being done by GBI. I talked to the Project Manager, at length, about measures that could be used for mitigating the traffic back ups. He was sensitive and receptive to the disruption the project was causing and he instituted several measures that seem to have helped.

It appears to me, that right now, the amount of days where the traffic is stalled and backed up have been cut in half from where they were when the project started. Much better than it was.

WEST MAUI HOSPITAL AND MEDICAL CENTER FOUNDATION UPDATE By Joe Pluta, President, WMHMC
 On August 27, 2013 the Pacific Business News published an article announcing that the James and Abigail Campbell Family Foundation and the family of the founder of Foodland Super Market Ltd., have each given \$1 Million to the Queen's Medical Center for construction of its West Oahu hospital campus at the site of the former Hawaii Medical Center West.

The West Maui Hospital Certificate of Need Holder, (NHC), Newport Hospital Corporation's President, Brian Hoyle sent us a copy of the article and stated: "This is the kind of support and real fundraising effort that the West Maui Hospital has always and will continue to need from WMIF, WMTA, or any other charitable organization that really wants to support the West Maui Hospital. "

The WMIF and WMTA have been working diligently for over 15 years on this project and virtually exhausted all of our financial resources during that time. We contracted and paid professional fees, including payment to planning consultants and engineers over that time; which amounted to nearly \$850 K by 2010. These monies substantially contributed to proving the case for a West Maui Hospital and obtaining the successful receipt of a Certificate of Need, (CON), for NHC.

Community financial support has been dwindling ever since. While we have been waiting for the CON Holder to move forward with land purchasing and plans for the past few years, we have been struggling financially just to maintain a cost sharing allocation of one individual as a contracted professional administrative assistant while efficiently sharing office expenses. Please support our efforts to improve healthcare for our community and send your tax-deductible donation to us today. Mahalo.

We are looking forward to hearing an update from Mr. Hoyle who has informed us that he is ... "still working on the financing of the project and that he will make a detailed formal announcement at the upcoming Kaanapali 2020 Community Planning Group Meeting scheduled for October 2, 2013." It is our sincere hope that we will have good news to report after that. Stay tuned to our web site at www.westmauihospital.org!

West Maui Hospital & Medical Center Foundation / IRS EIN 26-3774305 NON PROFIT 501C (3)

The Mission of the WMHMC is to improve and enhance access to life-saving healthcare, and to provide healthcare related facilities and healthcare related facilities and healthcare services in West Maui Community.

Donor Name: _____ Email: _____
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 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
 Donation Amount: \$25 \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____
 Check Payable to **WMHMC** is enclosed. Or Charge my credit card (complete all information above and below)
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 Phone Number: _____ Signature _____

Hui O Wa'a Kaulua - Submitted by Zeke Kalua

We are the Hui O Wa'a Kaulua, (*Assembly of the Double-hull Canoe*), preserving the ancient arts of Polynesian canoe building and celestial navigation on Maui for the past 35 years. We are pleased to announce *Mo'okiha o Pi'ilani*, Maui's new 62-foot transoceanic double-hulled voyaging canoe, will launch on December 21st, 2013, at Mala Ramp. For the first time in 600 years, a Maui canoe will sail the Pacific!

A community of families, visitors, friends and loved ones have brought *Mo'okiha o Pi'ilani* to this point – she represents over a million man-hours of labor and boundless aloha. Over the years we have conducted countless workshops and “Keiki Crew Training” where youth learn knot tying, paddling, canoe plants, and the use of a star compass. With your support, we plan to continue educating the community and the world about our traditions. Next year *Mo'okiha o Pi'ilani* maiden voyages include 24 new workshops that will teach celestial navigation, Hawaiian values, cultural identity, and respect for ocean habitats.

To continue to preserve, protect and perpetuate our traditions we humbly ask for your help in raising the last \$35,000 of our \$50,000 target goal. These funds are needed to purchase equipment hands cannot build, including safety/emergency equipment, sails, and anchors.

Our youth have been patiently waiting for a living classroom where they may practice ancestral wayfinding skills and learn the discipline of voyaging long distances in restricted quarters. She will dock at Lahaina Harbor, encouraging our community and visitors to embrace Lahaina as a famous Hawaiian port—home of generations of Hawaiian Kings.

Please consider this opportunity to sponsor our December 21st launch. Perhaps you prefer to underwrite the mighty task of moving our huge vessel from Kamehameha Iki Park to Mala Ramp. Checks may be sent directly to our Maui office, or you may donate online at www.huiowaa.org. Please contact us today and be counted in this historic launch event.

- Leonard Kimokeo Kapahulehua, Hui o Wa'a Kaulua Board President

WEST MAUI WASTEWATER SYSTEM IMPROVEMENTS PLANNED By Steve Parabolici, Wastewater Operations Program Superintendent, Wastewater Reclamation Division, Department of Environmental Management, County of Maui

Here is the information you requested regarding some of the pertinent capital improvement projects that we are and will be undertaken in FY 2015 to improve the West Maui wastewater system.

