

# WEST MAUI TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

## Advocating For You!

email: [wmta@maui.net](mailto:wmta@maui.net) home page: [www.westmaui.org](http://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 2020

### **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Joseph D. Pluta**



Aloha Members and Friends of West Maui. Peace be with you.

Recently, we have all been inundated with information on the Coronavirus. The World at large and all of us on Maui are impacted by this unprecedented situation in one way or another. Fear of the unknown ramifications has prompted a myriad of emergency measures which seem to be changing every day while attempting to appropriately address everything that this crisis has forced upon us all. There simply is not any prior medical virus catastrophe like this in history and no known vaccine medicinal cure at this time. It is changing the world.

We have been working on obtaining a West Maui Hospital for over 20 years due to our isolation from essential medical services 24/7 for acute emergency care. While we had planned special community meetings to address a West Maui Emergency Plan with pre-pandemic event planning; mandatory social distancing has postponed our ability to do so. This crisis has magnified our concerns and we pray that it will ultimately result in remedies for our community and responses with future resources and action plans accordingly.

Like many others, I have been reading scriptures searching for guidance on dealing with this crisis and concluded that Love is the answer. God is Love and He has always been the answer. Love has to be more than a word. It has to be an Action.

You may be thinking, I know that it's a problem that West Maui does not have a hospital or 24/7 Emergency Acute care services, but what can I do to make a difference? We must stop thinking about what we cannot do and begin to do what we can do. Ask yourself, will I continue being part of the problem or will I be a part of the answer. I have decided to be a part of the answer. Will you join me and let love be the central theme of your life? Trust in God's pattern of generous giving that says, "Giving, not getting, is the way!"

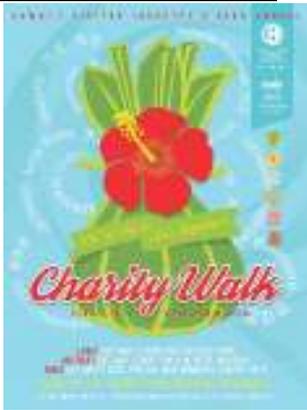
We know what needs to be done and we know we cannot do it without your financial assistance. Please send your tax-deductible donation to the West Maui Improvement Foundation Inc., without delay! Do it today! Mahalo.

Warmest Regards,



Joseph D. Pluta – President/ Treasurer

## **CHARITY WALK 2020**



Join the WMTA & WMIF in the 2020 Charity Walk on May 9, 2020.

Join our team in walking or make a donation! Free t-shirt available for Registered Walker (first registered, first served as t-shirts are limited)

This year we are walking to “Fight Cancer” with the goal of working with highly interested parties to bring a West Maui Cancer/Oncology Center to our community.

You can register as a walker or make a pledge to our organization.

**WALKER REGISTRATION ENDS MAY 6, 2020 to our office noon  
(so that we can submit all information that afternoon to MHLA)**

How to donate or register to walk WMIF and WMTA in the MHLA Charity Walk (WMIF organization code is 487):

- From Mobile Phone: Text **Maui579** to **71777** to support our campaign (you will then get a link to donate directly from your phone. Data usage and fees may apply with your cell phone carrier)
- From Computer: Visit our MobileCause page at the following link (if link does not work, copy and paste into your web browser) <https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/Maui/team/WestMauiImprovement>
- Email [wmta@maui.net](mailto:wmta@maui.net), Call 808-661-7990 to get Walker forms and donations are in person at our office.

Visit <http://www.westmaui.org/charitywalk.html>, email [wmta@maui.net](mailto:wmta@maui.net) or call 808-661-7990 for additional information.

### **Emergency Planning Update – Joseph D. Pluta**

#### **PRESS RELEASE – FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE—PRIOR SCHEDULED MEETING FOR APRIL HAS BEEN POSTPONED AND RESCHEDULED FOR THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020**

The West Maui Taxpayers Association, Inc. (WMTA), is continuing to advocate for Emergency Planning for our Isolated Community with elevated concerns prompted by the threats associated with the Coronavirus.

Failing to plan is planning to fail has been an axiom taken to heart in our isolated community when emergencies occur. We are subject to unprecedented challenges to receive acute lifesaving care and all too often have suffered tragic outcomes too painful to describe.

In emergencies, our options are limited and our challenges heightened by the threat of the corona virus threat. It's already a serious risk to live in West Maui over an hour away from access to an Emergency Room for life saving acute care. It's obvious that this new threat illustrates things are worse when pandemic healthcare threats present themselves.

