

WEST MAUI TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION'S

# THE VOICE

*"Coming together, uniting West Maui as ONE Voice"*

PO Box 10338 ♦ Lahaina, HI 96761 ♦ [www.WestMaui.org](http://www.WestMaui.org) ♦ [WMTA@maui.net](mailto:WMTA@maui.net)

Newsletter of the West Maui Taxpayers Association, March, 2010

## **PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE**

Aloha to all of the West Maui ohana-anyone who lives, works, visits or owns property in West Maui. WMTA feels really privileged to represent such a wonderful community with its unique diversity and cultural richness.

For over 35 years WMTA has worked with and for the West Maui community to pursue infrastructure investment in roads, parks, health care facilities, fire and ambulance and countless other improvements. Historically, WMTA has focused on investing tax revenues generated in West Maui to address three key areas:

- HEALTH CARE
- TRAFFIC PROBLEMS
- AFFORDABLE HOUSING

The next few years will present new challenges with fiscal issues taking center stage. The WMTA role will be even more important as we focus on:

- PRESERVING THE COUNTY SHARE OF TRANSIENT ACCOMODATION TAX
- PROTECTING TAXPAYERS AND BUSINESSES FROM REGRESSIVE TAXATION
- FIGHTING UNFAIR REDUCTIONS IN INFRASTRUCTURE INVESTMENT
- PROMOTING OUR HOSPITALITY INDUSTRY

How can YOU help WMTA protect West Maui? You can:

- SUPPORT WMTA WITH A MEMBERSHIP OR DONATION
- ASK YOUR FRIENDS, NEIGHBORS AND ASSOCIATIONS TO JOIN WMTA
- HELP WMTA REGISTER VOTERS AND 'GET OUT THE VOTE'

WMTA wants to thank all the members who took the time to attend the 2010 Annual Meeting. We hope you enjoyed the opportunity to hear from the County and State legislators who are responsible for spending YOUR tax dollars. We appreciate the opportunity to provide updates on the high priority issues identified by our WMTA members. Please see page (3) for more on the annual meeting.

Standing together, and with your generous support, we can continue to work for a better West Maui.

Thank you,  
*Donald Lehman*

## **WMTA TREASURER'S REPORT- Joseph Pluta**

The WMTA has some ambitious goals ahead of us. We are one of the few non-profit organizations who rely solely upon membership dues and donations to fund our operations. I can tell you that every one of you who have an investment on Maui or reside here, must consider protecting your investment with a prudent donation to support our programs on your behalf. We are fighting for you and we are nearly out of ammunition. Please send a donation to the WMTA today in any amount you can. You'll be glad you did!



**Don't delay, do it NOW. Mahalo!**

## **HONOAPIILANI HIGHWAY WIDENING PROJECT ANNOUNCES INFORMATION LINE**

The Honoapi'ilani Highway Widening Project has established a project information line to update travelers of weekly construction changes. The recorded message will be updated weekly or as conditions change.

The number is: (808) 270-5918  
Visit [www.Hawaii.gov/dot/lahainabypass](http://www.Hawaii.gov/dot/lahainabypass)  
for current news & updates.

# IF NO VOTE, NO CAN GRUMBLE!

ONLY 34.8% of West Maui Registered Voters turned out for the 2008 General Election.  
Please Register and Please VOTE TOO!

## Vote 2010



Voting is an essential part of our democratic process. By voting you choose the representatives who will make decisions which affect you, your family and your community. If you care about the future of Hawaii, register and VOTE! The WMTA campaign to turn out the vote in 2010 starts with encouraging all eligible residents to register to vote. This is a pivotal year in Hawaii with a Gubernatorial as well as a Mayoral election. The WMTA encourages all who want to be a part of our voter registration campaign to provide us with contact information as soon as possible.

An important link to keep handy is <http://hawaii.gov/elections/voters/registration.htm>, or contact County of Maui at 808-270-7749.

