

THE VOICE

"Coming together, uniting West Maui as ONE Voice"

PO Box 10338 ♦ Lahaina, HI 96761 ♦ www.WestMaui.org ♦ WMTA@maui.net

Newsletter of the West Maui Taxpayers Association, April 2011

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE

On behalf of WMTA, I want to thank all the speakers, sponsors, and attendees at the 2011 WMTA Annual Meeting. As always, the meeting provided a wealth of information for those interested in a better West Maui, and this year there was also considerable information on efforts to improve Hawaii's economy.

District 10 Representative Angus McKelvey explained that the legislature was focusing on JOBS, JOBS, JOBS. That is certainly what a taxpayers organization likes to hear, but the news out of the Capital seems more focused on sucking all the energy out of the economy by taxing pensions and HOA dues and anything else that might be taxable.

In sharp contrast to the State, Mayor Alan Arakawa gave a reasoned and insightful preview of his efforts to thoughtfully and rationally right-size County government. The Mayor addressed several other areas that have been WMTA priorities for years and are included in the latest WMTA Goals and Objectives. He also laid out a number of areas where he has instructed his administration to work WITH the public to move projects and cut red tape in an effort to help Maui businesses be successful.

There are many encouraging signs that the Maui economy is on the mend, and one can only hope the tragic events in Japan do not have serious impact in Maui.

Again, thank you to all who participated in this year's Annual Meeting, and to all the supporters of WMTA. This is a year when taxpayers associations have to be especially vigilant to oppose job killing legislation and taxes. WMTA will be there to represent the taxpayer, and to urge government to spend your tax dollars wisely.

-Donald Lehman

ANNUAL MEETING HIGHLIGHTS

Mahalo to our Board of Directors, speakers, sponsors and guests who were a part of yet another successful event!

The West Maui Taxpayers Association (WMTA) Annual Meeting, held on March 3, 2011 at the Lahaina Civic Center Main gathered about 100 – 200 community members throughout the evening.



Pictured above is Ezekiel Kalua (previous WMTA Executive Director, now Executive Assistant in the Mayor's Office) with Board President Donald Lehman

Your WMTA Board of Directors 2011-2012

<u>Officer:</u>	<u>Director</u>
President Donald Lehman	Pam English
Vice President Bob Pure	Jim Hentz
Secretary Richard Starkweather	Richard Jarman
Treasurer Joseph Pluta	Byron Pat Kelly
Membership Chair Paul Brown	Gregg Nelson
	Uwe Schulz.

The main business portion of the meeting was to elect the Board of Directors. We thank the Board of Directors for their commitment and volunteerism for a better West Maui. They give freely of their services on your behalf and they are the vehicle we all ride towards the destination of successes for the ambitious goals and objectives of WMTA.

They remind us of course that this vehicle requires fuel such as newsletters, office supplies, and office expenses which are real costs beyond the Board volunteer labor. We ask, if you are able to, that you continue to provide your financial support above and beyond your membership. The results of this volunteer Board provide evidence that a donation to the WMTA is a wise investment.

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In addition, please share WMTA mission with others you know will benefit from our services – we have additional newsletters we can mail on your behalf – or you can just send them to our website www.WestMaui.org for the latest news, or www.WestMaui.org/Newsletters.html for our newsletter archive. The more people who are in support of our mission – the stronger our voice will be!

The annual meeting was kicked off with registration and complimentary dinner. Thank you to our sponsors:

- Java Jazz for providing coffee and service
- Kaanapali Land Management Corporation for providing water and drinks
- Ezekiel Kalua for providing audio system and equipment
- Maui Land & Pineapple Co for providing Chow fun, Rice, and Kalua pork from Honolua Store
- Janis Casco of Casco Wealth Management for the monetary table sponsor donation



Photo's L to R: 1) Mayor Arakawa speaking to guests and members 2) Rep. McKelvey and Mayor Arakawa, 3) Director Shibuya talks story with WMTA Vice President Bob Pure before the event.

Featured speakers gave updates and initiatives happening in West Maui. Video coverage will be on Akaku and at www.WestMaui.org/AnnualMeeting.html. They include:

- Representative Angus McKelvey (10th House District, House of Representative)
- Construction Engineer Charlene Shibuya (Department of Transportation, Maui Division, State of Hawaii)
- Mayor Alan Arakawa (County of Maui)
- Director Jo Ann Johnson-Winer (Department of Transportation, County of Maui)
- Council Member Elle Cochran (West Maui, County Council, County of Maui)

In addition community updates were presented from:

- Howard Hanzawa of Kaanapali Land Management Corp on K2020 / Puukoolii Village / West Maui hospital
- Pamela English of Maui Land and Pineapple Co. Inc. on Pulelehua affordable housing
- Pamela English, WMTA Board Member, Lahaina Skatepark

As more updates and progress are made on any projects we'll let you know via our website, Facebook and Twitter...and our newsletters as well.



