

WEST MAUI TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

Advocating For You!



email: wmta@maui.net home page: www.westmaui.org

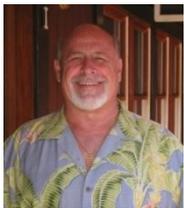
mailing address: PO Box 10338, Lahaina, HI 96761 phone: 808-661-7990 fax: 808-661-7992

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 – July 2020

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Joseph D. Pluta



We hope this Newsletter finds you in good health and ready to begin the “New Normal.”

As we begin the month of July, the County of Maui and State of Hawaii are gearing up to re-open the State to out of State Traveler's beginning August 1, 2020. Importantly, the ability to be exempt from the mandatory 14-day quarantine requirement on August 1st, depends on arriving passengers providing proof of negative Pre-Test results from Covid-19 72 hours before arriving in Hawaii.

As a graduate of the School of Travel Industry Management at the University of Hawaii's college of business, I had the opportunity to be educated and enlightened about Tourism and it's importance to the State of Hawaii as the number one Economic engine for the State. Hawaii has been studying how to diversify its economy for the past 50 years and without question, tourism has been the most successful of all the potential alternative possibilities. The rhetoric goes on about not putting “all our eggs in the tourism basket,” but no other viable alternatives come close in comparison. Let's hope we can focus on restoring our number one industry and get our economy moving forward successfully once again.

Your WMTA Board recognizes the importance of supporting tourism as opposed to blaming the tourists and our visitor industry for the government's inability to provide sufficient affordable housing in Maui county. We hope that our current County Council, as well as those who may be elected in November, will also recognize the fact that the tourist dollars flow to so many vital small businesses not directly connected to Tourism.

For the past two years, I have been working with the West Maui Community and our long range planning department, on updating the West Maui Community Plan. I served on the Community Plan Advisory Committee, CPAC and we just completed its review of the draft plan on May 19, 2020, and unanimously voted to forward its recommendations to the Maui Planning Commission for further review. The plan can be viewed and downloaded by visiting our Draft Plan Review page at <https://wearemaui.konveio.com/> and clicking the "Draft Plan" tab.

We will now be moving forward to the next phase of our process: the Maui Planning Commission's review of the draft plan. A public hearing will take place on Tuesday, July 28 from 5:30 to 8:30pm at the Kā'anapali Beach Hotel's 'Ohana Room, or via the BlueJeans videoconferencing platform. More information will be posted on our website as the date of the public hearing gets closer; we will also send out a reminder email when the agenda is posted.

Mahalo for your continued outstanding support.

Warmest Regards,

Joseph D. Pluta – President/ Treasurer

AMENDMENT TO BYLAWS

At the WMTA Board Meeting held on Tuesday, June 9, 2020, the Directors unanimously passed a motion to delete Section 6 of Article VI Board of Directors of the Bylaws in its entirety. Section 6 states: "If a Board member becomes a Candidate for political office, that member's position on the board becomes vacant."

The WMTA directors have determined that it would be in the best interests of the WMTA and the West Maui community to have a candidate or an elected Council member representing us who is knowledgeable with a proven dedication to West Maui serving on the WMTA board.

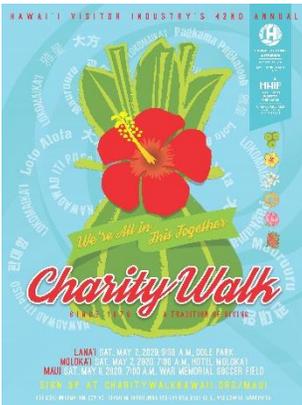
We are writing to inform you that a Special Meeting of the Member has been called specifically to meet requirements of a bylaw amendment of WMTA to be held on July 14th, 2020 at 8 am, at the Maui College Lahaina Education Center located in the Front Street Apartment Complex at 60 Kenui Street, Lahaina, HI 96761.

Article IX: Amendment of Bylaws

These bylaws may be amended at any regular or special meeting of the WMTA by a simple majority vote of the members attending, provided that the amendment has been submitted in writing to the membership at least two (2) weeks prior to the meeting at which the amendment is to be acted upon.

Please accept written notice accordingly that Article VI Board of Directors Section 6 is on the Agenda TO BE DELETED IN IT'S ENIRETY at the July 14th Board Meeting. The meeting is open to Members of WMTA in good standing. If you would like to attend the meeting, please let us know as seating is limited due to Covid-19 Social Distancing requirements. RSVP and Call us at 808-661-7990 or email wmta@maui.net.

CHARITY WALK 2020



The MHLA Charity Walk has been reschedule. Stay tuned for details. Join the WMTA & WMIF in the 2020 Charity Walk

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: TBD

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, 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 or call 808-661-7990 for additional information.

