

WEST MAUI TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION'S

# THE VOICE

*"Coming together, uniting West Maui as ONE Voice"*

PO Box 10338 ♦ Lahaina, HI 96761 ♦ [www.WestMaui.org](http://www.WestMaui.org) ♦ [WMTA@maui.net](mailto:WMTA@maui.net)

Newsletter of the West Maui Taxpayers Association – December, 2013

## **PRESIDENTS MESSAGE** by Don Lehman

Please mark your calendars and plan to attend the 2014 West Maui Taxpayers Association Annual Meeting on January 9, 2014. The WMTA Annual Meeting is always well attended by those interested in a better West Maui, and offers a unique opportunity to hear from government officials and others about the many issues and challenges facing West Maui. A key presentation will discuss the latest on the West Maui hospital.

As we often discuss in these newsletters, WMTA has adopted a role far beyond that of most tax payer organizations. We do represent West Maui on taxation issues, but we focus more on ensuring a fair portion of the tax revenues generated in West Maui are invested in infrastructure improvements in West Maui. We also look for opportunities to improve the economic success of West Maui, and encourage privately funded projects we feel will improve the quality of life for everyone who lives, works and visits in West Maui. A copy of the latest version of the WMTA Goals and Objectives is included in this newsletter to illustrate the wide range of issues we have chosen to pursue. Also, please let us know if there are additional issues you feel we should address.

West Maui has no official 'community organization' as many other parts of the island do, so WMTA has also assumed many of the functions that are normally handled by such an organization. The WMTA Annual Meeting provides a forum for government officials and organizations with private projects to interact with the community. The WMTA Candidates Night is the only opportunity for candidates to come to West Maui and debate the issues (2014 is an election year!) The third activity of WMTA that is more a community function than a tax function is this Newsletter, which we feel is an important vehicle for informing the West Maui community. Please visit our web site at [www.westmaui.org](http://www.westmaui.org) to review past issues of the newsletter.

While WMTA is proud to provide these services to West Maui, they all entail some expense that would not be incurred by a pure taxpayers association. While WMTA does appreciate the generous support we receive from our member individuals, businesses, families, and HOA's, that support has fallen below what we require to continue to provide these services. WMTA has no support other than what we receive from our members, and this is by design so we remain responsible only to our members. The WMTA Board would prefer to spend its time addressing issues rather than figuring out ways to increase membership. With that in mind, we ask that anyone reading this newsletter please share it with as many interested and involved individuals as possible in hopes that more support can be found. Thank you, and we look forward to seeing you on January 9, 2014. WMTA wishes all a joyous holiday season and a prosperous 2014.



President, WMTA

## *Save the Date*

WMTA Annual Meeting

Lahaina Civic Center

Thursday, January 9, 2014

5:00 PM Dinner & Business Meeting

*(Complimentary food service catered by  
Paradise Grill Kaanapali)*

5:45 PM Special Presentations

More details to be posted at

[www.WestMaui.org](http://www.WestMaui.org) when available.

**PROXY DUE JANUARY 6, 2014**

**(See Page 6 for Proxy)**

## **WMTA & Maui's Best Craft Fair** by Joe Pluta

Earlier this year, WMTA was invited by Maui's Best Craft Fair Promoter Evelyn Goo to help raise funds for our organization. At a lottery held by the County where hundreds of individuals and organizations vie for a chance to reserve the Lahaina Civic Center for a Craft Fair – WMTA's ticket was called.

Evelyn's group at the craft fair will take care of everything! Logistics, vendors, and all else that is involved in making it the best Craft Fair ever! WMTA will receive a pre-determined amount donated back to WMTA used for our mission that *"includes active involvement of, but not limited to, any of the safety, fire and police protection, sewage disposal, refuse and trash removal, beautification, parks, public transportation, support of libraries, taxes, highways, roads, sidewalks crosswalks, bikeways, street lights, beach right-of-way, domestic water supply, surface water drainage, and other physical improvements or services, which may benefit the area, whether provided by, or to be provided by, the State or County governments, or by others."*

Please support this Craft Fair. Do your Christmas Gift shopping! It will be held Sunday, December 15, 2013 at the Lahaina Civic Center Social Hall, 9 -4 pm.