1) Lahaina Pump Station #2 (at the entrance to Kaanapali) improvement project just had its preconstruction meeting yesterday. The existing chemical odor control unit will be replaced with a combination granular activated carbon and biofilter. New submersible pumps and a new odor control system will be installed as well as general structural repairs. The new odor control unit is expected to be completed and operational by March, 2014 and all the other work is expected to be completed by November, 2014. Funding is already approved for this project.

2) Lahaina Pump Station #3 is going to be rehabilitated as well with new pumps, odor control units etc. The odor control units will be a similar system as in the #2 station. Sorry, I don't have the details but this project is in the design phase and the project should be completed w/in two years.

3) Lahaina Wastewater Reclamation Facility Odor Control: We have had a study completed by CH2MHill that identified the major odor sources at the facility. The consultant made recommendations on how to address the odors. We will be requesting \$4,000,000 for the upcoming fiscal year (FY 2015) to implement the recommended improvements which include a) capturing the foul area from the influent headworks building and treating it with a new granular activated carbon scrubber and b) covering the flexible aeration basin to prevent ammonia and hydrogen sulfide odors from escaping. As you may recall, this flexible aeration basin is a low oxygen environment we use to help reduce the nitrogen content in the final effluent. These areas are typically pretty odorous due to the low oxygen levels. It will probably take about a year to complete these improvements. Estimate for completion: June, 2015.

4) Force Main Replacements: a) Lahaina Pump Station #3 just completed and placed into service. Our Central Maintenance will be removing flywheels from the existing pumps w/in the next few weeks so we can run a variable frequency drive. This will reduce the time the wastewater stays in the station wet well and hopefully reduce odors at Lahaina Pump Station #2. b) Lahaina Pump Station #2 - ongoing. Should be a few more months before completion. c) Lahaina Pump Station #4 - Specifications completed, going out to bid in October, construction should start in early 2014.

5) Water Reuse Improvements: As detailed yesterday, we are having our increased Ultra Violet disinfection capacity (up to 9 MGD) constructed at this time. This project will be completed by Dec. 31, 2013. For FY 2015, we will be requesting \$2,000,000 to construct the 1 MG R-1 water storage tank and another \$350,000 to install the R-1 water laterals to commercial properties that are in the vicinity of the existing 16" R-1 water pipe line that is located along Honoapiilani Highway. Note that the DHHL issue regarding their demands for the land we need may alter the plan for the location of the R-1 tank. Hopefully, we can work this out so our plans are implemented as originally planned.

MEMBERSHIP & TREASURERS REPORT By Joe Pluta, Treasurer/President Emeritus, West Maui Taxpayers Association

The WMTA is sending you a "Call to Action." We are barely existing on a dramatically reduced \$26 K annual budget at this time without an executive director and sharing fixed office and administrative expenses with our office partners and affiliates.

In the prior June 2013 edition of "The Voice" newsletter, we included an article by former WMTA president, Ron Kawahara, CPA, as to why financial support of the WMTA was a prudent and wise investment. He wrote... "The importance of the WMTA cannot be overstated." Please see our web site at www.westmaui.org if you missed this edition.

Please help us to be able to help you! Time is of the essence! Take out your checkbook and send a donation to the WMTA today! Do Not Delay! Any amount you send will be essential to keep us in business. Malama Pono ame Mahalo.

ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF WMTA By Zeke Kalua, Board Member, WMTA

Aloha to our extended ohana, The last several years have been an exciting time for West Maui as the R.O.I. has been phenomenal. With the first two phases of the Lahaina Bypass near completion, 4 laning from Puamana to Dickenson complete and the second phase of the Lahaina drainage project underway, we have much to be thankful for this Thanksgiving.

The pictures we illustrate in this article are showing the Olowalu armoring project and the Launiupoko revetment project. For many years there has been excessive erosion to our highway undetected by many. We at the WMTA have advocated this concern as an interruption of transit based on a failure in the integrity of our only Highway into Lahaina, could prove catastrophic for our sensitive economic structure.

Based on the funding allocated by Government and permitting requirements, these challenges need to be addressed quickly as costs to the taxpayer increase on a daily basis. The WMTA for nearly half a century has been an advocate for these needs within the community.

There are other needs that are being recorded and analyzed as we speak, homeless issues, cultural restoration and education and all of these are important to our residents and guests alike. We are happy to take on the challenge and today ask for your help in continuing that mission. Please consider the value in a WMTA membership or donation today.



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

Member Name: _____ Email: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____
 Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

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 <input type="checkbox"/> I am a member and renewing my dues <input type="checkbox"/> I am not a member but would like to join	Membership Levels <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals \$50.00/year <input type="checkbox"/> Families \$100/year <input type="checkbox"/> Businesses \$100/year <input type="checkbox"/> AOA – email wmta@maui.net
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\$ _____ **DONATION: In addition to my membership, here is an ADDITIONAL DONATION**
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

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