

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
LAND DIVISION

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

May 19, 2015

Hawaii Information Consortium, LLC
Attn: Russell Castagnaro, General Manager
201 Merchant Street, Suite 1805
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Letter of Recommendation

Aloha Russell Castagnaro,

On behalf of Land Division, I am happy to provide this letter of recommendation to Hawaii Information Consortium, LLC.

In August of 2008, when Chairperson Laura Thielen initiated a permitting system to legalize and regulate beach weddings in the State of Hawaii, we quickly realized that we needed an efficient on-line permitting system to accommodate the large number of events. Our staff met with HIC's leadership team and HIC devised a simple permitting system that met our needs.

Since that time, almost seven years hence, our "Wiki Permits" has issued over 50,000 permits, including 8,400 for calendar year 2014. There have been some minor tweaks and improvements over the years, but basically we still have the same intuitive, efficient permitting system that was originally developed by HIC in 2008. When we asked several wedding coordinators to do beta testing in October, 2008, the first participant announced "This is a piece of cake. I pulled 3 permits in 5 minutes." We continue to get many compliments on Wiki Permits from our permittees on ease-of-use, simplicity and efficiency of the system.

For the first several years, I worked closely with Jing Xu, Director of Operations, on making minor improvements to Wiki Permits. Recently, our contacts have been Teri Berschneider and Jamie Kinion. HIC's staff, to a person, have been easy to access, responsive to issues and quick to resolve problems. We also regularly receive summary reports for the prior month on the first workday of the following month and the State's 87% share of the income on the 5th of the following month. From the initial website design and functionality, to resolving operational issues as they arise, to providing timely reports and payment, I cannot compliment HIC enough for their expertise and service to the State of Hawaii.

Any person reading this letter of recommendation is welcome to contact me at (808) 587-0439 with any follow-up questions or concerns.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Steve Molmen".

Steve Molmen, Supervising Land Agent
Land Division