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2010 Innovations Awards Application

DEADLINE EXTENDED: MARCH 15, 2010

ID # (assigned by CSG): **10-W-10HI**

Please provide the following information, adding space as necessary:

State: Hawaii

Assign Program Category (applicant): Public Safety (Use list at end of application)

1. Program Name: **Electronic Bench Warrants (eBW) Application**
 2. Administering Agency: **Hawaii State Judiciary**
 3. Contact Person (Name and Title): **Dana Nakasato, JIMS Project Specialist**
 4. Address: **1111 Alakea, 1st Floor, Honolulu, HI 96813**
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 7. E-mail Address: **Dana.L.Nakasato@courts.state.hi.us**
 8. Web site Address: **<https://judiciary.ehawaii.gov>**
 9. Please provide a two-sentence description of the program. **The Hawaii State Judiciary's new electronic bench warrant system (eBW) speeds the delivery of traffic warrants from the District Courts to law enforcement by eliminating the manual delivery of paper warrants. The new system has been making traffic warrants accessible online 24-hours a day, seven days a week to approved users.**
 10. How long has this program been operational (month and year)? Note: the program must be between 9 months and 5 years old on March 1, 2010 to be considered. **The eBW application has been operational for almost a year. The application was launched on March 24, 2009.**
 11. Why was the program created? What problem[s] or issue[s] was it designed to address? **As of July/Aug 2006, there was a backlog of over 70,000 bench warrants due to a number of reasons including lack of personnel to serve the warrants. In 2006, a Statewide Bench Warrant Task Force made up of various state and local agencies convened to address the backlog. The eBW application was created to address some of the concerns from the collaboration effort by the Task Force. Some of the findings from the Task Force were:**
 - **No centralized warrant database**
 - **Existing warrant data not comprehensive**
 - **Majority of warrant backlog are traffic warrants**
 - **Warrants generation / delivery system inefficient**
 - **Law enforcement / DPS need to conduct warrant checks for detained/incarcerated individuals**
 - **Violators disregard their responsibilities to the justice system**
- Three main goals of the eBW application were to:
1. **provide a method for law enforcement to more quickly and easily access traffic warrant data and images**
 2. **develop a new system quickly (in Phases/Betas)**
 3. **leverage existing JIMS (Judiciary Information Management System – Judiciary's case management system) data – traffic warrants only**

12. Describe the specific activities and operations of the program in chronological order. The project began with a kick-off meeting in August of 2007. Members of the Statewide Bench Warrant Task Force were brought together to brainstorm and provide feedback on the proposed solution. Several "beta" versions of the application were released prior to the March 2009 launch, and representatives from the Hawaii Criminal Justice Data Center of the Department of the Attorney General, Department of Public Safety, Office of the Public Defender, Honolulu, Maui, Hawaii, and Kauai Prosecuting Attorney's Offices, Honolulu, Maui, Hawaii, and Kauai Police Departments, Department of Transportation Harbors, and the Hawaii Paroling Authority submitted comments/suggestions on the application throughout the development phase.

eBW features include:

- Traffic warrant data available online 24/7
- Warrant images available from Nov 2005 (inception of JIMS) onwards
- Daily, automatic update of data and images
- Search by different criteria and can export data for reporting/sweeps
- Map view to locate addresses and plan sweeps
- Agencies can manage their own users
- Different users can have different access based on roles/permissions
- Actions automatically logged in Activity Log
- Ability to Add Notes to a warrant
- Ability to print a warrant remotely
- Training videos to assist users

13. Why is the program a new and creative approach or method? Traffic warrants are served by sheriffs during periodic "sweeps" with targeted geographic area. Prior to any sweep, Sheriff Division staff spends hours on sorting and grouping paper warrants. eBW eliminates the manual process and allows traffic warrants be easily sorted by individuals with multiple warrants or streets where a large concentration of outstanding warrants exist. . Much time is saved using eBW to gather information for the sweeps, and more violators are arrested and more warrants are served due to the improved process.

The Sheriff's Division also benefits by not having to file paper warrants into filing cabinets in the Sheriff's office. Warrants can be marked as served and electronically filed.

Warrants are also served by police officers during traffic stops. On Oahu, when a motorist is pulled over by an officer, the police officer calls a dispatcher to determine if the motorist has any outstanding warrants. If an outstanding traffic warrant exists, a police officer must drive to where the Sheriff Division stores the warrants to obtain the certified document for service to the apprehended motorist. Now, HPD (Honolulu Police Department) officers can view and print certified copies for service 24/7 at the main station. With the ability to print from any location, this approach has proven to be very convenient and effective for law enforcement to serve the warrants.