**Healthcare is Everybody's Business** By Joe Pluta, President, WMHMCF

As stated, in the title of this article, "Health Care is Everyone's Business." A picture of the Napili Fire and Ambulance Station is a reminder to all of what we did after we were told that **"it would be impossible for any community in Hawaii to privately pay for and develop their own fire and ambulance station."** It's never been done before, nor has it been duplicated anywhere else in Hawaii since. **"Whether you think you can or whether you think you can't you are right."** –Henry Ford

When several of our board members and I mortgaged our homes to collaterally secure the mortgage loan for constructing the Napili Fire and Ambulance Station, we did so because we thought we could get the community to join with us and contribute to our effort. We knew we could count on you and you did not let us down. Mahalo.



A positive approach to life first assumes that problems are solvable, and second, it opens our mind to search for creative solutions. An attitude that says "Yes" is one that is willing to risk failure, but is banking on success. Even though we were told that we would never obtain the State required "Certificate of Need, (CON)," to be granted the right to develop a hospital in our community, we believed and we were successful in March of 2009.

Now, creative solutions have been adopted by the CON holder we assisted in this process: **"Newport Hospital Corporation is pleased to announce that a viable financing plan is underway for the development of the entire West Maui Hospital and Medical Center project, which consists of 25 bed acute-care bed hospital, 40 bed assisted living facility, 40 bed skilled nursing facility, a state of the art medical office building, and a future drug and alcohol rehabilitation facility. This plan includes a sale/leaseback arrangement wherein the newly formed non-profit West Maui Hospital Foundation, Inc. will serve as the operation of the Hospital and Critical Access HealthCare, LLC will manage the hospital. "**

They announced that their foundation has applied with the IRS for 501-c-3 status and has a web site at westmauihospitalandmedicalcenter.org. It's uncertain when they will hear back from the IRS on their request. In the interim, they announced that they have a set goal to raise \$5 million for working capital and welcomed us to assist them in that effort.

At some point, we look forward to assisting them, but WMIF recognizes immediate existing and ongoing needs for communications and forthcoming hearings on entitlements. Our roles will be to work in synergy with our pre-existing West Maui Hospital and Medical Center Foundation Inc. (WMHMCF). We already have 501-c-3 designations, therefore it seems prudent, at this time, to act as a bridge between them and the community; as we monitor their plans while we continue to advocate for necessary support for improved access to health care in our community in all ways possible.

Once again, we thank you for recognizing our community need and your continuing support. Please call me personally at 808-661-7990 if you have any questions about our on-going initiatives to provide for improved health care on this wonderful island. Malama pono ame Mahalo!

***We've already done the impossible, all we have now is the possible. Thank you for your continued support!***

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

*The Mission of the WMHMCF 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: \_\_\_\_\_

Billing/Mailing 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

Donation Amount:  \$25  \$50  \$100  Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Check Payable to **WMHMCF** is enclosed. Or  Charge my credit card (complete all information above and below)

**CARD TYPE**  Visa  MasterCard Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Expiration Date: \_\_\_\_\_ Security Code: \_\_\_\_\_

Phone Number: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature \_\_\_\_\_



# Transportation UPDATE

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## by Bob Pure

It is bittersweet for me to announce that Charlene Shibuya, longtime Construction Engineer at the Maui Office of the State Dept. of Transportation, retired on November 6th. We wish her well in her retirement but we will miss her dearly.

Charlene was my main contact for all State transportation information and it would be an understatement to say she was "awesome". She was an excellent communicator and, despite her heavy workload, she always returned all emails and phone calls very quickly.....she probably never slept.

Charlene was an unusual "bureaucrat". Whenever I confronted her with a problem, her first reaction was to say "yes, we can do it. I'll find a way". She was easy to work with, had a great sense of humor and, most importantly, she knew how to get things done.

Good Luck, Charlene!

On the Transportation front, it is looking good for the opening of the 2nd and connecting section of the long awaited Lahaina Bypass. As of this writing, the Dept. of Transportation informs me that they are looking at mid to late December for the opening, as most of the legal issues have finally been resolved.

Other issues: I have been in continual contact with the Executive Vice President of Hawaiian Airlines talking about replacing Island Air's Honolulu service out of Kapalua.

The good news is that Hawaiian is definitely committed to serve Kapalua with 40-60 seat turboprops. I've been told that the FAA Certification process is slow and arduous and because of the government "sequester", even slower than usual. Hawaiian will be purchasing planes already in service both from the Mainland and Europe.

There could be further complications as the FAA has to officially certify that these new planes will "fit" into Kapalua with its short runway and it's even possible the FAA might mandate some physical "adjustments" that will have to be made at the airport.