MEET THE CANDIDATES

The West Maui Taxpayers Association and Java Jazz at Honokowai Marketplace Launched a “Meet the Candidates Talk Story” to introduce the community to those who will be on the ballots in the Primary Election.

It was kicked off with Lanai County Council Candidate Alberta de Jetley on Friday, June 26th West Maui Council Candidate Rick Nava on June 29th. We intended to continue this opportunity for Candidates in July, before Primary Election deadline.

Events were graciously hosted by Java Jazz is located in the Honokowai Marketplace, 3550 L Honoapiilani Hwy, Lahaina, HI 96761. Times were 3-5 pm with future dates are to be determined.

WMTA held these two “Meet the Candidates Talk Story,” and the turn-out to the event(s) were not as hoped for and expected. Unfortunately, only a few people came to each one and it seems that is possibly due to people still taking extra precautions in this “new normal” of social distancing and masks.

Due to the time and effort necessary to put into these event(s) and such low attendance, we have decided to cancel moving forward for scheduling any more Java Jazz/Meet the Candidates events at this time.

Save the Date Our Candidates Night, post-Primary, will be held on October 15 at Lahaina Civic Center – details are still being worked on, but typically doors open at 4:30 pm, with debate to start at 5 pm. Our website will have current up-to-date information.

PLEASE BE SURE TO VOTE IN THE PRIMARY AND GENERAL ELECTIONS.

EMERGENCY PLANNING UPDATE – Joseph D. Pluta

Looking back the past two plus years WMTA was working on the implementation of a West Maui Emergency Plan for our Community, we clearly see how we were on the right track given our recent Covid-19 experiences. Perhaps one of the good things that will come out of this “new normal,” will be a Hazard Mitigation Plan the County of Maui Shared with us on June 30th via a Zoom Video Conference Meeting.

It seems that the County of Maui has been working on a Hazard Mitigation Plan Update which addresses all natural hazards. The County plan will be submitted to FEMA and will make the County eligible for Pre and Post-disaster mitigation grant funding through FEMA Assistance Programs. A consulting team led by Jamie Caplan Consulting LLC was assisted by County MEMA Mitigation Officer Anthony Joyce.

We were glad to be a part of this meeting and look forward to being of assistance in the Plan Update process. More information is available at <https://www.mauicounty.gov/1832/Multi-Hazard-Mitigation-Plan>

MEMBERSHIP UPDATE – Joseph D. Pluta

We are grateful for our WMTA members who recognize that supporting the WMTA is a wise investment. Voluntary dues and donations are how we exist, and it has been that way since we were founded over 41 years ago. As we continue to lobby State and County government leaders for attention to West Maui's infrastructural needs, it has become clear to us that more work needs to be done. The County Council substantially cut marketing support in half for the Maui Visitors Bureau at the worst possible time. The county council budget continues to over tax the transient vacation rental industry in a misguided attempt to punish property owners who rent their property short term to visitors. Government should instead be making it easier for government to work with the private sector instead of making things more difficult.

This is an Election year and we will be doing our best to educate those who are seeking political office to cut taxes and red tape to doing business in Hawaii. There is an urgent need to foster an economy that says "we are open for business," and spurs more jobs and prosperity for local families.

We are depending on our members to assist us in our membership growth campaign. We are working with the West Maui Improvement Foundation Inc. to restore progress for access to 24/7 Emergency Medical Acute Care (see below) on the West Side. We need more workforce housing development in West Maui as 7000 employees commute to West Maui daily as there is no place for them to rent here. If you know any property owners who are not members of WMTA, please ask them to support us so we can better support you. Together, we can make a difference. Please be a part of the solution and support the WMTA with a donation today! Mahalo.



West Maui Improvement Foundation
www.WestMauiImprovementFoundation.org
A 501 (c)(3) Non-profit Charitable Organization
IRS EIN 99-0275775

WEST MAUI LIFESAVER

Our West Maui Improvement Foundation, West Maui Lifesaver Campaign is gaining momentum and we want to know if you will join us and Stand For Life!

Your financial support and submission of your actual stories will be vital to our success in expediting a new CON for Emergency Medical Services 24/7 in West Maui. Please join us and be a part of the solution!

Next steps:

1. [Click here for fillable, then printable, form to donate \(side 1\), and/or submit your stories \(side 2\)](#) or
2. [Click here to submit story online](#)
3. [Donate Online](#)

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	Membership Levels
<input type="checkbox"/> I am a member and renewing my dues	<input type="radio"/> Community Supporter \$25/year
<input type="checkbox"/> I am not a member but would like to join	<input type="radio"/> Community Leader \$50.00/year
	<input type="radio"/> Families \$100/year
	<input type="radio"/> Businesses \$100/year
	<input type="radio"/> AOA – email 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

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July 2020

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

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Visit www.WestMaui.org
Email: WMTA@maui.net

Look for us on

facebook

(www.WestMaui.org has links)