### DATES TO REMEMBER

- **2010 PRIMARY ELECTION VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE** Deadline Thursday, August 19, 2010
- **Request absentee mail ballots for Primary Election**  
Start Tuesday, July 20, 2010 - Deadline Saturday, Sept 11, 2010
- **Absentee Voting by Walk-In for Primary Election** September 3, 2010 - September 16, 2010
- **Primary Election** Saturday, September 18, 2010
- **2010 GENERAL ELECTION VOTER REGISTRATION DEADLINE** Deadline Monday, October 4, 2010
- **Request absentee mail ballots for General Election**  
Start Tuesday, July 20, 2010, Deadline Tuesday, October 26, 2010
- **Absentee Voting by Walk-in for General Election** October 19, 2010 - October 30, 2010
- **General Election** Tuesday, November 2, 2010

### WEST MAUI HOSPITAL UPDATE

Please see our web site at [www.westmaui.org](http://www.westmaui.org) for Brian Hoyles' comments reaffirming on his commitment to the West Maui Hospital and Medical Center. We have received Preliminary subdivision approvals and working on ways to overcome the remaining hurdles prior to getting building permits. Costs for infrastructure and site development are being examined with the Kaanapali 2020 Community Planning group as well as exploring the potential of integrating them in a Community Facilities District. Our objective is to get the hospital built first and is our highest priority. The goal is to have construction to begin by June of next year and opening within 18 months thereafter.

Additional information and updates can be viewed by visiting [www.westmauihospital.org](http://www.westmauihospital.org).



That's right!  
At the Annual Meeting "Zeke" made the announcement.  
*Stay tuned!*

## WMTA ANNUAL MEETING A SUCCESS!

The community gathered at the Lahaina Civic Center on January 14, 2010 for the West Maui Taxpayers Association (WMTA) Annual Meeting.

WMTA Board members are:

- Donald Lehman, President
- Bob Pure, Vice President
- Joseph Pluta, Treasurer, President Emeritus
- Patricia Maielua, Secretary
- Paul Brown
- Pamela English
- Jim Hentz
- Richard Jarman
- Gregg Nelson
- Uwe Schulz

There is still one vacant position on the Board of Directors. If you or someone is interested in this position, please send an e-mail to [wmta@maui.net](mailto:wmta@maui.net) with your name, phone number, e-mail, summary of background information, and reason you want to be on the Board of Directors.

Mahalo to all who participated in the well-attended event

Special thanks to

- **Art Ortiz of Outback Steakhouse Lahaina** for the complimentary dinner, and
- **Preston Bloss of The Water Store Lahaina** for the complimentary water.
- **May Fujiwara & the Lahaina Honolulu Senior Citizens Club**

In addition, we thank our sponsors who provided additional support through their financial contribution. They were on hand with information to share with guests. They include:

- **Kaanapali Land Management Corporation**
- **Maui Land & Pineapple Co. Inc.**
- **Munekiyo & Hiraga, Inc** - for Sheraton Maui Resort
- **West Maui Improvement Foundation**

Special presentations were given by:

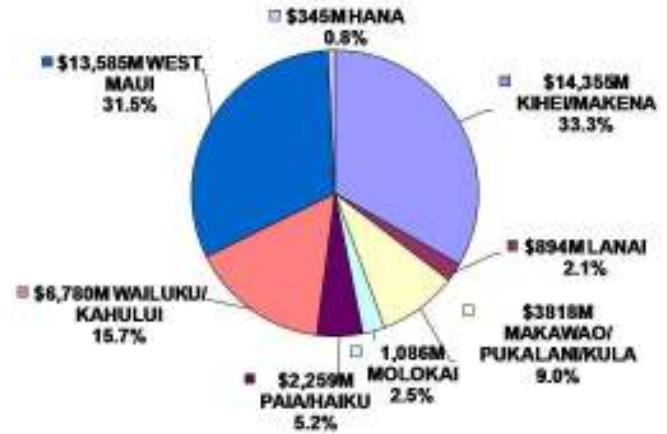
- WMTA Joseph Pluta on revenues vs. taxes of W. Maui (See chart to the right)
- Government Representatives - including Mayor Tavares, Senator Roz Baker, Representative Angus McKelvey, Councilmember JoAnne Johnson
- Kaanapali 2020 presented by Howard Hanzawa
- West Maui hospital update presented by Newport Hospitals Brian Hoyle
- Pulelehua presented by Pamela English
- Lahaina Bypass Update by Austin Tsunami's Terrance Arashiro

