

THE VOICE

"Coming together, uniting West Maui as ONE Voice"

PO Box 158 ♦ Lahaina, HI 96761 ♦ www.WestMaui.org ♦ WMTA@maui.net

Newsletter of the West Maui Taxpayers Association, August 2009

WMTA PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE

You are all well aware that West Maui is facing some very serious challenges in this time of economic uncertainty. However, you can rest assured that your West Maui Taxpayers Association (WMTA) still stands ready to represent West Maui interests. Obviously, that representation is more important now than ever before.

Despite these difficult times, there still are many good things happening in West Maui:

1). THE WEST MAUI HOSPITAL has overcome its most difficult obstacles, and the developer expects the facility to be operating in 2012.

2). If you have used Lahainaluna Road lately, you saw the significant progress on the LAHAINA BYPASS PHASE IA construction. **See Pic 1.** The State Department of Transportation plans to request bids for the next phase of the bypass soon, and is about to start construction of the HONOAPIILANI HIGHWAY WIDENING project.

3). The first segment of a proposed WEST MAUI BICYCLE GREENWAY will be installed as part of a water main project between Kaanapali and Honokowai.

4). WMTA membership surveys have always ranked the highest priority West Maui issues as: Traffic, Health care, and Affordable Housing. At this year's WMTA Annual Meeting, in addition to good news on the hospital and the bypass, Kaanapali Land Management Company announced that the State Land Use Commission has issued a permit for PUUKOLII VILLAGE MAUKA with its several hundred affordable and senior housing units.



WMTA has strongly supported all of this progress. The recently revised WMTA GOALS AND OBJECTIVES, which are included in this Newsletter, illustrate the broad range of issues WMTA pursues. Please review these goals and objectives, and note that there is space in the membership application to note any questions or suggestions you may have about them. WMTA will continue its active pursuit of all of these objectives, even in this period of fiscal constraints, and we appreciate your suggestions and support.

WMTA's role through the years has been to identify infrastructure and amenity needs in West Maui, to bring those needs to the attention of the County and State, and to lobby for reinvesting a reasonable proportion of the significant tax revenues generated in West Maui to address those needs. That reinvestment is essential to maintaining West Maui. However, WMTA cannot fulfill that role without the support of the community. AS WMTA depends solely on membership dues to support its advocacy efforts, its only allegiance is to the West Maui community at large.

Your WMTA dues are an important investment in West Maui, and a terrific bargain when you consider you have capable, full-time representation on all West Maui issues. This is especially true for property managers, large properties, and owners' organizations that need representation but are not able to fund a full-time representative. WMTA provides the very best representation in Executive Director Zeke Kalua, who is well known for his experience, connections and familiarity with West Maui issues. Zeke will address any issue, large or small, if it will benefit West Maui. Zeke is also available to visit homeowner association boards and other groups to explain the WMTA mission and discuss community needs.

YOU can help WMTA continue its mission. Please use the attached form to join or renew your WMTA membership. If you can, please consider increasing your membership level, or adding a small contribution, or recruiting your friends and neighbors and homeowner boards to support WMTA. Thank you.

If you have any questions about WMTA, or its mission, or the fee schedules for your property or association, or need representation on a West Maui issue, please call Zeke on 280-9111 or visit our web site at westmaui.org. AND PLEASE SUPPORT YOUR WMTA!

Don Lehman, President, WMTA

YES, I WANT TO SUPPORT WMTA AND A BETTER WEST MAUI!

One Voice - A voice for those who live, work, play and visit West Maui.

The Taxpayers Voice for a safe and beautiful community. The West Maui Taxpayers Association (WMTA) is a non-profit organization founded in 1974 to provide an organized voice of support for public and private improvements which have potential benefit for the West Maui community from Lahaina to Kapalua. WMTA was founded to assure that West Maui would receive its fair share of tax-funded improvements by state and county governments. WMTA has been at work on these improvements for over 40 years.

- WMTA acts as a day-to-day monitor and lobbyist for all issues affecting West Maui, including infrastructure, public safety, education, parks and public space maintenance and beautification, and water quality.
- We maintain contact with elected officials and government agencies, providing them with information on community needs as our membership expresses them to us.
- We testify at public hearings, ask tough questions, and work to assure our voices are heard at all levels.

