



Susan Fox, Realtor-Broker, CRS, GRI, ABR, e-PRO  
 Ted Fox, Ph.D., Assistant/Husband  
 Fox and Fox Maui Real Estate

**Direct: 808-249-0488**

Susan: 808-280-0489 Ted: 808-280-0488  
 Fax: 808-442-1055

FoxMaui@hawaii.rr.com www.FoxMaui.com



*Aloha!*

## News from Maui

### Ray of hope in gloomy isle real estate.....Feature article by Maui News Berry Perry

WAILUKU - While overall real estate figures were down across the board in the first quarter of this year, a few regions showed somewhat higher sales values, suggesting that the current downward cycle might have hit bottom and turned up. Terry Tolman, chief staff executive of the Realtors Association of Maui, said the island's housing market just saw two of its worst months in two years, and "now it's come up a bit." "We're going to have to absorb that inventory at some point," he said. "It's a good time to buy," but buyers "just haven't figured that out."

Brian Perry can be reached at [citydesk@mauinews.com](mailto:citydesk@mauinews.com). Click here for the full article:

<http://www.mauinews.com/page/content.detail/id/517181.html?nav=10>



### Maui Real Estate and the Economy...

no matter where we go these days the discussion is the same and the first question is How is the Real Estate Market? Slow but steady as she goes...Luckily Maui has not been as hard hit as many area's of the mainland.

I thought this was a great, straight forward overview of the current market here. I agree wholeheartedly we feel like we have leveled and there is light at the end of the tunnel as always...

**"Our ultimate freedom is the right and power to decide how anybody or anything outside ourselves will affect us."**

**-- Stephen Covey**

### Hawaii Banks continue to post strong profits...

Hawaii banking institutions are managing to avoid the fall out that the mainland banks are experiencing. The four major players are Bank of Hawaii, First Hawaiian Bank, Central Pacific Bank and American Savings Bank are still posing strong profits during this national crisis. This is no lucky feat, these banks are weathering the storm because they didn't fall into the subprime lending, they maintained their conservative practices and kept in mind the long-lasting economic downturn in the 1990's when the Japanese bubble burst..



### Maui Memorial Medical Center.....

The hospital has hired a second heart surgeon and acquired new medical equipment which is helping the island's only hospital move forward to solidify plans to be able to treat patients with heart disease and other related heart ailments. It would be a miraculous achievement and huge benefit to island residents and visitors if they didn't have to be flown to Oahu for medical treatment. The first open-heart surgery at MMMC could be performed this summer.

### SEARCH MAUI LISTINGS AS MY GUEST!

[www.FoxMaui.com](http://www.FoxMaui.com)

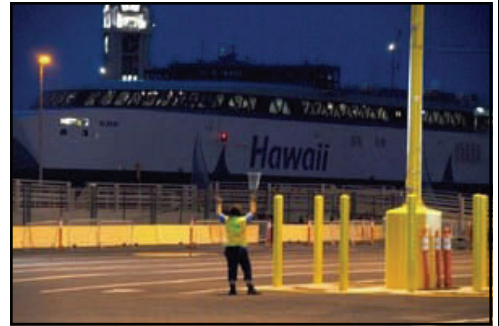
### New Kihei Police Station coming soon...

2009 is scheduled to be the year that the growing community of Kihei will get a start on a proper police station. Right now the MPD has a storefront substation in the Kihei Town Center between Foodland and Sansei. The new \$40 million/ 46,934 sq. ft. station will be built on 10 acres across mauka of Piilani Hwy near Kanani Road. Mayor Tavares administration has set aside \$20 million for phase one of the station. Currently ere are 33 police personnel assigned to the Kihei District. The new station when completed is supposed to compare to the Makai police headquarters in Wailuku.

**"Be who you are and say what you feel, because those who mind don't matter and those who matter don't mind."-**  
**- Dr. Seuss (via Elena)**

# News from Maui continued...

**Alakai Superferry saga continues...may have seen its last days in Hawaii** after all of the ongoing battles between the Lingle Administration and the Environmentalists it appears the environmentalists have won...or have they? My grandma always said be careful what you wish for. I fear that could be the case here. Many businesses, locals and tourists enjoyed the economical option of travel between the islands. This is yet again another impact on the already fragile economy between the loss of affordable travel and jobs. The five court justices over turned the state Legislature's 2007 Act 2 unconstitutional since it only accommodated the Superferry. Which basically means the ferry cannot continue to run while the Environmental Impact study is being done. What I will never understand is why the other major ships Matson, Young Brothers etc. never had to do the EIS and for some reason they are exempt...it just doesn't seem fair.



