

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 2022

PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Joseph D. Pluta



Aloha Friends of West Maui!

We are writing this message on Easter Sunday with thanksgiving for what our Resurrection Day celebration personally reminds me about.

It's appropriate to shine the light and remember the spiritual discernment insight into the Aloha Spirit we enjoy on Maui. The foundation of Aloha is Love and is essential in the mission and equation of our formula for seeking necessary improvements.

We believe that we have far too many on-going crisis situations on Maui which have been exacerbated by the pandemic.

We have a track record of devotion to our community needs and we hope that the reports and updates contained in this Voice Newsletter will be compelling for you to “step up” in your support.

With the support of our community “stepping up” in the past, and working together; we did the “impossible,” when we developed the Napili Fire and Ambulance Station. That effort has saved all those property owners within 5 miles of the station many thousands of dollars and continues to save insurance cost saving dividends.

At this time, we are working with our West Maui Improvement Foundation once again to develop the Olowalu Fire Station. Yes, we are striving for a successful repeat performance. We all have known for years that this area was grossly underserved and unprotected with the highest risk assessment from property insurance companies. These high risks are accompanied by the highest insurance costs.

We have a memorandum of understanding for a donation of approximately 2 acres at a site selected by the Maui County Fire Chief. This land donation is contingent upon our proving the ability to raise the estimated \$2.5M in development expenses. Now is the time for you to consider how you can “step up,” and continue to be a part of the solution. Please help us to continue to help you and send a tax-deductible donation to the West Maui Improvement Foundation today.

Warmest Regards,

- **SPREAD THE WORD ABOUT JULY 21ST CANDIDATES NIGHT**
- **JOIN IN OUR WEST MAUI LIFE SAVERS CAMPAIGN**
- **GET INVOLVED WITH THE WMTA PAC!**

Joseph D. Pluta
President, WMTA & WMIF

WMTA POLITICAL ACTION COMMITTEE (PAC)

We are asking for your support for the upcoming elections. This year in Maui County, there will be races for Governor, Lt. Governor, Mayor, nine County Council seats, three State Senate seats, and six State House of Representative seats. It's a critical year to make sure our voice is heard!

West Maui Taxpayers Association (WMTA) Political Action Committee (PAC) Fund – **Donate today!**

http://www.westmaui.org/wmtapac22_contributionform.html

We are seeking donations to our WMTA Political Action Committee (PAC). We need to ensure that our voices are heard and support our leaders who promote policies and positions that are favorable to our West Maui community. A strong PAC account will allow us to achieve this goal.

WMTA PAC supports Hawaii State and Maui County candidates who understand and back our community needs of both residents and visitors. The WMTA PAC is not affiliated with any political party or candidate. You can donate through a business or personal contribution, or both. Please refer to the PAC Donation Form tab below to review donation guidelines.

I invite each of you to support the WMTA PAC and strengthen the voice of our community!

WMTA PAC Candidate Committee – **Seeking Volunteers!** http://www.westmaui.org/wmtapac22_interestform.html

Every election year, WMTA forms a candidate committee comprised of two WMTA Board members and five members from our general membership. These five seats are open to any WMTA member in good standing. There is a significant time commitment, beginning with monthly meetings in March, more frequent meetings this summer, and possible attendance at candidate events. This committee will place a proposed slate of endorsed candidates before the WMTA Board of Directors.

If you are interested in participating in the WMTA PAC Candidate Committee, please register using the committee sign-up tab below.

Thank you for your consideration and support!

PULELEHUA MAUI – AFFORDABLE HOUSING

According to the Developer Paul Cheng, "We are still moving forward and are busy selecting contractors. Hopefully we will be in position to start in next few months."

PERPETUAL CRISIS SITUATIONS HERE IN PARADISE - UHERO AND HCR NO 123

Official Report from the University of Hawaii Economic Research Organization, (UHERO) published recently concludes that Hawaii's burdensome government regulations and requirements are the worst in the entire nation. Our government leaders need to focus on this fact and immediately begin to make necessary changes. (Please see the links in our web site at www.westmaui.org to see this report and H.C.R, No 123)

- View UHERO Article <http://www.westmaui.org/news-blog/new-uhero-study-supports-what-weve-been-saying-about-housing>
- View HCR No 123 = <http://www.westmaui.org/news-blog/hcr-no-123>

The Report illustrates government burdens as the cause of way too many systemic failures revealed to us in the middle of this unprecedented pandemic storm. It's not over and will be an ongoing reality in the "New Normal."

We clearly see that House Concurrent Resolution No. 123, (H,C.R. No 123) needs to be followed up with in all urgency and the elimination of the CON be implemented as soon as possible.

Maui Island has less hospital beds per capita than any other island in the State of Hawaii and is not in compliance with the State's own healthcare plan.

We believe that we need to hold our government leaders accountable for what they have done and intend to do to respond and immediately ease existing roadblocks to better health care, affordable housing, and homelessness.

We will be asking candidates seeking our support and votes at the WMTA Candidates Night on July 21st, what they propose to enact necessary improvements.

WEST MAUI HOSPITAL Update – by Brian Hoyle, Newport Hospital Corporation (submitted via E-mail)

“We have terminated the current 40 bed Skilled Nursing Facility (SNF) and 39 unit Assisted Living/Memory Care (ALF) development due to the dramatically increased buildings’ construction costs from the recent construction re-bid that have made this SNF/ALF project financially unfeasible.

