

WEST MAUI TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION'S

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, February, 2013

PRESIDENTS MESSAGE By Don Lehman

MAHALO to all the attendees and participants in the WMTA 2013 Annual Meeting! Without question this had to be one of the very best annual meetings in WMTA's long history. We were very gratified to see so many new faces at the meeting, and we are confident the meeting was so informative that we should see many more new faces next year. Tell your friends!

Special thanks to our sponsors:

Java Jazz (coffer service), Kaanapali Land Management Corp. (monetary donation), Paradise Grill & Round Table Pizza (dinner service), West Maui Improvement Foundation (drink service)

Akaku Maui Community Television (discounted video recording services), Ezekiel Kalua (discounted sound system services), MSI Maui (discounted photography services)

Without their support these events would not be possible!

The highlight of the evening was the presentation of a Mid-term Proclamation of Appreciation to Mayor Arakawa by nine West Maui community groups. See the next page for more information on the presentation. There was excellent coverage of the event in the Lahaina News. Go to lahnews@maui.net and click on 'local news' for the January 17, 2013, edition to read the article. There were also several rebroadcasts on Akaku. The Proclamation can be found on the WMTA website at westmaui.org. WMTA does not take part in political campaigns, but it was gratifying to be able to thank an office holder in a year they were not running. Elected officials too often hear from their constituents only when there is a complaint or problem. WMTA felt it was time to change that. Please note that Mayor Arakawa stayed after the meeting to help with the clean-up. Just another reason he is appreciated.

As is our tradition, after the presentations by the elected officials there were special presentations in the three primary areas of interest to WMTA beyond the tax issues: traffic, health care, and affordable housing. In the first presentation, Stanford Carr of Stanford Carr Development LLC provided a detailed look at the Kahoma Village project. Stanford was followed by Joe Pluta, President of the West Maui Improvement Foundation. Joe went over the multitude of ups and downs for the West Maui hospital, and announced that on December 21, 2012, the Maui County Counsel gave final approval for the subdivision of the parcel that will be the site of the West Maui hospital. That was good news, and there are several alternative paths forward that look promising. In conclusion, Joe said "We have done the impossible, and all that remains is the possible."

The last presentation was by Charlene Shibuya from the State Department of Transportation. Charlene was very happy to announce that the first phase of the Lahaina Bypass should be open by the time you read this newsletter, at a total cost of \$77million with improvements to the Keawe Street/Honoapiilani Highway intersection yet to come. The second phase of the Bypass, at a cost of \$24 million, should open in May. Charlene also outlined four West Maui resurfacing projects for 2013 that total over \$15.5 million, along with the emergency repair projects at Ukumehame (\$7 million) and Launiupoko (\$4 million). Another \$2 million is designated for shoreline improvements at Olowalu. This is all good news for West Maui.

The other big news, of course, is that the Hawaii State Legislature is in session. WMTA has joined with several other interest groups to share resources and efforts to address legislation that will impact the economic wellbeing of our fragile economy. One alarming development is the introduction of legislation to not only remove the sunset from the emergency increase in the Transient Accommodation Tax (TAT), but to increase the tax and treat it as general fund contribution with no share going to the counties. All of this is directly contrary to what the TAT was designed to do, and creates a greater competitive disadvantage to the State's visitor industry. WMTA will continue to fight all unfair taxation.

State of the County Address by Mayor Alan Arakawa

From Ezekiel Kalua



H.P. Baldwin High School Auditorium
1650 Kaahumanu Avenue, Wailuku
Wednesday, the 20th of February, 2013
5:00 PM – 6:00 PM (*doors open at 4:00 PM)
This event is OPEN TO THE PUBLIC.
RSVP To Grace Ishii at 270-5535

Please visit the WMTA web site for more information about WMTA and its Goals and Objectives.

We encourage everyone with an interest in a better West Maui to join WMTA, and ask your friends and neighbors to join as well.

Thank you.

President, WMTA

WEST MAUI HOSPITAL UPDATE By Joe Pluta, President, West Maui Improvement Foundation –

At the WMTA Annual Meeting, I had an opportunity to recap our West Maui Hospital History from where we started to where we are now. As many of our members were unable to be at the meeting, please find following a short synopsis of my presentation.

