



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

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State Department of Health Wins 2013 Best of the Web Award *Hawaii Electronic Marriage and Civil Union Registration System Recognized*

HONOLULU – For the second time, the state Department of Health (DOH) is being recognized nationally as a leader in best serving Hawaii citizens through online services. The Center for Digital Government announced the Hawaii Electronic Marriage and Civil Union Registration System (EMRS) as a winner of the 2013 Digital Government Achievement Award in the Government-to-Citizen State Government category (<http://www.govtech.com/cdg/digital-government-achievement/Best-of-the-Web--Digital-Government-Achievement-Awards-2013.html>). The DOH previously won an award in the Government-to-Government category in 2007 for its Electronic Death Registration System.

“We are very encouraged by this recognition, confirming our continuous effort to provide better services and experiences to our residents and visitors wishing to marry or enter civil unions in Hawaii,” said Alvin T. Onaka, PhD, state registrar of vital statistics. “With as many as 30,000 ceremonies taking place in our state each year, this unique system helps us to register all events quickly and efficiently by reducing the approval process by at least two weeks.”

EMRS is a web-based, end-to-end service that allows the processes of applying and paying for marriage licenses, issuing licenses by agents, and validating certifications by performers after a ceremony to be done electronically online. A temporary, electronic marriage or civil union certificate is issued and may be downloaded by the couple. Certificates can be verified by government agencies directly online. Further, existing or new performers can register online to become commissioned and gain access to the electronic system for certificate validation following a ceremony.

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The Digital Government Achievement Awards is a national program that recognizes outstanding agency and department websites and applications that enhance information interactions, transactions and/or services, and increase innovation, efficiency and performance. The categories include government-to-government, government-to-business, government-to-citizen, and government internal.

The EMRS was created through a partnership with the DOH Office of Health Status Monitoring (OHSM) and Hawaii Information Consortium, the state portal manager of eHawaii.gov.

OHSM issues marriage and civil union licenses as well as marriage, civil union, birth and death certificates. The office acts as a repository for vital event records with the state and provides certified copies to the general public for government requirements and other purposes. OHSM also collects, processes, analyzes and disseminates relevant, population-based data in order to assess the health status of the people of Hawaii.

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Left: Randy Baldemor, Deputy Chief Information Officer, State of Hawaii
Center: Alvin Onaka, State Registrar, Hawaii State Department of Health
Right: Russell Castagnaro, President, Hawaii Information Consortium