We are proceeding with the offsite sewer/water/electric infrastructure and a new plan for a 5 bed Critical Access Hospital (CAH) that will still provide a 24 emergency room, 3 operating rooms, radiology, lab, pharmacy, and outpatient services that will be part of the complete medical services campus including up to 150 Independent Living Facility (ILF) units that will incorporate an ALF and full access to “hospital in home” services provided by the CAH.”

MAUI CANCER CARE CLINIC Update – By Dr. Steven Black, Maui Cancer Care Clinic

Maui Cancer Care Clinic is being established to promote the prevention, cure and palliation of cancer in Maui and surrounding islands, neighboring countries and sister cities.

Our clinic aims to adhere to the highest standards of cancer care currently available. Further we aim to blend in with Hawaiian culture and to provide care without bias as to cultural, racial or economic background of the patients.

We feel that having two centers on Maui will foster competition to provide the highest level of patient satisfaction, the highest quality care as well as fostering the availability more affordable care on Maui

It is our mission not only to provide excellent cancer care, but also to share our facilities with as many other sub-specialties as possible, such sub-specialties which may be available on only a sporadic basis at the current time and to offer our facilities to them at affordable pricing.

We would also like to share our facilities at low or minimal cost for such worthy groups as cancer support groups, community groups and community fund-raising events.

Our mission is to give each cancer patient loving, supportive, compassionate, and personalized care. As such, we will have a team of talented individuals who are open to feedback and self-criticism and who will continue life-long learning programs to remain at the top of their field.

Currently we are developing a new proposal to submit to the State of Hawaii for a certificate of need to allow achievement of these goals. Please take a short survey to provide needed information to the Maui Cancer Care Clinic physicians. You can take the survey by clicking the link below, or copy into your web browser: <https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/82FP2VY>

WMTA CANDIDATES NIGHT - JULY 21-2022

Lahaina Civic Center – Social Hall - 1840 Honoapiilani Hwy – Lahaina HI 96761

We are looking forward to actively engaging with those who seek to be elected to represent us at our Candidates Night. With the large number of anticipated candidates, we will allow an early “meet and greet,” opportunity for them a couple hours before the meeting and presentations inside the social hall go “live,” The perimeter outside the social hall will permit display tables for candidates to bring election materials and information and talk one on one to attendees without disturbing the presentations inside the Social Hall.

At approximately 5:00 p.m. we will begin a complimentary food and beverage service for all with optional donations gratefully accepted. We are planning to continue our partnership with AKAKU TV to broadcast the event. We believe that knowing whom you are voting for and why is essential to making right choices for our future. Voting is a privilege and our right to vote is precious. West Maui candidates for office will be charged with making decisions which are urgently needed to respond to the unprecedented challenges ahead that will be beneficial to all concerned.



**PLEASE REMEMBER TO VOTE AND
WE ENCOURAGE OUR RECENT HIGH SCHOOL GRADUATES
TO JOIN WITH US**

“Our children graduating as young adults are to be congratulated. It wasn’t easy. The world has changed the past 2 years and we encourage the graduates who will Be 18 years of age this November, 2022, to Vote and be a part of the solution to the Challenges ahead.”

Visit <http://www.westmaui.org/news-blog/voting-reqirments> for more information of voting eligibilities



SUBSCRIBE TO OUR EMAIL LIST

We have exciting things where we want to get the news out to you, and in times, need quick action and help from you to support projects WMTA is working on. Please join our e-mail list. Click here to subscribe to our email list <http://www.westmaui.org/subscribe.html> or complete the following information below.

By completing the information below, you give WMTA permission to add your email and information to the e-subscription list.

Name:		Email:	
Residency (to help with State/Island Specific info)	<input type="checkbox"/> Maui, Lanai or Molokai	<input type="checkbox"/> Oahu	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Hawaii (Big Island)	<input type="checkbox"/> Not a Resident of Hawaii	
	<input type="checkbox"/> Kauai		

WMTA FRIENDSHIP INVITATION – Joseph D. Pluta, President

I invite you to join us in a full court, all hands-on deck effort to fuel our advocacy for necessary West Maui community priorities. We suggest that it may be appropriate for us to change the way we think about “how” to meet community needs. We all agree that we need more housing in West Maui for our workforce with 7000 cars driving here daily to go to work from Central Maui and elsewhere because we don’t have enough here.

Existing policy roadblocks and obstructionist regulations and ordinances in place now need to be changed. Covid-19 has shown new and growing challenges to confront including the fact that we pay the highest prices in the world for housing, medicine, and access to health care.

We hope that the WMTA can count on your continued support. We need your support to address major challenges ahead in the coming year. Remember, we do not receive governmental financial assistance. We exist solely on the basis of member dues and donations.

Membership dues only go so far, and your additional financial support is needed to fund our efforts to continue to advocate on your behalf. Our track record proves that we have been providing our community an excellent return on their investment in supporting us. **The needs are immense, and we are asking you to join us with a generous contribution to aid our work. We suggest your immediate consideration of a generous charitable gift to our sister organization, the West Maui Improvement Foundation Inc. which is a 501-c-3 Charity for 100% tax deductible treatment.**

WMTA and WMIF urgently need your recommitment to support our advocacy efforts on your behalf. Please use the donation form attached or donate via our web site at www.westmaui.org. Do it today! Mahalo nui loa!

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

<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="checkbox"/> Community Supporter \$25/year <input type="checkbox"/> Community Leader \$50.00/year <input type="checkbox"/> Families \$100/year <input type="checkbox"/> Businesses \$100/year <input type="checkbox"/> AAO – 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 10338 • Lahaina, HI 96761

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APRIL 2022

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

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Look for us on

(www.WestMaui.org has links)