

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
TAX & CHARITIES DIVISION
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January 26, 2015

TO WHOM IT MAY CONCERN:

Re: Hawaii Information Consortium ("HIC")

Beginning in 2008 the Department of the Attorney General Tax & Charities Division ("Tax & Charities Division") has partnered with HIC on four (4) important Internet based projects that are described in detail below. In all of our collaborations with HIC, HIC and its staff have been highly responsive, creative, enthusiastic, and passionate about responding to and fulfilling our Division's needs. We have been extremely satisfied with the work and service that HIC has provided to our Division and for the public we serve. Our collaboration with HIC to develop and deploy various online electronic filing systems has enhanced our Division's ability streamline and make more efficient the processing of mostly all of the registrations, reports, and filings that charitable organizations, their professional solicitors and fundraising counsel, and commercial co-venture partners are required to provide to our office. The online systems that HIC has developed for our division have been at no cost to the charities and professional solicitors and at minimal cost to the State. We look forward to continuing our partnership with HIC in the years to come.

1. **Hawaii's Online Charity Registration (2008 - present).** In 2008 the Hawaii Legislature enacted a registration law for charities that solicit contributions in Hawaii and mandated that the registration system be an Internet based system. The registration requirement was signed into law on June 13, 2008 and was to become effective as of January 1, 2009, providing less than six (6) months for the development and implementation of an online registration system. HIC quickly developed and implemented a searchable public registry system at no cost to registered charities. Hawaii's Online Charity Registration application is a robust online system that allows donors, members of the public and other states' charity regulators to search for and view registration statements and annual financial reports filed by over 2500 charitable organizations that solicit contributions from the public in Hawaii. This charity registry allows donors to make better informed charitable giving decisions and to avoid charitable solicitation fraud by potentially unregistered charities. This website also allows registered charities to pay their annual fees and HIC is currently working on implementing an automatic email reminder system that will send reminders to the charities that have outstanding fees thereby

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assisting the registered charities to avoid being assessed late fees.

Since 2008 HIC has maintained and hosted the Charity Registration system and also made modifications to the registration system that has enabled the Tax & Charities Division to better and more efficiently regulate the registered charities and also enabled our Division to transform most of the forms and reports that charities are required to submit to our office into a paperless electronic system.

2. Hawaii Charity Finder Mobile Application (2013). This Smartphone “App” allows anyone with an Iphone or Android smart phone to search Hawaii Online Charity Registration database to verify whether an organization is registered with our office and to view the registration and financial reports of registered charities. HIC quickly developed the Smartphone App in less than a month allowing the Hawaii Tax & Charities Division to be the first Attorney General’s office in the Nation to deploy a mobile application that provides access to a state charity registration database. HIC’s enthusiasm and excellent work have allowed the Division to be on the forefront of charity regulation and harnessing emerging technologies to allow donors to make more informed giving decisions with their donations.

3. Professional Fundraiser Registration Management System & Public Registry (2011- present). HIC is almost ready to deploy an online registration and renewal process for professional solicitors and fundraising counsels that contract with charitable organizations to assist them with fundraising in Hawaii. This system will also allow professional fundraisers to submit their contracts and end of solicitation campaign financial reports through an Internet based system making the process less administratively burdensome on the professional solicitors and fundraising counsel and easier for them to maintain compliance with our registration and reporting laws. Our collaboration with HIC in the development and launching of the online Professional Fundraiser Registration system will enable the Division to more efficiently monitor the registrations and reports of the professional solicitors and fundraisers. This online system will also enhance the Division’s ability to provide the public, other charities, and other state charity regulators with a robust accessible database of information relating to professional solicitors and fundraisers.

4. Online Registration Exemption From Registration Application System And Special Invoicing System (2014 – present). HIC is almost ready to deploy an Internet based system for charitable organizations to apply for and receive an exemption from registration requirements because they satisfy one of the statutory exemptions from registration. This online application system will benefit the charitable organization community by making it easier to submit exemption applications to our Division. Additionally, this electronic system will allow our Division to reduce the paper files that it maintains and more easily review, process, and respond to exemption applications.

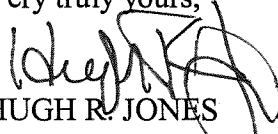
Another feature that HIC has developed for our Division that will be deploying in the

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Spring of 2015 is a special invoicing system. This system will allow our Division to electronically create, issue, monitor and process invoices to registered organizations for special assessments, late fees, and civil penalties. Currently any special assessments, late fees, and penalties have been issued and processed manually. By developing this online invoicing system HIC has assisted our Division to expedite this process and cut down on hardcopy paper files.

Please contact me at (808) 586-1473 should you have any questions.

Very truly yours,



HUGH R. JONES
Supervising Deputy Attorney General