AKAKU AIR DATES	
Date	Time
2/25	7:00 pm
3/1	5:50 pm
3/10	8:00 pm
3/21	7:50 pm
3/27	9:00 pm

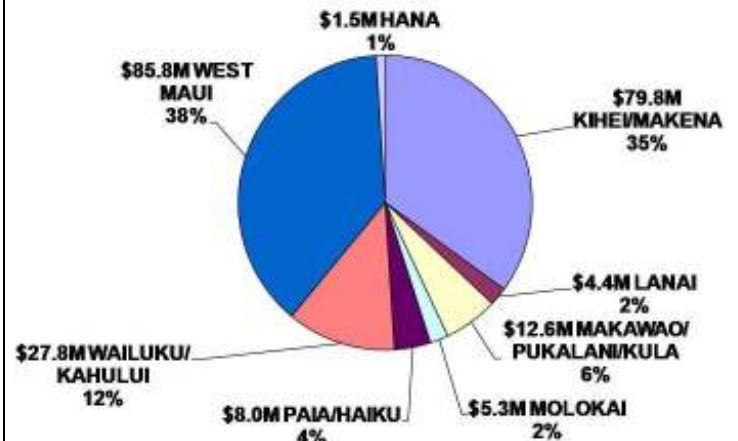
Visit [www.WestMaui.org](http://www.WestMaui.org) for a short clip of the event, or watch on AKAKU for a 38 minute video of the event.

## VALUES AND REVENUES BY DISTRICT

### ESTIMATED ASSESSED VALUES BY DISTRICT (MILLIONS) 2009, Maui County



### ESTIMATED RPT REVENUES BY DISTRICT (MILLIONS) 2009, Maui County



These charts illustrate the huge financial contribution from West Maui to the County of Maui to fund government services. We are doing our best to educate our government leaders on the importance of re-investing into the infrastructure here on the West Side to preserve that income stream. County roadways, police and fire coordination with increased emergency and disaster planning for health and safety. Also, sorely needed infrastructure improvements to our County sewage system and deteriorating transmission lines and odorous processing stations.

Please help us in this ongoing process to enlighten our County and State decision makers – make a financial contribution to WMTA today!

# West Maui Taxpayers Association

P.O. Box 10338; Lahaina, HI 96761

Office (808) 661-7990 – Fax (808) 661-7992 – [wmta@maui.net](mailto:wmta@maui.net)

Visit [www.WestMaui.org](http://www.WestMaui.org)



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- WMTA Annual Meeting Updates & Mahalos
- WMTA Project Updates
- Other News & Initiatives!

## West Maui Taxpayers Association: Membership & Donation Form

Name: \_\_\_\_\_  
E-mail: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_  
Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_

### MEMBERSHIP

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

#### Membership Levels

- 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

Comments and Suggestions: \_\_\_\_\_

**ADDITIONAL DONATION** \$ \_\_\_\_\_

*Memberships effective for one year upon receipt of membership dues payment.*

**Mail Checks, and Comments to:** West Maui Taxpayers Association • PO Box 10388 • Lahaina, HI 96761

**TOGETHER WE WILL MAKE A DIFFERENCE!**

## MEMBERSHIP REPORT (Paul Brown, Chair)

Aloha! In an effort to help influence improvements to our West Maui community, I volunteered to join the board of West Maui Taxpayers Association in August of 2009. It has been a great pleasure to work with the board and learn more about the association over the last seven months.

At one of our recent board meetings, as we reviewed the financial reports for the association it became clear that in order for the association to remain healthy, a concerted effort had to be made to encourage lapsed members to renew their memberships and to seek strategies for increasing the membership with new members. WMTA is fully funded through membership dues and donations, with no other source for the funds that are used to act 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.

Seeing this pressing financial need I volunteered to form and lead a membership committee that would develop strategies to build the association's membership base and help insure its financial stability. I now reach out to you, asking that you help in any way that you can, whether it is through membership renewal, encouraging your friends, neighbors, or business associates to join, or to volunteer to work on the membership committee.

If you are interested in working on the membership committee please contact me by email at [pbrownmaui@hotmail.com](mailto:pbrownmaui@hotmail.com) or by phone at 808-276-3129. Mahalo!