

WEST MAUI TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Advocating For You!

email: wmta@maui.net home page: www.westmaui.org
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A'ohe Hana Nui Ke Alu 'ia (No task is too large when we work together)

THE VOICE

Newsletter of the West Maui Taxpayers Association – April 2018

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE



At our WMTA Annual Meeting held last January 9, 2018, over a hundred people came to listen to our Speakers, ask questions and voice out their concerns that are affecting our lives on West Maui, affordable housing, community plan, transportation, and West Maui hospital update.

A lot of very important questions and concerns were brought out, and one in particular is the Keawe Street improvements and bypass extension. Most, if not all who were in attendance were concerned about the “unintended consequences” of the project designed to improve the traffic through this area.

We presented our suggestion to the County and to the Department of Transportation what we believe will best serve the community given that the designed used was over a decade old that did not take into consideration the businesses and homes that are now in the neighborhood. Unfortunately, Hawaii Department of Transportation will proceed with their design and plan for the traffic shift from Honoapiilani Highway at Olowalu/Cut Mountain to the Southern Terminus of the realigned highway will take place next month.

As in years past, this year WMTA will host two candidate forums. The first forum will be held on Wednesday July 25, 2018, at the Lahaina Civic Center Social Hall. The second forum will be held after the Primary Election and will Thursday, October 18, 2018

On West Maui, only 28% of the registered voters exercise their power to make a change and to make a difference; we need to do better if we want to be heard. **My VOICE – My VOTE** is a plan that we at WMTA is working on to help register voters and to ensure that our West Maui registered voters go out to vote.

The mission of the West Maui Taxpayers' Association is to advocate the concerns of the people of West Maui. WMTA relies on membership dues and donations to help with this effort. However, in order for WMTA to more successful in pursuing its Goals and Objectives that will benefit West Maui, we need financial support. A support of \$25 is what it takes for an individual to become a Member and \$100 will make an entire family become a Member of the WMTA.

The Board Members of the WMTA are all volunteers, concerned citizens of West Maui. With your support, we can do a lot more to improve our community and our lives on West Maui. If you want to learn more about WMTA and how you can help, please contact me at 808-298-3953.

Aloha,



Rick Nava
President, WMTA

WMTA EMERGENCY PREPAREDNESS COMMUNITY MEETINGS CONTINUES - THIS IS NOT A DRILL

**March
28**

**REMINDER!
HHARP MEETING
WEST MAUI SENIOR CENTER -
788 PAUOA ST LAHAINA
5:30 PM**

**THIS IS NOT A DRILL -
Post-Disaster
Recovery Planning and
Legal Liabilities
During an Emergency**

**Guest Speaker: General Bruce Oliveira
Hawaii State Department of Defense
Community Programs Director**



*Mahalo to the LAHAINA NEWS
for including WMTA and the February
HHARP Meeting in the March 1 – March
7, 2018 Editorial.*

Editorial

**Help West Maui develop
a community emergency plan**

For months now, the West Maui Taxpayers Association (WMTA) has been working with the Maui Emergency Management Agency, Pacific Disaster Center and the State Emergency Management Agency to develop a customized disaster plan designed to meet West Maui's specific needs.

The next meeting, "This is Not a Drill," on Wednesday, Feb. 28, at 5:30 p.m. at the West Maui Senior Center should be interesting.

General Bruce Oliveira, community programs director at the Hawaii State Department of Defense, will lead the meeting on the topic of developing a community emergency plan.

Oliveira was scheduled to speak last month, but he was tied up due to his urgent responsibilities as leading official in the internal investigation of Hawaii's false missile alert.

Disaster response agencies identified the need for an emergency plan due to the region's isolation from Maui Memorial Medical Center and Kahului Airport due to frequent road closures, fires and flooding.

The meeting is free and open to the public. More information on disaster preparedness can be found at www.westmaui.org.

WMTA invites everyone "to join us and be a part of the solution to plans that may well be the reason why lives will be saved when disasters strike."

LAHAINA NEWS

Maui News, Friday, March 2, 2018 featured a front page story following up with the meeting with the headline

"Oliveira: Feds don't need to be involved in missile alerts"

Read the full article on Maui News. Link can be found at <http://www.westmaui.org/home/oliveira-feds>

The Maui News

More Information on WMTA and Disaster Preparedness can be found at www.westmaui.org.

MY VOICE – MY VOTE! - Important Dates and Links for Election Year 2018



Register to Vote Online at: <https://olvr.hawaii.gov/>

Link to State of Hawaii Office of Elections: <http://elections.hawaii.gov/>

Important Dates to Remember:

Primary: Saturday, August 11, 2018
(Last day to register is July 12, 2018)

General: Tuesday, November 6, 2018 (Last Day to register is October 8, 2018)

Polls are open from 7:00 am to 6:00 pm

WMTA 2018 ANNUAL MEETING RECAP

The West Maui Taxpayer Association held its Annual Meeting on January 9, 2018 at the West Maui Senior Center.

Installation of Board of Directors, and lots of presentations including:

- State Representative Angus McKelvey; Senator Roz Baker; Mayor Alan Arakawa; Council Member Elle Cochran
- Robin Shishido, Maui District Engineer, Department of Transportation, State of Hawaii talking about Keawe Street Improvements and the Bypass Extension
- Carol Reimann, Director, Housing and Human Concerns, County of Maui sharing on programs and housing projects in process
- Pamela Eaton, Planning Program Administrator, Long Range Division, Department of Planning, County of Maui speaking about the West Maui Community Plan update process
- Brian Hoyle, providing an update on the West Maui Hospital

Visit www.WestMaui.org for the replay of the evenings presentations. Direct Link <http://www.westmaui.org/home/annual-meeting-video-replay>.

