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OIMT-CORR 13.0016

February 4, 2013

posted: 2/6/13

To: Aaron Fujioka
Chief Procurement Officer

From: Sanjeev "Sonny" Bhagowalia
Chief Information Officer 

Subject: Socrata GovStat Procurement Exemption from HRS Chapter 103D [Reference:
OIMT-CORR-13.0007; OIMT-CORR 12.0057]

In response to your e-mail of January 29, 2013 regarding: Request for Exemption, P.E. No. 13-042B amendment 1, we are providing more detailed justification describing the critical nature of the project and clarifying our concurrence with the points you addressed.

We will most certainly use the applicable method of Procurement to acquire services (Open Portal, Dashboard, GovStat and any other components needed) beyond June 30, 2013. OIMT has started the solicitation process and is preparing the required documentation to send to the State Procurement Office. This includes: SPO-18, Scope of Work, Evaluation Committee, SPO-24's, and evaluation criteria. You should expect this package to arrive in your office no later than February 11, 2013.

We request your urgent reconsideration in the approval of the GovStat portion of the Exemption request based on the following justification:

1. The Socrata solution is deployed today (<http://data.hawaii.gov>) as a "turnkey all-inclusive transparency collaboration and participation platform" with all the functionality built in to be activated based on the needs of the particular deployment. The dashboard functionality in question exists as a component of the platform today, and the request is simply to enable functionality that exists today, and to leverage the company's expertise to accelerate the deployment of user-friendly web interfaces during this fiscal year. An open competition in the next fiscal year will benefit from being able to show to the vendor community concrete examples of the initial deployment, and that will allow for consistent fit-gap evaluation of future offerors in the next phase of work.

PE 13-042B a2

2. In order to place dashboards in perspective, the OIMT definition of “dashboard” is a dynamic interface that displays consolidated summaries, graphs, and trends derived from an underlying set of data, to be consumed by non-technical end users. Dashboards provide a method to allow key stakeholders, such as legislators, government partners and citizens, to isolate key elements of highly complex source data through a user-friendly web interface. The connection between the collection and storage of public data, and the external presentation of that data through a dynamic interface, is intrinsic. For comparison and illustration purposes, Microsoft office suite data programs such as Excel and Access provide both tools to capture and store large amounts of data, as well as visualization features to make sense of complex data through visual elements, such as reports, tables, graphs, and trend lines. Socrata has this intrinsic capability that can be leveraged or invoked by the user with appropriate knowledge or consultation assistance.

3. This combination - a method to capture data and the need to present data in a dynamic way - remains true for state level data warehouses, with two additional characteristics: First, the visualization tools have an additional level of computational power to synthesize larger amounts of data, and second, the visualization tools have an ability to support a sustained presence on the internet for that synthesized data, in a way that allows non-technical end users to make queries into the collected data.

Given this additional level of robustness, for marketing purposes vendors may describe the functionality as a separate module. However, in practical reality, data stores of this form require a visualization layer such as GovStat to deliver on expectations of the base investment. For purposes of Hawaii's investment to date with Socrata, the use of this existing functionality in the offering suite from Socrata is necessary to complete the presentation of underlying data, is necessary to meet expectations of state leadership by end of FY2013, and necessary to prepare for a clear resolicitation and evaluation methodology for the next Fiscal Year.

Please expedite the approval of the project, which has been on-hold for a while. Hawaii can demonstrate improved and increased transparency and metrics on our projects and achievements to the legislature, public, and executive branch. Hawaii is on the verge of being one of the best in the nation in Open Government with this Dashboard capability that can be demonstrated this Fiscal Year, thereby engendering more trust and confidence in the Governor's transformation plan. Our Point-of-Contact for the Program is DCIO and Business Transformation Officer Randy Baldemor, 808-586-1930 extension 531.

cc: Bruce Coppa, Chief of Staff
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PE 13-0420a2