Photo's L to R: 1) Council Member Cochran, 2) Howard Hanzawa of Kaanapali Land Management, 3) Jennifer & Pam from Maui Land & Pineapple Co. Inc., 4) Guests

Picture galleries are available on line at www.WestMaui.org for larger viewing, and additional photos not included here. Lahaina News also printed a summary on the front page of their March 10 – 16 issue <http://www.lahainanews.com/page/content.detail/id/501839/Mayor-Arakawa-calls-for-vendor-concessions-at-county-parks.html>

VOLUNTEER BOARD POSITION AVAILABLE

Please know that the West Maui Taxpayers Association is seeking to fill one seat on the Board of Directors. The only requirement is that you are (will be) an active dues paying member of WMTA, and share the same mission and goals for a better West Maui. If you are interested, please send your name and contact information and a brief introduction to wmta@maui.net.

LAHAINA SKATEPARK

The West Maui Taxpayers Association and West Maui Improvement Foundation, amongst other organizations collaboratively worked together with the County Parks Department to bring the skatepark to reality. All that remains is the Notice to Proceed and building should commence.



K2020 – WEST MAUI HOSPITAL UPDATE – JOSEPH PLUTA

It seems that a new site for the proposed West Maui hospital will permit expedited permitting and approvals. According to Kaanapali Land Management Corporation, at this time there is an agreement being negotiated whereby the site for the West Maui Hospital and Medical Center will be relocated outside of the Pu`ukolii Triangle and will be located closer to the Honoapiilani Highway.

It is encouraging that Newport Hospital Corporation/Brian Hoyle and the landowner have agreed to withdraw the request to HHFDC to build the hospital in the Pu`ukolii Triangle. That removes its jurisdiction away from the State of Hawaii's HHFDC and will permit local County control.

The Maui Mayor has indicated his enthusiastic support and the cooperation of this staff and planning department. The new location will be off of Kaka`alaneo Drive on the left side as you drive up a few hundred yards from Honoapiilani Highway.

TRANSPORTATION SUMMARY – BOB PURE

We are happy to report that there is much good news regarding transportation issues affecting West Maui. First of all, the intersection of Keawe St. and the highway has been reconfigured to include a dedicated left turn lane coming out of the Lahaina Gateway shopping center. This has gone a long way to easing congestion in that area. As you know, the "highway widening" project (from Lahainaluna Rd. to Aholo St.) has also been completed, expanding the roadway to two lanes in each direction and adding a landscaped tree-lined median down the center. There is now a marked difference in traffic flow, all positive, coming in and out of Lahaina.

Our major project, construction of the long awaited Lahaina Bypass is moving ahead on schedule on both Phases (Keawe Street to Lahainaluna Rd and Lahainaluna Rd to Hokiokio St.) Target completion date is late summer/early fall of 2012. The plan from both contractors is to have both Phases completed at the same time.

When these two Phases are done, motorists will be able to "bypass" Shaw, Dickenson, Lahainaluna and Papalaua Sts. in each direction.

TREASURER'S REPORT – JOSEPH PLUTA

THE WMTA AND THE WMIF ARE WORKING HARD FOR YOU!
We are doing our part. May we please ask you to do the same? Thank you.

We all have had instances in our lives where our Faith has been tested. Please allow me to share one of those tests with you. I believe the following example illustrates one definition of Faith "The Substance of things hoped for, the evidence of things unseen."

Our West Maui Community needed improvements for health and safety protection and we put our Faith to the test by being the ONLY community in the State of Hawaii to privately build and pay for its own Fire and Ambulance Station. The Bank making the loan required collateral guarantee security and I had to place a mortgage on my home at Kaanapali Hillside. Two other directors besides me also had to do the same. That surely was a Test of Faith. The result showed that Faith is real as the Napili Fire and Ambulance Station has saved millions of dollars in Fire Insurance Premiums to West Maui Property Owners as well as successfully saving priceless lives.

Health and Safety Improvements remain a priority of the WMIF and WMTA. Today, you have an opportunity to make a positive difference. Please consider that your future begins with what you commit yourself to do each day. Your WMIF AND WMTA board members have committed to volunteer their services on your behalf and be the vehicle we all ride towards the destination of successes for the ambitious goals and objectives (available on www.WestMaui.org). Of course, this vehicle requires fuel - newsletters, office supplies, and office expenses are real costs beyond our volunteer labor. We are doing our part. May we please ask you to do the same? Thank you.

Yes! You can count on me.

Please find enclosed my donation of _____.

West Maui Taxpayers Association Membership & Donation Form

Member Name: _____

Address: _____

City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____ Phone: _____

Email: _____ Fax: _____

- Please correct my information as noted above.
 Check here to have your name kept private in publications and acknowledgements.
 Check here to have your e-mail address added to our "WMTA E-Alerts" List

\$ _____ 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

\$ _____ **DONATION:** In addition to my membership, here is an **ADDITIONAL DONATION**

TOTAL ENCLOSED: \$ _____

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

Mail Checks, and Send Comments to: West Maui Taxpayers Association •
PO Box 158 • Lahaina, HI 96761 • Phone: 808-661-7990 • E-mail wmta@maui.net

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