Name: _____

Business Name (if Business/Association Membership): _____

Please Check this Box if you wish to remain anonymous in publications and announcements.

Address: _____

City: _____ STATE: _____ Zip: _____ Day Phone: _____

Phone: _____ Fax: _____ E-mail: _____

Please check the following that may apply:

I **am** a member and would like to make an additional donation of \$ _____

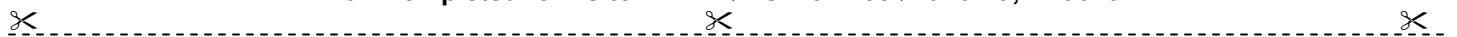
I am renewing/ joining today with a membership of: (check one below):

Checks Payable to: West Maui Taxpayers Association

- Individuals may join at \$50.00 per year.
- Families may join at \$100.00 per year
- Businesses may join at \$100.00 per year
- Associations, please contact us directly (808) 661-7990

Member Comments, Suggestions, Ideas: _____

Mail Completed forms to WMTA ♦ PO Box 158 ♦ Lahaina, HI 96761



BOARD OF DIRECTORS AND OFFICERS

The WMTA Board of Directors are here to be ONE VOICE for our members. For any suggestions, comments, or ideas please fill out the enclosed membership form, or contact WMTA at wmta@maui.net. To contact a specific Board member visit www.westmaui.org for their contact information. Mahalo!

Ezekiela Kalua
Executive Director

Donald Lehman,
President

Bob Pure,
Vice President

Patricia Maielua,
Secretary

Joseph Pluta,
President Emeritus

Paul Brown,
Director

Pam English,
Director

Jim Hentz,
Director

Richard Jarman,
Director

Byron "Pat" Kelly,
Director

Song Ja Miske,
Director

Gregg Nelson,
Director

Uwe Schulz,
Director

GOALS & OBJECTIONS 2009 – 2010

SHORT TERM GOALS

HEALTH AND SAFETY

- 1) Support development of the West Maui Medical center
- 2) Support retrofit of the Lahaina Civic Center as an Emergency Center
- 3) Work with the Lahaina Education complex to create safe evacuation routes emergency preparedness for Lahaina Schools.

TRAFFIC AND ROADWAYS

- 1) Support and expedite review of Kaanapali Connector Roadway for West Maui Hospital and Medical Center access.
- 2) Monitor the progress of the Lahaina Bypass phase 1A. **See Pic 1, on page 1.**
- 3) Support and Expedite the SDOT 4 laning project from Dickenson St. to Aholo St.
- 4) Support construction of the Mill St. extension.
- 5) Support the acquisition of land from the Pali to Puamana to create a corridor for a newly created 4 lane highway inland of Honoapiilani Highway.
- 6) Support preventative roadway maintenance programs State and County to keep our access ways in good condition. **See pic 2a & 2b Olowalu Before and after.**



Photo: Ezekiel Kalua

Pic 2a



Photo: Ezekiel Kalua

Pic 2b

- 7) Support other existing non-profit groups whose goals coincide with that of the WMTA.
- 8) Monitor roadway conditions of the Pali area after heavy rains to ensure safety and access are not jeopardized.
- 9) Support the Maui County H.I.T.T. team and their mission to expedite opening roadways after accidents have occurred.
- 10) Support current efforts and new ideas to solve traffic congestion in Lahaina town
- 11) Create sidewalks along the entire stretch of Shaw St.

See Pic 3: Taken standing on Shaw St. looking mauka.



Photo: Ezekiel Kalua

Pic 3

TAXES & BUDGET

- 1) Work with Maui County for property tax reform.
- 2) Maintain regular communication with the State and County elected officials.

PARKS AND RECREATION

- 1) Advocate public and private partnerships for the creation of new parks in West Maui.
- 2) Expedite the construction of the Lahaina Skate park.
- 3) Support acquisition of land for future parks and retrofit of outdated parks.
- 4) Support creation of off-highway bicycle trail system.