14. What were the program's start-up costs? (Provide details about specific purchases for this program, staffing needs and other financial expenditures, as well as existing materials, technology and staff already in place.) This application was developed by the Hawaii State Portal manager Hawaii Information Consortium, LLC (HIC), a part of eGovernment firm NIC's (NASDAQ:EGOV) family of companies, developed the online service at almost no cost to the Judiciary.

15. What are the program's annual operational costs?

The annual operation cost of eBW is \$0.00 for the Judiciary.

16. How is the program funded?

This program does not require any funding from the Judiciary.

17. Did this program require the passage of legislation, executive order or regulations? If YES, please indicate the citation number. Yes, Act 284 allowed for the acceptance of electronic court seals and signatures.

18. What equipment, technology and software are used to operate and administer this program?

The eBW is a web application developed with Java and Spring technologies. It is running on Apache Servers with Oracle database.

19. To the best of your knowledge, did this program originate in your state? If YES, please indicate the innovator's name, present address, telephone number and e-mail address.

Yes. Innovator's name below:

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20. Are you aware of similar programs in other states? If YES, which ones and how does this program differ? No, the Los Angeles County is currently working with NIC to learn more on the Hawaii eBW.

21. Has the program been fully implemented? If NO, what actions remain to be taken? The application has been fully implemented and is currently being used by Honolulu and Maui Counties. Kauai County will begin using the system in April 2010, and Hawaii County to follow shortly after. We do plan on making enhancements to the system as well as including additional types of warrants (ex. criminal, grand jury, etc.) as soon as the data is available via JIMS (Judiciary Information Management System).

22. Briefly evaluate (pro and con) the program's effectiveness in addressing the defined problem[s] or issue[s]. Provide tangible examples.

- Oahu Sheriffs arrested about 12-15 people and served 20-25 warrants on average during a typical sweep prior to eBW. These numbers have more than doubled.
- Oahu Sheriffs save about 40 hours of pre time for each sweep using eBW due to the search and sorting capabilities.
- Warrant data is available 24/7 (paper copies are only available when the Sheriff's office is open – not 24/7)
- Data and images do not require double data entry or filing and is accessible immediately.
- eBW provides search and reporting capabilities that make it easier to find warrant and defendant info, and provides data beyond what was previously available
- Improved delivery system
 - Judiciary no longer needs to deliver paper warrants to law enforcement
 - Sheriffs no longer need to pickup paper warrants from courts and file into cabinets
 - No lag time for hard copies to be made, delivered, and filed
- Simplified recall procedure; no more phone calls to/from Judiciary staff and Sheriffs
- Honolulu Police Department no longer needs to call Sheriffs to check on a warrant
- eBW allows for remote printing of traffic warrants for service
- Improved public safety
 - eBW prioritizes violators by highest number of warrants and highest bail amount so that law enforcement can target these individuals
 - eBW allows for geographical searches
- Reduced the risk of a false arrest due to real-time status updates of a warrant

23. How has the program grown and/or changed since its inception? Initially, the application had about 250 users. We are currently up to approximately 500 users and expect to increase these numbers.

24. What limitations or obstacles might other states expect to encounter if they attempt to adopt this program? Working with the diverse counties and state agencies can be very complicated. The Judiciary and HIC came to the partners with a solution in mind and did not require funds from them to develop it. If funding had to be secured from each party, it is likely that the project would not have proceeded.

Quotes from law enforcement:

“The Judiciary has placed a tool in the hands of the Sheriff Division that allows us to make more arrests in a shorter period of time. Scofflaws who previously thought they had time on their side when ignoring court dates and bench warrants should take notice. Because of the eBench Warrant system, we'll be seeing them sooner rather than later.”
– James L. Propotnick, DPS' Deputy Director of Law Enforcement

“Electronic bench warrants are saving money and our officers' time. We look forward to having the system expanded to include additional types of warrants in the future.” – HPD Chief Boisse Correa

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2010 Innovations Awards Application Program Categories and Subcategories

Use these as guidelines to determine the appropriate Program Category for your state's submission and list that program category on page one of this application. Choose only one.

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- Information Systems
- Public Information
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- Housing
- Human Services

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- Labor
- Management
- Personnel
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- Workforce Development

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This application is also available at www.csg.org.