We have RESCHEDULED a community meeting event with an Expert on Emergency Preparedness plans and Pre-pandemic planning and preparations FOR THURSDAY, MAY 14, 2020<sup>a</sup> at the West Maui Kaunoha Senior Center at 5pm. Dr. Dennis Terpin, an Expert in Emergency Planning. We have invited other experts to join us as well as Maui Mayor Michael Victorino. Dr. Terpin can be reached directly by contacting him at [www.Safety1hawaii.com](http://www.Safety1hawaii.com). (Info. - Dennis Terpin at [Ua446@aol.com](mailto:Ua446@aol.com) – 630-699-7171)

This WMTA Community event is at the West Maui Kaunoha Senior Center, (788 Pauoa St. *Lahaina*) is free of charge and open to all.

More information on this Event can be found on our website at [www.westmaui.org](http://www.westmaui.org)

## **SUCCESSFUL WMTA & WMIF WHALE WATCH**

We want to thank all of those who joined us for the WMTA & WMIF FUNDRAISER WHALE WATCH held on February 22, 2020. It was an absolutely perfect day with sunshine and light breeze making it a smooth sail. There were also lots of whales to watch. Grateful for the perfect day, and the perfect guests!

The two photographs of whales below were taken by Laurie Kosharek. She took many beautiful photos! Please visit our website <http://www.westmaui.org/news-blog/whale-watch-success> to view her photos as well as others submitted by other guests.



*Top Row: Photos by Laurie Kosharek*

*Second Row: (Left Photo) Aldrina Meier & Family, Tess & Bob Cartwright, Vanessa Pacheco & Family (Right Photo) President Joseph Pluta (center) with Tu'u Valuela and Mrs. Carole Pluta*

*Third Row (Far Left): Tess & Bob Cartwright (Immediate left): Carole Pluta with Captain Amy Johnson of Trilogy.*

***Mahalo to all who shared their photographs with us!***

## Membership Update – Joseph D. Pluta

We are compelled to repeat what we stated last month to you. Perhaps restating it again will be more impactful this month with more people self isolating with more time to read our call to action for supporting our advocacy efforts!

Last month, we wrote that “we understand that there are lots of worthy organizations seeking your support and that as such you have to decide which one’s you can support financially or otherwise.”

We also stated that “we respectfully suggest that if you reside or own property in West Maui, its essential that you support the WMTA and WMIF as your advocate for needed attention to our communities’ needs. No other community organization(s) have accomplished more.”

Our web site at [www.westmaui.org](http://www.westmaui.org) provides resource access to vital information and proves evidence of actual accomplishments unparalleled anywhere else on Maui.

This is an election year and all mail in voting is going to be implemented. Our non resident members who do not vote must rely upon us to advocate for them. That’s one of the major reasons the WMTA was created, as the absentee property owners did not have adequate representation in local government.

West Maui Property Owners recently experienced the largest property tax increase in Maui’s history. It seems that this extra income has been parked in budgetary placeholders instead of put into capital improvement projects towards resolving the several “crisis,” situations declared for homelessness, affordable housing, shoreline eroded roadways, emergency preparedness, and wastewater treatment improvements.

Everyone who resides in West Maui or owns property in West Maui should be supporting the WMTA. We have earned the support and our track record proves it. There are many challenges ahead of us and we are ready and eager to address them with your continued outstanding support. We do not receive any funding from the County or State and rely solely on our communities private donations. Please be a part of the solution and support the WMTA with a donation today! Mahalo.

### West Maui Taxpayers Association

#### MEMBERSHIP FORM - IRS EIN 99-0160368 - NON PROFIT 501C (4)

You can also pay online at <http://www.westmaui.org/support-wmta.html>

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Check here to have your name kept private in publications and acknowledgements.

Join the WMTA Email List: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ [MEMBERSHIP](#)

- I am a member and renewing my dues  
 I **am not** a member but would like to join

#### Membership Levels

- Community Supporter \$25/year
- Community Leader \$50.00/year
- Families \$100/year
- Businesses \$100/year
- AOA – email [wmta@maui.net](mailto:wmta@maui.net)

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

NWS2020-April

## THE VOICE

Newsletter of the  
West Maui Taxpayers Association  
**April 2020**

*“Bringing the West Maui  
Community Together,  
Advocating for You”*  
A 501-C-4 Community Organization

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Look for us on

**facebook**

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