

# WEST MAUI TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

## Advocating For You!

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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 – June 2021

### PRESIDENT'S MESSAGE – Joseph D. Pluta



Aloha Dear Friends of West Maui,

This year marks the 42<sup>nd</sup> anniversary of the WMTA! Time has flown by since WMTA incorporated in 1979. (West Maui only had one stoplight in Lahaina town then.)

It's remarkable how many challenges we met since then while it's amazing how many critical issues and concerns that existed in 1979 still remain unresolved.

For over 42 years, affordable housing, traffic congestion, coastal erosion, failing roadways, homelessness, water supply capacities, sewer issues, and being isolated on a dead ended frequently closed highway are still with us.

While we are the only community in the State of Hawaii to have privately developed a fire and ambulance station, Emergency Access to 24/7 Critical care is still top on our list.

Since the beginning of the pandemic, we have heard of many in our Island community who have lost their jobs, retirement income, and are facing uncertain futures. Now, as we are approaching the mid-year of 2021 through the 2<sup>nd</sup> year of the coronavirus pandemic, we are so grateful for your continued encouragement and support.

Advocating for you and our community is only possible with Divine assistance and your on-going financial support.

Yes, we are coming through this crazy time and making progress irrespective of seemingly insurmountable challenges. We know for certain that with Divine assistance, all things are possible. Our work would not be possible without you.

As we continue to recover from the pandemic, we face years of recovery. We remain committed to advocating for necessary improvements with your continued outstanding support and finding new solutions along the way.

Please review the articles in this newsletter and let us know if you have any questions. We welcome and invite your comments as well. Importantly, please make the decision to be a part of the solution allowing us to continue to advocate for you! Would you consider making a positive commitment to the future with a tax-deductible financial donation to the WMTA today? It is a prudent investment, and you will be glad you did!

*Mahalo nui loa. Joseph D. Pluta – President/ Treasurer*



**“WMTA - AFFORDABLE HOUSING SURVEY RESULTS ARE AVAILABLE-NOW!”**

**WMTA HAS BEEN ADVOCATING FOR AFFORDABLE HOUSING IN WEST MAUI FOR OVER 40 YEARS!**

See [WWW.WESTMAUI.ORG](http://WWW.WESTMAUI.ORG) for survey results.

As a founding board member of WMTA in 1979, I know that we advocated for governmental intervention to address the need for More affordable housing in West Maui including Workforce housing.

The net result of good intentions over the years to meet local housing demands for West Maui has enjoyed some successes, but in the long run; seems to have made things worse. The unintended consequences are that we are literally thousands of dwelling units behind where we should be today.

The reality is that now it is literally impossible to catch up with our communities needs for housing and any progress needs relief from some of today’s onerous requirements. Politicians have stated it’s time for action and not talk and we agree. The actions should be to facilitate not to make it even more difficult.

We respectfully suggest that taking away areas where housing was planned to be allowable is not the kind of action that is needed.

All new homes in all price ranges will be generating substantial property tax income to the County and it seems clear that mixed unit developments with market priced components are essential to off-set affordable categories.

“Affordable Only” development projects are not making a dent in what our needs are.

It’s time to incentivize home building and not further restrict areas where housing was allowed in the Maui Island plan.

Please consider joining our effort in making that point clear to our elected government officials who are currently considering the updating of the West Maui Community plan.

Respectfully submitted,  
Joseph Pluta, President,  
WMTA



## WEST MAUI AFFORDABLE HOUSING SURVEY RESULTS

The following letter was sent to the Planning & Sustainable Land Use Committee of Maui County Council, by President Joseph Pluta.

The West Maui Taxpayer’s Association conducted a survey to be used as a tool for consideration by the Maui County Council who is currently reviewing the West Maui Community Plan Draft, (WMCPD).

**There seems to be major conflicting elements in the current Draft with the Maui Island Plan** as to areas where housing could be located and as such deserved to be more fully explored and carefully reviewed. Inconsistencies with the Maui Island Plan and the Kaanapali 2020 Community Planning effort are potentially subject to unnecessary and unwanted litigation at the expense of Maui Taxpayers. For example, the WMCPD currently proposes changes in land use designations for approximately 100 acres of the Kaanapali South area for Parks/Open Space and 100 acres for agriculture where the Kaanapali 2020 community plan and Island Plan envisions residential and mixed use development.

As an initial founding member of the Kaanapali 2020 community planning group, I participated in monthly meetings for over 20 years with the K2020 team. This was an award-winning plan and key stakeholders in the West Maui community who participated with me were Ed Lindsey, May Fujiwara, “Buck” Buchannan, Star Medeiros, Eve Clute, and A. James Wriston III. They are now deceased and left this world thinking the K2020 plan as incorporated into the Maui Island Plan was

going to be respected. **This WMCPD disrespects the legacies of these community members** who were devoted to serving the West Maui Community. That is simply not acceptable.

Interestingly, **48 percent** of the respondents to the survey indicated that they **had never heard of the West Maui Community Plan.**

**The WMCPD eliminates hundreds of acres of housing in areas at Launiupoko and Olowalu where approximately half of the survey participants indicated they would like to live. That’s also not acceptable.**

The survey was developed by West Maui stakeholders, the WMTA board, and facilitated in synergy with the Maui Chamber of Commerce survey platforms and easily accessible via the Internet. It can be viewed with it’s results on our WMTA website at [www.westmaui.org](http://www.westmaui.org).





