**JUDICIARY INFORMATION MANAGEMENT SYSTEM VISION BECOMING REALITY**

When it was first announced in 2002, the Hawai`i State Judiciary saw great potential in the Judiciary Information Management System (JIMS) project.

By 2010, JIMS was expected to allow Hawai`i appellate and trial courts at all levels and on all islands to manage and view information associated with individual cases and parties, implement work flow, organize data, eliminate duplicate data entry, generate notices, orders and other official documents automatically, and lessen the need for volumes of paper.

Unfortunately, the implementation of the JIMS project proved much more difficult than expected. In May 2008, the Judiciary cancelled its contract with ACS Government Systems Inc., the vendor selected to develop the case management system. (ACS has been retained to implement the jury system.)

This and other setbacks caused the Judiciary to reassess its JIMS efforts. In recent months, the JIMS Project Team has worked closely with Judiciary staff and external agency partners to launch several initiatives that have improved, or will improve, court operations:

- The JIMS Collection Agency Interface, which electronically transmits delinquent traffic fines and fees to the Municipal Services Bureau for collection, has increased collections by 600 percent. The project, which only cost $49,000 to set up, has resulted in $5.2 million in collections to the State of Hawai`i general fund since referring cases to MSB. Beginning in September, the Municipal Services Bureau will report delinquency information to the credit bureaus, which should be an additional incentive for individuals to pay their traffic fines and fees.
- The eBench Warrant Project, a paperless bench warrant system scheduled to go live in 2009, will allow the Judiciary to provide law enforcement agencies with updated and secure access to view and print traffic warrants data via a web browser. Law enforcement officers currently need to physically retrieve and serve warrants.
- The Horizontal Integration Pilot (HIP) for JIMS will be launched in the Third Circuit in March 2009. Arrest report data from the Hawai`i Criminal Justice Data Center will be electronically transmitted to JIMS. This eliminates the need for court staff to manually input the information to initiate cases created from arrests, thereby shortening case processing time, improving public safety, reducing the chance of input errors and reducing costs.

The Judiciary has developed a new JIMS roadmap outlining JIMS milestones until 2014. Upcoming projects include the development of a jury module that will allow potential jurors to request exemptions and deferrals online. An accounting module will generate financial reports automatically and eliminate the need for court staff to enter financial data more than once. User interface improvements will be made to improve the quality of our data entry. JIMS will also be expanded to include criminal records and allow for electronic filing of court documents.

"JIMS is a long-term business transformation project. We are well positioned for the future and are focusing on realizing the vision of JIMS," said JIMS Project Manager Deena White. "The components necessary for success are coming together. I am very optimistic about the Judiciary's ability to realize the vision of JIMS," she said.