Continued on page 4

“Goals...” continued from previous page

EDUCATION

- 1) Support the construction of a new school in West Maui to prevent overcrowding.
- 2) Support infrastructure improvements at Lahainaluna High School to include the following:
 - a. Replacement of cafeteria (HIGH PRIORITY)
 - b. Purchase and installation of bleachers in the field
 - c. Tree Trimming
 - d. Additional Classrooms
 - e. Retrofit of the Track & Field and Football field

CAPITAL IMPROVEMENT PROJECTS

- 1) Policy change to use CIP for sorely needed enclosure of sewer solid waste building at Lahaina STP
- 2) Lahaina Skate Park
- 3) Support fire station plans & policy
- 4) New Police Station for Lahaina
- 5) Sewage plant upgrades and retrofitting to increase capacity and control odor release
- 6) Removal of the abandoned sailboat that ran aground during a storm surge in Lahaina 6 Halloweens ago!!
- 7) Retrofit and repairs of the Sea Wall on front St. Many areas are in need of emergency repairs

LONG TERM GOALS

TRAFFIC AND ROADWAYS

- 1) Improve Honoapiilani Highway to 4 lanes along the safest possible route.
- 2) Support access to medical services and the creation of the West Maui Medical Center. **See Pic 4.**
- 3) Support alternatives for bypassing road closures using cane haul roads.



Rendition of West Maui hospital

Pic 4

PROPOSED DEVELOPMENT

- 1) Support prioritizing building application permits with templates to follow for typical applications and making any applications for permits for health and safety concerns including those who are forced from their homes due to fire/flood, etc. to be entitled to higher priority and expedited processing.
- 2) Support the establishment of impact fees for traffic mitigation, water & sewer and basic infrastructure needs.

West Maui Hospital & Medical Center Foundation Inc. (WMHMF) IRS 501-C-3

The WMHMF has made application to the IRS for 501-C-3 Public Supported Charity and has taken advantage of streamlined determinations while applying for this tax exempt status accordingly. This Foundation can reasonably be expected to be publicly supported accordingly therefore meeting the IRS criteria permitted when the Advance Ruling Process was eliminated on September 9, 2008.

We are developing a list of Charter donors and supporters of the WMHMF which is solely dedicated to the ongoing perpetual support of the West Maui Hospital and Medical Center. We will have a hospital auxiliary of volunteers, alternative health committees, and much more. Please consider joining our Charter donor list by sending in a donation to the WMHMF today! IRS EIN 26-3774805.

See donor form in enclosed flier from WMIF

WEST MAUI TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION'S

THE VOICE

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Newsletter of the West Maui Taxpayers Association*

PO Box 158 ♦ Lahaina, HI 96761 ♦ www.WestMaui.org ♦ WMTA@maui.net

West Maui Taxpayers Association (WMTA) has been working closely with West Maui Improvement Foundation (WMIF) in bringing the West Maui Hospital to our island. Please read the following message from WMIF President Joseph Pluta.



The seemingly impossible has been made possible! We have what's clearly possible in front of us left in order to make our life saving West Maui Hospital and Medical Center a reality! Hallelujah!

Many victories have been achieved. I know that we are all facing challenging times in our lives, especially financial matters. We have to ask ourselves what is the cost of a tragedy where we or our loved ones need to get emergency medical care to save a life? How much are the lives of our loved ones worth? Our Certificate of Need clearly spells out that West Maui needs to have access to life saving emergency medical services. See www.westmauihospital.org and read the posted certificate of need for yourselves. It will open your eyes to the clear and present danger. The State of Hawaii has no plans to ever address this issue! Your very lives and the lives of your loved ones are on the line. We have the solution and we urge you to step up to this challenge. Your very lives may depend on it. That is the reality for all of us in West Maui.

We are at a critical juncture in this process. Please know that we can and will succeed with your continued support.

In March, 2009 the Hawaii State Health and Planning Department Agency (SHPDA) approved the Certificate of Need. We met every test with facts. In June, 2009, the Maui County Council approved the change from Agricultural zoning to Public-Quasi Public zoning. Now we have one final step left for County Subdivision approval remaining. Newport Hospital Corporation (NHC) has already confirmed contractors and architects. With God's help and your continued support, groundbreaking is planned for early 2010. Grand opening target is June 2012!

