

# WEST MAUI TAXPAYERS ASSOCIATION

## Advocating For You!

email: [wmta@maui.net](mailto:wmta@maui.net) home page: [www.westmaui.org](http://www.westmaui.org)  
mailing address: PO Box 10338, Lahaina, HI 96761 phone: 808-661-7990 fax: 808-661-7992

*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 2019

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



Aloha WMTA members and friends!

Please see the Call to Action – Membership article in this newsletter. It's time to plan to regain some meaningful influence in the coming 2020 elections.

It was an honor to be recently featured in the Neighbors of West Maui Magazine April Edition where it also mentioned my selection as a Maui Peace Hero doing "extraordinary things." As a founding member of the WMTA 40 years ago, it has been a remarkable journey of service to this place we all love on Maui. I give all credit for any success I may have enjoyed to the Lord who "uses the foolish things of this world, to confound the wise."

Additionally, I have been selected to serve as a member of the West Maui Community Plan Advisory Committee with 12 others who will be charged with the mission of updating the West Maui Community Plan. With four decades of working for the needs of the West Maui Community and actively pursuing obtaining them, I will bring a unique perspective to the process and look forward to it. Our efforts will start off with a draft revision submitted to us by the County of Maui Long Range Planning Division who has been conducting community meetings the past 6 months and will be a great resource reflecting the input of those meetings.

As always, I will continue to reach out to the West Maui community for comments and concerns as the plans unfold during public hearings for the six months or more until our work will be submitted to the Planning Commission and Maui County Council for adoption.

We believe we will have an excellent opportunity to address sorely needed improvements in this process. Stay tuned!

Malama Pono ame Mahalo,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Joseph D. Pluta".

Joseph D. Pluta – President/ Treasurer



## **WEST MAUI HAZARDS EMERGENCY PLANNING UPDATE**

The WMTA continues to solicit the cooperation of the Mayor and Maui Council with Maui's Emergency Management Planning Agency, (MEMA).

For those who are unaware, let us assure you that we consider planning and prevention with our myriad of resources as the best way to prepare for our upcoming emergencies.

After all, it's not whether or not we will have more hurricanes, floods, tidal waves, and fires. It's only a question of when they will occur. They will occur! Will we be ready?

We continue to insist upon a collaborative effort of examination of the After Action Report from the recent fires and floods to examine what went right, what went wrong, and what we can do next time.

The isolation of our West Maui Community creates extraordinary challenges not suffered in any similarly populated area of Maui County. That's why we built and paid for our own fire and ambulance station in Napili. That's never been done anywhere else in the State of Hawaii before or since. Our bold action saved lives and continues to save all property owners in Kahana, Mahinahina, Napili and Kapalua many hundreds of thousands of dollars in reduced fire premiums for insurance every year. All these property owners should be financially supporting WMTA with a little or the savings dividend they enjoy from our actions on their behalf. Unfortunately, most do not and it's simply wrong that we have been forgotten.

We must educate our Population and integrate with all the agencies involved in dealing with these emergencies. Please join us in supporting us in this cause.

We will let you know how things work out.

## **WEST MAUI COMMUNITY PLAN ADVISORY COMMITTEE (CPAC)**

What do you think is our most important priority in updating the West Maui Community Plan? Let us hear from you please!

Please check out this website about West Maui Community Plan <https://wearemaui.org/>. Visit this link for West Maui residents for their appointments to the West Maui Community Plan Advisory Committee (CPAC): <https://wearemaui.org/community-plan-advisory-committee>

## **FRONT STREET APARTMENTS**

WMTA was in support to fight the eviction of more than 250 tenants at Front Street Apartments in Lahaina. Because of our support and the support of many others, the state Legislature passed a bill to have the property purchased and kept in perpetuity for low-income housing for the working poor. The eviction has been stopped. House Bill 543 has gone to Gov. David Ige on May1, where it is expected to pass through into law.

Together, we can make a difference



*Photographs by Gary Kubota Liaison, Front Street Apartment Tenants Group*

## **MEMBERSHIP UPDATE – CALL FOR ACTION**

The WMTA was founded to represent the interests of the Community in West Maui who paid the lion's share of taxes for the Entire County of Maui but received highly disproportionate attention for sorely needed capital improvements.

**We are calling for “All hands on Deck! That means you and all your friends and associates for a Call for Action to increase our membership and financial ability to influence the upcoming Elections for our County Council in 2020!**

The current Maui County Council has passed on first reading a Budget calling for \$40 Million more than what the Mayor requested. The \$820M fails to justify this phenomenal and unprecedented increase. This proposed budget was passed on first reading with only one council member opposed, Riki Hokama. Nearly all of this added revenue is pegged to come from short term rental vacation properties and hotel and time share/vacation club properties.

Seems these increases are more punitive than anything else. While we have many “crisis” declarations, it seems this extra money does very little to address needed workforce housing, hunger and homelessness, emergency planning preparedness, shoreline erosion, water and access to emergency care in West Maui.

The time for assembling our resources and action plan for 2020 is Now.

Help us help you or be satisfied with what's happening now instead. **The choice is up to you! Pass this newsletter to all your friends and let's get ready!**

How much we will be able to influence our next County Council representation is up to you and our financial resources. Please make a choice to help us, help you. **Make your contribution to our campaign today.**

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

Member Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Email: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_ City: \_\_\_\_\_ ST: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

Day Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Evening Phone: \_\_\_\_\_ Fax: \_\_\_\_\_

- 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

<p>\$ _____ <b>MEMBERSHIP</b></p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I am a member and renewing my dues</p> <p><input type="checkbox"/> I <b>am not</b> a member but would like to join</p>	<p><b>Membership Levels</b></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li><input type="radio"/> Community Supporter \$25/year</li><li><input type="radio"/> Community Leader \$50.00/year</li><li><input type="radio"/> Families \$100/year</li><li><input type="radio"/> Businesses \$100/year</li><li><input type="radio"/> AOA – email <a href="mailto:wmta@maui.net">wmta@maui.net</a></li></ul>
--	--

\$ \_\_\_\_\_ **ADDITIONAL DONATION** Year End Special Donation for Executive Director (E.D)  
100% Charitable donation when payable to WMIF. WMIF is a 501 (c)(3) Public Charity Organization EIN 99-0275775. . 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 158 • Lahaina, HI 96761

NWS2019-06

## **THE VOICE**

Newsletter of the  
West Maui Taxpayers Association  
**June 2019**

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

PO Box 10338 - Lahaina, HI 96761

Phone: 808-661-7990  
Fax: 808-661-7992

Visit [www.WestMaui.org](http://www.WestMaui.org)  
Email: [WMTA@maui.net](mailto:WMTA@maui.net)

Look for us on

**facebook**

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