Mahalo to:

- Akaku for their discount on providing video services and post production services
- Ezekiel Kalua for his DJ/Audio services
- Maui Food Style for the generosity of providing catering services at a discount.
- West Maui Senior Center for the use of their meeting space
- MSI Maui for photography



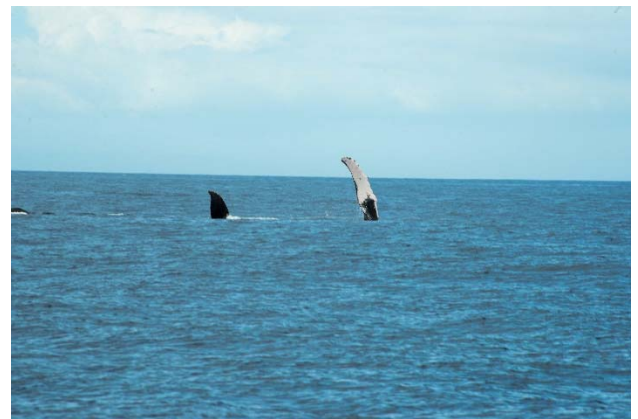
Board of Directors: (top): Vice President Joseph Pluta & President Rick Nava, (Bottom) Gregg Nelson, Ezekiel Kalua, Joe Pluta and Joe Park. Missing: Lee Chamberlain, Richard Jarman, Fereshteh Tali, John Seebart

MEMBERSHIP DRIVE + WHALE WATCH

February is a great month for a Whale Watch on Maui. To help increase awareness of WMTA goals and mission, and bring in new members (and renewing members) to WMTA, we held a membership drive. All new and renewing members got a ticket to join us on a whale watch and the whales put on a great show for us all!

Visit <http://www.westmaui.org/home/2018-whale-watch> for a video of the great photographs taken by MSI Maui, who donated their services on the whale watch.

We also want to thank Trilogy for the great price to charter a private boat for this Whale Watch so that WMTA could offer this deal to its members.



MAKING A COMMITMENT TO OUR WONDERFUL WEST MAUI COMMUNITY

By Joseph D Pluta West Maui Resident and Community Service Advocate since 1979

I know that we all have had a dream of living in a community where we just love it so much that we devote ourselves to preserve and maintain what we believe makes it special for us. That's how I felt about West Maui when I moved here from Honolulu in April of 1979.

In less than a month, I became a member of the Rotary Club of Lahaina and a Board Member of what was to become the West Maui Taxpayers Association.

“Until one is committed, there is hesitancy, the chance to draw back, always ineffectiveness. Concerning all acts of initiative and creation, there is one elementary truth the ignorance of which kills countless ideas and splendid plans: that the moment one definitely commits oneself, then providence moves too. -- All sorts of things occur to help one that would never otherwise have occurred. A whole stream of events issues from the decision, raising in one's favour all manner of unforeseen incidents, meetings and material assistance which no man could have dreamed would have come his way. -- Whatever you do, or dream you can do, begin it. Boldness has genius, power and magic in it. Begin it now.” –

Johann Wolfgang von Goethe and William Hutchinson Murray-

I evidenced my commitment to West Maui when I and two other WMTA board members, Uwe Schulz, and Ron Kawahara; placed second mortgages on our personal residences to collaterally secure the construction loan with Bank of Hawaii to privately develop the Napili Fire and Ambulance Station.

And the beat goes on. The West Maui Taxpayer's Association Inc., WMTA, has been diligently advocating for West Maui Property Owners and Residents the past 38 years. So many of the goals and objectives of the WMTA have been successful and contributed to making our community a better place. The WMTA is led by volunteers whose dedication and commitment is unparalleled.



I invite all who love West Maui to join me volunteering for our community in membership with the West Maui Taxpayers Association Inc. They have launched a campaign for membership growth and necessary increased financial support this Election Year to enable them to continue to work on your behalf. See www.westmaui.org for more information.

SAVE THE DATES **HHARP MONTHLY MEETING**

Wed, MARCH 28, 2018
5:30 PM – West Maui Senior Center

MHLA CHARITY WALK

Saturday, MAY 12, 2018
Sign up and join us to walk, or make a donation to our campaign

CANDIDATES NIGHT – (before Primary Election)

Wednesday, JULY 25, 2018
Lahaina Civic Center – Main Hall

CANDIDATES NIGHT - For General (After Primary Election) -

Thursday, October 18, 2018
Lahaina Civic Center – Main Hall

Visit www.WestMaui.org for Info & Details

West Maui Taxpayers Association **MEMBERSHIP FORM - IRS EIN 99-0160368 - NON PROFIT 501C (4)** **You can also pay online at www.westmaui.org/joinnow.html**

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

<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"/> AOAO – 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 158 • Lahaina, HI 96761

NWS2018-04

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West Maui Taxpayers Association
APRIL 2018

***"Bringing the West Maui
Community Together,
Advocating for You"***

A 501-C-4 Community Organization

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Look for us on

