

**WEST MAUI HEALTHCARE TASK FORCE
FACT SHEET
November 2005**

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY: The West Maui Healthcare Task Force is a group of concerned citizens, representing various stakeholders, which began meeting in June of 2005 to develop a strategic vision and plan for healthcare in West Maui. It was a tremendous opportunity to bring West Maui residents, Maui Medical Group, Kaiser, Maui Memorial Medical Center, Independent Physicians and emergency personnel, together in meaningful dialogue to define this vision. Through numerous presentations from related healthcare providers, reports and analysis of statistical information, the group is now ready to present its findings and make recommendations for the West Maui community.

Members of the West Maui Healthcare Task Force are:*

Roz	Baker	Senator - CHAIR
Cliff	Alakai	Maui Medical Group
May	Fujiwara	West Maui Seniors
Will	Iaconetti, M.D.	Retired Physician
Wesley	Lo	HHSC, Maui Region
Donna	McCleary	Kaiser Permanente
Joan	McKelvey	West Maui Businesswoman
Jim	Shefte	Retired Hotelier
Betsy	Schusser, M.D.	Aloha Family Practice Center
Bill and Maria	Weber	West Maui Healthcare Alliance

**Joe Pluta of West Maui Improvement Foundation was invited join the Task Force and came to the first meeting and then resigned.*

Presentations Made to the Task Force:

- American Medical Response – (AMR)
- Healthcare Consultant – Mark Hyde
- Hawaii State Health Planning & Development Agency - SHPDA
- Hale Makua
- Maui Long Term Care Partnership (MLTCP)
- Kaiser
- Maui Medical Group (MMG)
- Maui Memorial Medical Center (MMMC)
- Hawaii Health Systems Corp. (HHSC)

WEST MAUI HEALTHCARE TASK FORCE FINDINGS

Healthcare

- Healthcare is in transition. There is a national shortage of healthcare workers: nurses, technicians and doctors; reimbursements are declining while malpractice and other costs are rising.
- 24-hour access to healthcare is an issue.
- Maui has the lowest per capita of primary care doctors in Hawaii. (*SMS Research 2005*)
- Many physicians find the high cost of living, perceived lack of quality education for their children, low insurance reimbursements and professional opportunities prohibitive to living here.
- Many graduating medical students want to be located in a metropolis for the first few years of their practice. This speaks to a level of comfort. One reason is that they were trained with many specialists near by for "back up"; in a non-metropolis setting they may have less access to specialty back up.
- Physicians need a certain level of patient volume (or repetition) to keep their skills current or "honed".
- Land has been offered for the expansion of healthcare services in West Maui.

West Maui Specifics

- Kaiser and Maui Medical Group (MMG) have clinics in West Maui. They offer primary care services and provide specialized services, as needed. Together, they provide care for about 90% of West Maui's population. Other providers are: Aloha Family Practice Clinic, Doctors on Call, West Maui Health Care Center, Community Clinic of Maui.
- MMG and Kaiser utilize "in-house" physicians at Maui Memorial Medical Center (MMMC). It is unlikely that they will be willing to staff another facility/hospital in West Maui.
- West Maui has a high cost of living – in fact, Lahaina's economic sustainability index is \$51K, the highest in Hawaii.
- West Maui has a "raw" population of around 45,000, which includes 5,000 commuters. The remaining 40,000 are roughly half residents and half visitors. Of the residents, 90 percent are MMG and Kaiser patients and, if requiring hospitalization, will likely be cared for at MMMC or Kaiser.

Emergency/Urgent Care in West Maui

- MMMC saw 23,485 Emergency Department visits in year ending June 30, 2005, of which 2,178 were from West Maui or 11.5% of resident population.
- West Maui ambulance call volume was 2,464 for year ending June 2003. Of those, 1,278 cases were considered minor.
- MMG and Kaiser provide urgent care in West Maui until 5 p.m. Extended hours urgent care services are provided by Maui Medical Group and Kaiser Permanente at their Wailuku clinics.
- Both groups provided extended hours urgent care services in West Maui at one time, but discontinued services due to insufficient cases.

- It takes approximately 35 minutes to transfer a patient from the West Side to MMMC. According to American Medical Response (AMR), the transportation is adequate and timely.
- The air ambulance was reinstated to provide transport when ground transport is unavailable. As of July 2005, it had one call in the previous two months.
- Based on a very conservative review, it would take \$3,200* per 24-hour shift to sustain our own Emergency Room, not including building or start-up costs. This ER would provide basic care only (more like urgent) and not include life-threatening situations, such as cardiac, trauma, etc. It would have one doctor, two nurses and X-ray tech.

**If the average reimbursement for an urgent care visit is \$120, it would require 27 patients per day, or 9855 per year to break even. Nearly 7675 more cases than were treated from West Maui at MMMC Emergency Department last year.*

Elder or Long Term Care

- West Maui doesn't have any long term care residential facilities and lacks community based services for Long Term Care.
- The Maui Bed Needs Study (*July 2004- Hawaii Health Information Corp.*) found that West Maui has the island's greatest need for Long Term Care beds.
- According to statistics drawn from census data by retired Maui Community College professor Dick Mayer, senior citizens (those over age 64) on the island will increase from 13,242 in 2000 to 27,260 in 2020, when they will make up nearly 17 percent of the population. Just the number of those over 84 will double. And those figures don't even include senior tourists or senior part-time residents who also will be tapping into the limited services. (MLTCP)
- In order to help West Maui with its health care facility needs, the Legislature appropriated \$1 million as of July 2005. We have two years to encumber the funds.