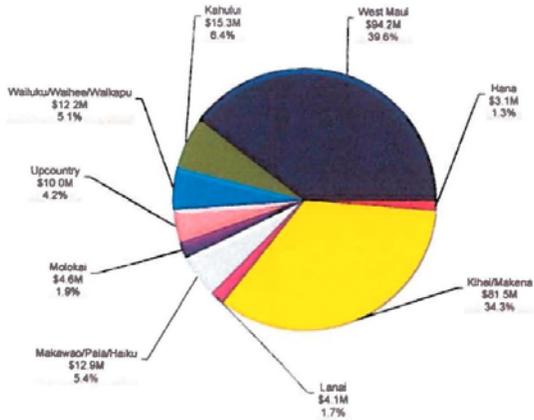
It's going to be a slow process.....2nd quarter of next year is probably realistic.....I'll stay on top of it and keep you informed.....

**WMTA ILLUSTRATES AN ANALYSIS OF MAUI COUNTY PROPERTY TAX COLLECTIONS AND CIP**

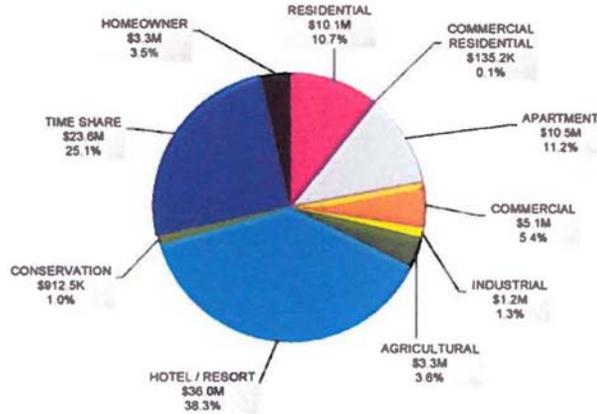
Through the past efforts of West Maui Taxpayers Association (WMTA) and others in the community, we have been able to successful lobby and work with County and State officials help West Maui advance in health and safety. This included the recently completed Lahaina Skate Park. With the help of WMTA Board Member Pamela English working with key members of the community, the County as well a Federal Grant the Skate Park is now open to provide safe environment for the skating community to enjoy.

Estimated Real Property Taxes Revenues (RPT) islandwide (Maui County) is \$240,332,468. West Maui generates \$94.2M (39.6%) in Real Property Tax Revenues (See "Graph 1" below). Of the \$94.2M, \$36M (38.3%) generated directly from Hotels and Resorts, and \$23.6M (25.1%) are from Timeshares. (See "Graph 2" below)

Graph 1:  
**FY 2013-2014 Estimated RPT Revenues by District Maui County**



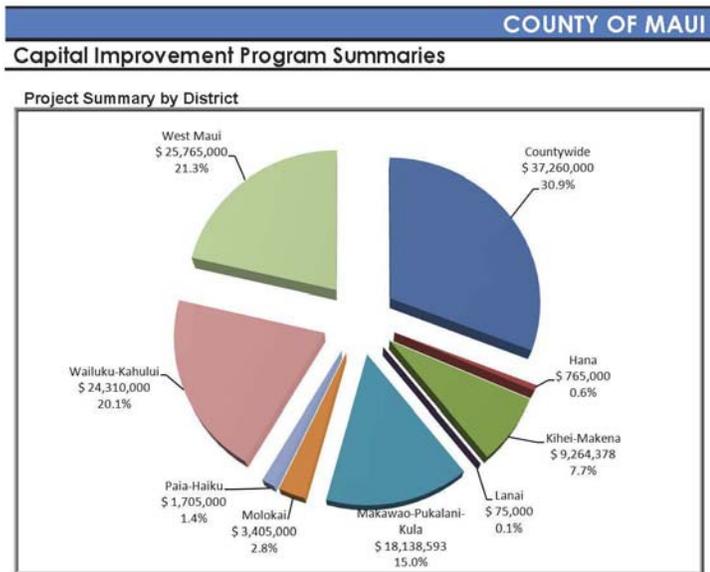
Graph 2:  
**Estimated RPT Revenues\* by District West Maui**



Now take a look at Graph 3 below. Note that the proposed Capital Improvement Project Budget has sources of funds beyond RPT as the graph shows. That equals to West Maui is receiving 27% of the \$94.2M of their total contribution through RPT collections, in improvement projects.

So as you can see, West Maui ranks the highest in estimated revenue source for via Real Property Tax. However, West Maui does not receive equal percentage of monies being reinvested into the community. We recognize that an equal amount of reinvestments is not practical or desirable we have urgent needs for sewer treatment odor improvement, affordable housing and improved access to emergency medical care.