We are raising funds to complete necessary financial obligations! Please note, that NHC has all the necessary financing resources to build the hospital. We must deal with remaining financial obligations to obtain County subdivision approval. That must be met before we can begin building. We are short of the necessary associated engineering and planning expenses estimated at \$150,000 and we are working to minimize these. In order for construction to begin we need to raise this money.

**Can we count on YOU to raise help us raise the necessary funds this quarter?
All gifts are appreciated!**

Sincerely,

The West Maui Improvement Foundation, is a non profit 501 (c)(3) with Public Charity Status 170 (b)(1)(A)(vi) EIN 99-0275775

PO Box 10338 ♦ Lahaina, HI 96761 ♦ www.WestMauiHospital.org ♦ pluta@maui.net

WMTA and WMIF TWO ORGANIZATIONS, TWO DIFFERENT NEEDS.

WMIF: WEST MAUI IMPROVEMENT FOUNDATION

Your Donations (tax deductible) are still needed. A great deal of progress has been made but its' not over yet. Our development agreement enabled us to obtain necessary funds to pay financial obligations incurred with \$200,000 in seed money and has NHC to spend \$45.8 million for our Critical Access Hospital and Skilled Nursing Facility. Now that the Certificate of Need has been approved and issued, administrative costs remain towards our land use approvals, and continuing the works of West Maui Improvement Foundation. WMIF continues to be responsible for administration and completing transitional expenses associated with the land donation and County and State approvals to develop our critical access hospital including:

- Costs associated with completing county zoning requirements
- Cost of establishing a New- WMHMC Foundation like those of other hospitals-to meet special needs including special medical financial assistance the needy in our community.
- Continuing costs for administrative functions

WMIF, a non profit 501 c 3 with Public Charity Status 170 (b)(1)(A)(vi).

The Mission of the WMIF, with Public Charity designation 501-C-3 from the IRS, is to improve the West Maui Community by receiving and expending funds for the erection and maintenance of public buildings and services as well as community facilities such as our West Maui Hospital and Medical Center. The WMIF is restricted from direct political campaigning and lobbying or raising funds for those purposes.

Your contributions so far have paid for:

- an Environmental Impact study on the land
- a Traffic study
- part of the cost of the development of a Certificate of Need
- a \$26,000 State fee to submit the CON application
- for a portion of communications expenses other than those given pro bono

WMIF & WMHMC Foundation Donation Form

Mr. Mrs. Miss. Other: _____

Name: _____ Business Name: _____ (if applicable)

Please Check this Box if you wish to remain anonymous in publications and announcements.

Address: _____ City: _____ STATE: _____ Zip: _____ E-mail: _____

Day Phone: _____ Evening Phone: _____ Fax: _____

I would like to be a Charter Donor "West Maui Hospital and Medical Center Foundation" IRS EIN 26-3774805

I would like to make a pledge. Visit www.westmauihospital.com for a form.

\$ _____ Cash/check donation

\$ _____ credit card donation must complete the following below:

- o Name on Card: _____ Phone Number: _____
- o Credit Card # _____ Expiration: _____
- o Billing Address: _____ City _____ ST _____ Zip _____
- o Signature: _____

Mail Checks to: West Maui Improvement Foundation • PO Box 158 • Lahaina, HI 96767

WMTA: WEST MAUI TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION:

One of the primary goals of WMTA is to identify community needs, determine how they can be met, and then lobby County and State officials to secure support for projects that are often badly needed. We are your advocate and do our best to efficiently represent your needs accordingly. We exist solely upon your voluntary contributions to enable us to:

- Host Town Hall Meetings –Candidate's Night for Elections
- Monitor the work of legislators
- Meet with County & State leaders
- Promote attention to better highways and relief of traffic congestion
- Support affordable housing
- Work to improve water services
- Push to correct sewer and odor problems
- Move along flood control projects
- Cover Administrative Costs
- Communicate-Web & Newsletters

WMTA is a non profit 501 c 4.

The WMTA, as a dedicated Lobbyist organization, has a mission for our West Maui Community beyond our West Maui Hospital and Medical Center. *The WMTA mission includes active involvement in efforts to work toward the improvement 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.*

Your contributions so far have:

- Helped build the Napili Fire Station
- Provided a voice for West Maui at the Maui County Council
- Helped launch the West Maui Hospital initiative