We started in 2000 with our own internal hospital feasibility study and ended up with our efforts successfully producing a State issued Certificate of Need in March 2009 for Newport Hospital Corporation, (NHC), that nearly everyone said would be impossible to obtain.

After my speech re-capping our efforts, we were encouraged by the overwhelming appreciation from most attendees who were able to commiserate with us on the false starts and stops we experienced when we found that our donated land parcel approved for the hospital site was suddenly rendered inaccessible over State Ceded Lands by a Statewide Ruling from the Hawaii Supreme Court, which voided our access to our lot. Due to this ruling, our lot was landlocked with no other financially feasible roadway access.

While that seemed to be the end for us, a new site which could be purchased from the landowner directly by Newport Hospital Corp was negotiated. Hooray..it seemed that the West Maui Improvement Foundation Land and our assistance was no longer required. Incredibly, purchasing land on an existing roadway with utilities nearby was far less expensive than using the donated land without roadway access and utilities. Therefore mutual agreements between WMIF, Newport Hospital Corp's Brian Hoyle, and Kaanapali Land Management Corp, were cancelled and no longer applicable.

WMIF and NHC had a friendly separation and suddenly WMIF became a "Cheer Leader Advocate" for them and stopped our direct efforts as our role and inclusion in the project was ended. For nearly a year, we were happy to be cheering from the sidelines in support of Newport Hospital Corporation new plans and we switched our emphasis on the establishment of the West Maui Hospital and Medical Center Foundation Inc., (WMHMCF), a new Non-Profit, which we intended to be the perpetual ongoing link of community support with singular focused dedication to the for profit and independent NHC West Maui Hospital instead.

Unfortunately, the site selected and negotiated between NHC and the landowner turned out to be subject to financially prohibitive affordable housing requirements and had to be abandoned accordingly. Then, to make matters worse, the whole financial world changed and all prior financial commitments were off the table and no longer available. Newport Hospital Corporation informed us at a Kaanapali 2020 community group meeting, that they could not go forward with their plans and the only way the West Maui Hospital Project would be able to move forward would be with WMIF getting back into the project seeking community and governmental support as a non-profit and having a dedicated support tax for the hospital created via a Special West Side Community Improvement District. NHC requested WMIF to get back in the picture again and we restarted our active work to assist NHC and obtain the necessary financing and hospital operating partners.

As part of cooperation with Kaanapali Land Management Corp and Kaanapali 2020 community planning group, WMIF and NHC began a new effort to find a new site located in an area that would best avoid similar restrictive requirements. It was found, provided however, that a large lot re-consolidation process could take place. The landowner undertook that effort and after a year of processing, it finally was approved as a subdivided lot by the County of Maui on December 21, 2012.

Since then, we have been exploring several possible collaborations to finance the development of a non-profit West Maui Hospital with several interested partners including Sanderling Development Corporation LLC in collaboration with Newport Hospital Corporation to purchase and utilize the 14.96 acres of land recently subdivided for that purpose by Kaanapali Land Management Corp. These discussions resulted in receipt of several alternatives and methods which have been pursued without any firm commitments by all the parties. Discussions and commitments seem to be fluid and ongoing at this time and as with all such situations of due diligence, must be confidential until finalized accordingly.

It should be made very clear to everyone, that the WMIF and WMTA goals have always been to assist and enable access to emergency medical services which are currently inaccessible within the golden hour. We are involved in this process simply because we were asked to be involved because no one else was getting involved and our prior history of support.

Thanks to the Certificate of Need, (CON), process, there are no other plans for a West Maui Hospital other than NHC and we are only involved because Newport Hospital Corp informed us that we had to get involved in finding an Operator and financing the development of the West Maui Hospital as a Non-Profit. They are pressing us to obtain \$6.5Mil from the community as a contribution to the developments.