**Alakai Superferry**

## Kihei...Kealia Boardwalk update...

The parking lot is finally underway after five years the parking lot was started in December and it was scheduled to be open by March but needless to say that didn't happen. They finally got the permit they needed for construction close to coastal flooding, I guess that didn't know that was a possibility huh? Anyway it is in the process although for most of the last two months the proposed parking area has been underwater due to heavier than normal rainfall and you guessed it flooding naturally that has delayed construction once again. For the history and more information check out this web site...

<http://www.hawaiiervisitors.com/maui/attractions/kealia-pond-nwr.htm>

## Maalaea Harbor improvements...

State infrastructure will boost economy, as most of you know over the years the harbor has been rapidly deteriorating and currently suffers crumbling walkways and missing guardrails creating quite the eye soar of visitors and guest. The state has budgeted more than \$23 million for major upgrades that would include overhauling the ferry terminal and installing a sewage pump-out station for tour boats. Construction was scheduled to begin January 1 but has been delayed...what a surprise. Nothing every gets done when you think on Maui. 216 projects worth \$270.4 million have been slated for Maui, Molokai and Lanai . To view the full list go to:

[Http://hawaii.gov/gov/cip/maui](http://hawaii.gov/gov/cip/maui)

**The difference between the impossible and the possible lies in a person's determination.**

**Tommy Lasorda:**

**Former Dodgers manager**



Photo posted on Flickr by D'Arcy Norman

## Changes for the Passenger Ferry operated by Expeditions out of Maalaea...

The run between Maalaea and Lanai to Manele Bay has been halted temporarily due to rising costs and modest ridership. They are however still offering 5 roundtrips daily out of Lahaina for more information go to this web site:

<http://www.go-lanai.com/>

## Kaheawa Wind Farm...14 more turbines coming this year....Below Quoted from web site...

Owned and operated by First Wind, Kaheawa Wind is a 30MW wind farm located in the West Maui Mountains high above Maui's scenic shores. Kaheawa Wind operates in harmony with a range of native plant and animal species while providing clean, renewable power that currently meets 9% of Maui's electrical needs. Today, Kaheawa Wind is both a source of pride in the community and a symbol of American energy independence. For more news on the wind farm check out this link...very interesting! <http://www.kaheawa.com/kwp/>

**'I've missed over 9,000 shots in my career. I've lost almost 300 games. 26 times I've been trusted to take the game-winning shot . . . and missed. I've failed over and over and over again in my life. And that is why I succeed.'**-Michael Jordan

# Miscellaneous Maui News...

## Lahaina Bypass may finally be on the horizon...

Believe it or not after 40 years they have finally broken ground for the new Lahaina bypass project at the intersection of Lahainaluna Road and Ikena Avenue... just goes to show if you wait long enough anything can happen. Lt. Governor "Duke" Aiona Jr. and Senator J. Kalani English did the honors. Aiona thanked the community for its patience and persistent but warned that Phase 1 or Phase 1A still might not be in the clear. Aiona said "There will be bumps along the way, hopefully it will be small bumps"

## West Maui Hospital soon to be a reality...

Talk about long over due, the state approval has been given for the \$45 million facility next to the Lahaina Civic Center. The facility will feature a critical access hospital with 25 acute-care beds and a 40 bed skilled nursing facility on 14.9 acres. Maui Memorial Medical Center will continue to serve as the primary acute-care facility for the island. Still as Joe Pluta, President of the West Maui Improvement Foundation said "Lives are going to be saved. The community is going to be enriched." I couldn't have said it better.



## Honua Kai....Part of Kaanapali resort opens

Intrawest's second tower Konea Honua Kai is slated for completion in Spring of 2010, When phase one was released there was a waiting list to buy, the 318 unit Hokolani condo tower was offered in December 2005. Now there are several owners under contract suing because the units are not worth what they agreed to pay back then. Phase 3...72 townhouses is on hold until the amenities including a sea-front restaurant with Pacific'O executive chef James Mc Donald in charge is finished as well as the grounds. Check this web site for more on the lawsuits

<http://www.mauinews.com/page/content.detail/id/515492.html>

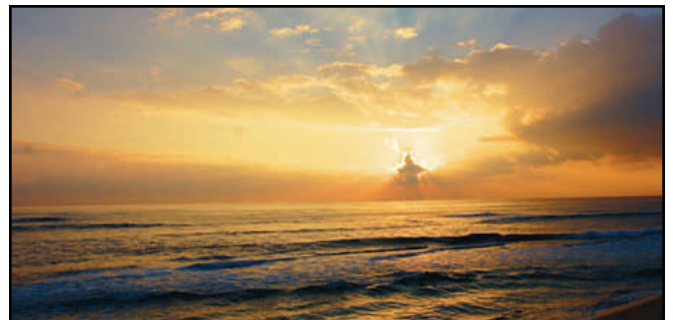
**Property's Future Up in the Air...**Renaissance Wailea Beach was closed September 2007 and was supposed to demolished to make way for a luxury condominium project under the Baccarat Name. Nearly two years later and that plan has been put on hold and maybe dead altogether. Luxury Resort real estate is in a much different financial situation today than it was in 2005 when the renovation was announced. Many problems plagued this project from the get go and can't be blamed solely on the economy even though that is a huge contributing factor...stay tuned for more on this!