Graph 3:



**Help us help YOU bring more of our tax dollars for re-investment into West Maui.**

Our Board of Directors live, work and play in West Maui. They have been hard at work lobbying on behalf of visitors and residents. However, with limited resources – WMTA can only do so much. How can you help– become a member of the WMTA, and if you have the time, volunteer as well.

**Why become a member?**

Become a member so that WMTA has the resources for its Board and volunteers to get out and make your voices heard. Whether it be through membership events presentations, newsletter mailings, membership booths, other special mailings, website and social media – we need the help of our membership dues to lobby and bring awareness to our issues.

**HEALTH AND SAFETY**

- 1) Promote the development and construction of a critical access medical facility in West Maui with associated facilities.
- 2) Support emergency preparedness programs for West Maui.
- 3) Support budget requests for MEO projects and improved police and fire fighting facilities in West Maui.

**EDUCATION**

- 1) Lobby for funding for the Lahaina Complex After School Tutoring Program.

**TRAFFIC AND ROADWAYS**

- 1) Promote the completion of the Lahaina Bypass and other traffic mitigation projects in West Maui. Support design and construction of alternative roadways to reduce traffic on Honoapiilani Highway (ie Kahua Street).
- 2) Pursue completion of the upgrades and paving of lower Honoapiilani Road from Kahana to Napili
- 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.
- 5) Promote implementation of the Maui County Complete Streets Ordinance on all West Maui projects, especially pedestrian safety improvements at the Front Street/Fleming Road and Honoapiilani Highway intersection.
- 6) Support expansion and improvement of County public transit service in West Maui.
- 7) Support moving the southern terminus of the Lahaina Bypass to Cut Mountain.

**AFFORDABLE HOUSING**

- 1) Continue to support well planned housing projects in West Maui that include both affordable and work force elements. (ie: Wainee Village, Kaanapali 2020, Kohoma Stream infill, Villages at Leialii, Puukoolii Village Mauka, Pulelehua, 'Kahoma Village, etc.)
- 2) Support the expansion of the Ka Hale A Ke Ola Homeless Resource Center to address the homeless encampment problems in West Maui.

**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, including completion of the ultraviolet canal, to provide treatment, storage and distribution systems to reuse treated waste water instead of using injection wells, and to address odor problems.
- 3) Support the operation/preservation of the new West Maui skate park.
- 4) Support development of an off-highway bicycle greenway for West Maui.
- 5) Urge the County to aggressively develop under-utilized water resources to ensure adequate supply for current and future needs
- 6) Support purchase of land at Makila for the development of a new county shoreline park from Launiupoko to Cut Mountain
- 7) Urge completion and promotion of a shoreline walkway from 505 Front Street to Honokowai.

**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 and a less expensive permitting process.
- 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 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 the annual WMTA meetings, the WMTA Candidates Night (the only such forum on the West side), and aggressive get-out-the-vote efforts.
- 8) Build awareness of West Maui harbor needs and support harbor area revitalization.

**CULTURAL PROTECTION**

- 1) Preserve and promote Hawaiian cultural efforts, such as:
  - a. Support the efforts of the Royal Hawaiian Guard and its efforts with Na Kia'i O Wainee to honor the monarchs at Wai Ola Cemetery.
  - b. Support funding for the Lahaina Honolua Senior Citizens Club.
  - c. Support the creation of a new cemetery in West Maui
  - d. Support restoration of Moku'ula
- 2) Support preservation of Honolua Bay and Lipoa Point.

**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 9, 2014**, 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 6, 2014**
3. 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, 2014 ANNUAL MEETING- ELECTION OF DIRECTORS SLATE OF DIRECTORS**

Paul Brown  
David Ferguson  
Jim Hentz  
Richard Jarman

Ezekiela "Zeke" Kalua  
Byron "Pat" Kelly  
Donald Lehman  
Gregg Nelson

Joseph Pluta  
Bob Pure  
John Seebart

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!**

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

**I stated this before and respectfully repeat that, 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](http://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.

**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**

- Individuals \$50.00/year
- Families \$100/year
- Businesses \$100/year
- AOA – email [wmta@maui.net](mailto:wmta@maui.net)

**\$ \_\_\_\_\_ 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**

NWS2013-12

**THE VOICE**



**"Coming together, uniting  
West Maui as ONE Voice"**

Newsletter of the  
West Maui Taxpayers Association  
**December 2013**

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Look for us on



and Twitter

([www.WestMaui.org](http://www.WestMaui.org) has links)