We asked NHC Brian Hoyle for input on February 13, 21013 for comments for this newsletter and here is his reply:

"NHC is now in process of obtaining financing commitments for the development and start-up operation of the West Maui

(continued on page 3)

Hospital for a new to be formed non-profit entity with a highly respected and capable Maui based Board. In addition, NHC has also committed an experienced and very successful Critical Access Hospital Operator/Developer to Manage and Develop the West Maui Hospital"

"NHC is also in ongoing discussions with KLMC for the WMHMC site acquisition/development."

SHPDA Director, Romala Sue Radcliffe sent a 1/10/13 letter to NHC stating:

"Re: Certificate of Need #08-07 - Establishment of West Maui Hospital and Medical Center

The Agency has determined that Newport Hospital Corporation is making good faith efforts to meet the implementation timetable specified in the above noted application pursuant to 11-186-91, HAR."

Based on these statements, it seems that fluidity of changes and needs are still positive and "in process", and indicates that nothing is absolutely certain or finalized at this time. We will be meeting with Mr. Hoyle and the Kaanapali 2020 Group and the landowners next week and hope to be able to have some more good news to report to you all thereafter. Please stay tuned to our Web site at www.westmauihospital.org for the latest news accordingly.

God has a history of using the insignificant to accomplish the impossible and when you think about it, most of the things worth doing in the world had been declared impossible before they were done. As such, and irrespective of the starts and stops we have encountered these past 13 years, we remain committed and determined because our lives are literally at stake. We would rather fail in the cause that someday will triumph than triumph in a cause that someday will fail. It is essential to have our life saving hospital become a reality, and we know that it will be. We have that Faith. It seems to us that there is not any "if,"and the only unknown is exactly when the actual construction will start.. Thank you for your continued outstanding support!

West Maui Improvement Foundation Donation ~ IRS EIN 99-0275775 NON PROFIT 501C (3)

West Maui Taxpayers Association continues to collaborate with the West Maui Improvement Foundation in its efforts to bring a hospital to West Maui. Please read the hospital update above by Joe Pluta, WMTA Treasurer/President Emeritus, as well as President of the West Maui Improvement Foundation. If you can give a gift, no matter the amount, it would be greatly appreciated.

Donor Name: _____ Email: _____
 Address: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

- Check here to have your name kept private in publications and acknowledgements.
- Check here to have your e-mail address added to our "WMIF E-Alerts" List

Payment Info:

NWS2013.02

\$ _____ Check Enclosed
 Payable to **West Maui Improvement Foundation**
 Amount: \$50 \$100 Other \$ _____

Credit Card (fill out information to the right.)
Mail Checks, and Send Comments to:
 WMIF • PO Box 158 • Lahaina, HI 96761 •
 Phone: 808-661-7990 • Visit www.WestMauiHospital.org

CHARGE MY CREDIT CARD –

ALL INFORMATION REQUIRED FOR CREDIT CARD DONATIONS:

CARD TYPE Visa MasterCard **Amount:** \$ _____
 Card # _____
 Expiration Date: _____ Phone Number: _____
 Billing Address: _____
 City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____
 Signature _____

WEST MAUI COMMUNITY GROUPS DECLARE THEIR APPRECIATION FOR MAYOR ARAKAWA By Don Lehman

During the January 10, 2013, West Maui Taxpayers Association (WMTA) Annual Meeting at the Lahaina Civic Center, nine West Maui community groups proclaimed their appreciation for Mayor Alan M. Arakawa's support for and interest in West Maui activities. After a short business meeting to install WMTA directors, WMTA President Don Lehman asked the Mayor to come forward for a special presentation. After President Lehman read a West Maui Mid-term Appreciation Proclamation for the Mayor, nine representatives of West Maui community groups came forward to express their thanks and to present lei to the Mayor and Mrs. Arakawa. The Mayor seemed genuinely surprised and gratified.



The groups represented were Lahaina Bypass Now!, Lahaina Complex After School Tutoring Project, Lahaina-Honolua Senior Citizens Club, Lahaina Restoration Foundation, Lahaina Town Action Committee, Rotary Club of Lahaina, Soroptomists International of West Maui, West Maui Improvement Foundation, and the West Maui Taxpayers Association. The Proclamation is posted to the WMTA web site at westmaui.org.