**Borders Express...**has closed two stores one in the Lahaina Cannery Mall and one in Whalers Village-Kaanapali. Kahului Borders at the Maui Marketplace remains, Starbucks is being replaced by Seattle's Best. Former Pizza Hut will be replaced with Walgreens store expected to open toward the end of 2010. Will include 14,781 square feet of retail space, a two lane drive through pharmacy, groceries and one-hour photo lab. Walgreen's first full service pharmacy in Lahaina is expected to open this summer....Despite all the doom and gloom Mercedes-Benz opened last month in Kahului.

**Maui's very own Kula Lavender Farm...** has long been a treasure for residents and visitors. Adding to their already popular venture they have created a Maui Lavender Book complete with recipes, facts and uses you may not have been aware of. Did you know that long before it was recognized as an aromatic plant and before anti-biotic's it was used as an antiseptic and antifungal medicine. This book shares the inside info and the history, how to grow lavender, how to use it and how to cook with it. Learn more about this fabulous enterprise at their web site: <http://www.aliikulalavender.com/>

## Maui wins Merrie Monarch Festival's Miss Aloha Hula title...

The first to win from Maui in 3 decades...Keali'i Reichel coached his cousin Cherissa Henoheanapuakawaokele Kane who won the prized title in the 46th annual festival. It is a great joy to see this festival every year honoring the Hawaiian Culture and the tradition of hula. Quite an honor Congratulations Cherissa!



**"The people who make a difference in your life are not the ones with the most credentials, the most money or the most awards. They are the ones that care!"**

Unknown

# Maui Tid Bits...

## Kihei Changes and additions...

The 7-eleven store in Kihei on S. Kihei Road near the Kukui Mall has closed, it was a close that was coming due to lack of profitability but the downturn of the economy speed up the closing. Panda Express in Azeka II has also closed.

Endorsed by the Kihei Community Association...The Kalamalama Pedestrian path/Whale Trail which is handicap accessible has been completed and has been a great asset to the park, it is so nice to see families out strolling with children and enjoying the 1 mile walk way. Pictures and slide show are available on the KCA web site.

<http://www.gokihei.org/577/577/>

## Lahaina and Kaanapali Tid Bits...

Dante's Italian Eatery celebrates its second anniversary in the Lahaina Cannery Mall. Dante's is the reigning "Best Italian Restaurant on Maui". Lahaina Cannery Mall welcomes Lulu's Lahaina Surf Club & Grill, (formerly ECO Trading Co) Boss Frog's Dive & Surf Shop and Maui Showcase Properties. Los Pelenos replaces Compadres for Mexican fare...

**Whalers Village** has some changes...Body & Bath shop has been replaced by Swarovski Crystal, Rusty Harpoon moved to the old Mango Grill, Cane & Taro coming this summer replaces Rusty Harpoon. Dolphin Gallery Art store has closed and I am not sure what is going in there yet. Down on Front street that fantastic restaurant with the roof top dining Lahaina Store Grille & Oyster Bar has closed but they are actively looking for a replacement. It is really not surprising to see so many comings and goings in this economy.

**DID YOU KNOW?...**Hula Grill in Whalers Village Kaanapali is one of our favorite places and is "Maui's Best Supporter of Local Agriculture" by the friends of our Mayor group. This is why in addition to being a fabulous place for casual dining on the beach at the Barefoot Bar, with awesome sunsets, music and happy hour. Hula Grill has partnered with three Maui companies to recycle used oil from it kitchen. About 400 pounds of oil are donated per week to a local boating company, compost company and goat dairy farm. The boating company reuses the oil to operate small fishing vessels; the compost company reuses the oil to help break down branches, leaves and food waste; and the dairy farm reuses the oil to make soaps. For more information on the Hula Grill check out their web site at [www.hulagrill.com](http://www.hulagrill.com)

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- Our Marketing includes Extensive internet exposure, Online Media, Magazines and Television.



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Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Email: \_\_\_\_\_

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Mail To: Fox & Fox Maui Real Estate  
 30 Hauoli St. #208  
 Maalaea, Maui, HI 96793  
 OR  
 Email: [FoxMaui@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:FoxMaui@hawaii.rr.com)



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**Susan Fox, Realtor-Broker, CRS, GRI, ABR, e-PRO**  
**Ted Fox, Ph.D., Assistant/Husband**  
**Direct: 808-249-0488 Susan: 808-280-0489 Ted: 808-280-0488**  
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