## **CHARITY WALK & WEST MAUI LIFESAVER CAMPAIGN – Joseph D. Pluta**



Happy 40th Anniversary West Maui Improvement Foundation (WMIF)! Yes, April of 2021 is the 40th anniversary of WMIF, and what better way to celebrate than to walk to raise funds to help against the fight for cancer!

Ever since we privately funded the development of the Napili Fire and Ambulance Station, we have been on a Mission filled with Hope! Once you choose Hope, everything is possible. There is scripture to support that! Would you consider our special appeal for your financial donation in support so that we can continue to make West Maui more resilient and safer for us all?

We are continuing to:

- Support Certificate of Need Application for the Maui Cancer Center in Lahaina Business Park.
- Integrate West Maui Emergency Planning Committee into County Framework with Maui Emergency Management Agency.
- Get runway lights installed at Kapalua West Maui Airport to permit take-off and landing for fixed wing aircraft utilization in emergencies.
- Obtain access to 24/7 Critical Care Emergency room for Life Saving Attention.

You can make a difference in the future health and safety of West Maui residents and visitors. The power of your tax-deductible donation will enable the WMIF to be here for you every day on our mission of Hope for life saving essential services in West Maui.

**HELP US MEET OUR FUNDRAISING GOAL THRU A DONATION OR REGISTERING TO WALK WITH US.  
THE VIRTUAL WALK WILL TAKE PLACE BETWEEN AUGUST 30 - SEPTEMBER 12, 2021.**

This year, Charity Walk organizers will be featuring a special digital platform, which can be downloaded through your mobile device, to track our steps and keep us connected throughout the two week "Walk Window." Whether you are a competitive athlete, a workout enthusiast, or a leisure walker, we will have fun "virtual" activities that will fit all needs. Once you Register to Walk through MobileCause, you will automatically receive an invitation email to access the platform. We can't wait to see you online!



**REGISTER TO WALK (\$50 MIN INCLUDES A T-SHIRT), OR MAKE A DONATION!**

- Text: Maui579 to 71777 (Msg & data rates may apply) – a link will be sent to your phone via text message
- ONLINE <https://app.mobilecause.com/vf/Maui/team/WestMauiImprovement>
- Support our fundraisers! Stay tuned for more information.
- Scan QR Code to get to our webpage to donate or register to walk.

### **MAUI COUNTY COASTAL ROADS**

President Joseph Pluta participated in this survey. It is 100% anonymous, and the group is looking for your help in additional input.

The Coastal Hydraulics Engineering Resilience (CHER) lab at UH Mānoa has been tasked by Maui County to recommend adaptation strategies for coastal Maui County roads. For this project, they are evaluating stakeholder perceptions of coastal roads and adaptation efforts in Maui County, Hawai'i. The motivation for this work is to adapt coastal county roads through community-supported methods for future coastal hazard scenarios, which is necessary for US federal funding.

WMTA members have been identified as a stakeholders for this study, and your opinions are extremely valuable to this project. Are you available to complete a survey about your preferred adaptation options through a Google Form? Taking part in this study will help increase government funding for Maui County infrastructure; promote community-supported and 'āina-based adaptation strategies; improve willingness from government agencies to use more nature-based shoreline mitigation methods; improve coastal road conditions in Maui County; and increase your personal involvement with Maui County decision-making.

Here is the link to the Google Form survey: <https://forms.gle/kbrJh3zzifXNNXk6>. It will be accepting responses until **July 31, 2021**. We encourage you to distribute the survey amongst groups you're involved in or to those you think would be interested in providing input.

**WMTA DIRECTOR DENNIS TERPIN IS TEACHING A RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM COURSE**

**We are Pleased to Announce**

**THE RESPIRATORY PROTECTION PROGRAM (RPP) ADMINISTRATOR  
PROFESSIONAL LEVEL 16-HOUR COURSE**

**Exceeds OSHA, ANSI, EPA, JACHO and ASTM Requirements**

**Live in person, or live online (via zoom)**

**JUNE 23 AND 24, 2021 8:30am - 4:30pm each day**

**\$595 per person, includes breaks, lunch, workbook**

**At the Safety Intelligence Institute 1312 Kaumualii St., Honolulu**

DETAILS & REGISTER AT <https://lawsonassociatesinc.thundertix.com/events/187460>

**WMTA MEMBERSHIP REPORT – Joseph D. Pluta, President**

Now, more than ever, it's clear that "unity" is needed even more that vaccines for Covid. The divisiveness since the Presidential Election combined with dramatic economic devastation and fears of Covid-19 has divided the Nation and communities.

We respectfully suggest that it's time for a re-unification as Covid-19 has shown new challenges to confront including the fact that we pay the highest prices in the World for medicine and access to health care.

We are appreciative of your help....and we hope that the WMTA can count on your continued support in 2021. We need your ongoing backing to face these major challenges ahead in the coming year. Remember, we do not receive governmental financial assistance. We exist solely on the basis of members 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 in 2021. Our sister organization, the West Maui Improvement Foundation Inc. 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](http://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: \_\_\_\_\_

\$ _____ <a href="#">MEMBERSHIP</a> <input type="checkbox"/> I am a member and renewing my dues <input type="checkbox"/> I <b>am not</b> a member but would like to join	<b>Membership Levels</b> <input type="radio"/> Community Supporter \$25/year <input type="radio"/> Community Leader \$50.00/year <input type="radio"/> Families \$100/year <input type="radio"/> Businesses \$100/year <input type="radio"/> AOA – email <a href="mailto:wmta@maui.net">wmta@maui.net</a>
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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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**THE VOICE**

Newsletter of the  
West Maui Taxpayers Association  
**June 2021**

**"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](http://www.WestMaui.org) has links)