The Mayor thanked all the groups for what they do to make West Maui such a unique and extraordinary community. He explained he was especially impressed by the effort to completely remodel the Lahaina Library with no public funding. He continued his remarks with some discussion of his agenda for the coming year. Senator Roz Baker and House Member Angus McKelvey followed the Mayor with their legislative updates.

Photo on Previous Page: Group presentation to the Mayor of a Proclamation of Appreciation. The photo was taken by Joe Makarewicz of MSI. Pictured are (L-R): Joe Pluta-President of the West Maui Improvement Foundation, May Fujiwara, Lahaina-Honolua Senior Citizens Club, Mrs. Arakawa, Liz May-President of the Rotary Club of Lahaina, Mayor Arakawa, Lynn Donovan-Executive Director of the Lahaina Town Action Committee, Don Lehman-President of the West Maui Taxpayers Association, Vivian Ichiki-Lahaina-Honolua Senior Citizens Club, Theo Morrison-Lahaina Restoration Foundation, Bob Pure-Lahaina Bypass Now. Pat Endsley & Richard Endsley-Lahaina Complex After School Tutoring Program, Ruth McKay-President of Soroptimists International of West Maui (Photo credit: MSI Maui)

TRANSPORTATION UPDATE By Bob Pure

Here is the latest information we know about the opening of the Lahaina Bypass. Phase 1A, from Keawe Street to Lahainaluna, as of this writing, is scheduled to open to traffic sometime in the first week of March. Phase 1-B-1, from Lahainaluna to Hokikio, is scheduled to open by the end of May. There have been some unforeseen delays that had to be addressed as this is a major road involving major construction. We will keep you posted if there are any schedule changes.

MEMBERSHIP & TREASURERS REPORT By Joe Pluta

We need your help! Our ability to help you and protect your investment is literally in your hands!

The WMTA Annual Meeting highlighted our Goals and Objectives. West Maui's has come a long way in the 35 years I have been a member of the WMTA. WMTA played a critical role in nearly all of the improvements that have been realized in West Maui over these past 35 years.

Maui is paradise to me, however, everything is far from perfect here Are you able and willing to testify and lobby our State and County Government to fix our Sewerage Treatment Plant, make fair and equitable adjustments to property and State Taxes, Fix our roads and beach access, improve fire and police protection, etc...???

If you are a property owner in West Maui, we respectfully suggest that membership in the WMTA is perhaps the wisest investment you can make. Absentee owners especially benefit from WMTA membership as we bring attention to issues and testimony which they physically are unable to do themselves as efficiently as we can on their behalf.

Please check out our website at www.westmaui.org and click on the top Accomplishments Tab on the home page. It's easy to see why membership makes sense. The WMTA is unlike many other non-profits who receive County, State and Federal support. **The WMTA is one of the only Non-profit community organizations that rely solely on the financial support of members like you!**

What we can do as your Board of Community volunteers is directly related to our financial resources. The WMTA Board of Directors are very excited about our role and being able to see the significant accomplishments we have initiated being brought into reality.

There are far too few in our existing membership paying dues as a prudent investment in reaching our objectives and community needs. Membership dues alone at this time are simply not enough to get the job done. Waste no more time arguing what a prudent person should do, do it! Be that person! Please send us an added donation today. Mahalo!

**West Maui Taxpayers Association
MEMBERSHIP FORM - IRS EIN 99-0160368 NON PROFIT 501C (4)**

Member Name: _____ Email: _____

Address: _____ City: _____ ST: _____ Zip: _____

Phone: _____ 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 <input type="checkbox"/> I am a member and renewing my dues <input type="checkbox"/> I am not a member but would like to join	Membership Levels <input type="checkbox"/> Individuals \$50.00/year <input type="checkbox"/> Families \$100/year <input type="checkbox"/> Businesses \$100/year <input type="checkbox"/> AOAO – email wmta@maui.net
\$ _____ DONATION: In addition to my membership, here is an ADDITIONAL DONATION	

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

Mail Checks, payable to "West Maui Taxpayers Association, to:

West Maui Taxpayers Association

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Feb-2013 NWS

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