



H A W A I I A N H O M E S T E A D T E C H N O L O G Y , I N C .

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THOMPSON TAKES TOP SPOT AT COMMUNITY TECH COMPANY

Honolulu, Hawaii - The Board of Directors of Hawaiian Homestead Technology, Inc. (HHT), a locally owned and operated document digitization firm has hired Myron K. Thompson to the top post to implement its strategic plan. As President, Thompson, from Oahu will take the helm of HHT, a wholly owned subsidiary of the nonprofit, Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement (CNHA). HHT in its 3rd year, employs 21 staff at its technology centers in Anahola, Kauai, and Waimanalo, Oahu, and is set to open a third site in Papakolea in 2006.

Ray Soon, HHT Board Chairman and former Chairman of the CNHA Board, its parent nonprofit said, "Myron brings a depth of knowledge in the technology field, but also strength and experience in business management that HHT can greatly benefit from at this stage of our growth. His expertise and talent is just what we need as we focus on ramping up and transitioning HHT from a start up operation to a fully sustainable small business."

Incorporated in early 2003, HHT was conceptualized as part of a national coalition of 8 Indian Tribes, 2 Alaska Native firms and 1 Native Hawaiian nonprofit - the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement. CNHA worked in conjunction with tribal chairman and other Native business leaders to establish the first national document conversion initiative focused on creating technology jobs in rural Native communities and areas. In 2002, presented with a business plan to open HHT, its first enterprise arm dedicated to job creation and economic development, the CNHA board approved it unanimously.

"Former Governor Malcolm Bowekaty of the Zuni tribe, Chief Anoatubby of the Chickasaw Nation, Chairman Hall of the Mandan, Hidatsa and Arikara Nations were among the dozen tribal chairman that envisioned a partnership among all Native peoples to create jobs in our communities", said Robin Danner, CNHA President & CEO. "Senator Inouye received our proposal and provided his full support to bring the technology industry to Indian reservations, Alaska villages and here in Hawaii to Hawaiian Home Land communities."

In 2003, Danner hired Olin Lagon, a young but experienced engineer/entrepreneur with an energy and passion

for high tech operations. Lagon, together with CNHA and its network of community organizations, opened the first technology center in Anahola in April 2003 and a second in Waimanalo in August 2004. Danner stated that Olin Lagon has been vital to the start up of HHT, helping grow the company to a multi-island firm and profitability in less than three years. This included forging many private-public partnerships to launch operations. His new role will continue to add value as he embarks on expanding HHT's engineering capacity.

Thompson, a veteran businessman, has been tasked by the board of HHT to position the small firm to expand its operations and increase its production capacity. HHT will be partnering with the Papakolea Community Development Corporation, located on Hawaiian Home Lands above Honolulu for its third tech center, set to employ additional staff. Lagon, as the Technical Support Manager will focus attention on the transfer of technology skills to residents working in Anahola, Waimanalo and Papakolea.

“HHT has had an incredible start over the last two years and is on firm ground,” Soon added. “Under Myron’s leadership, we expect HHT to be well positioned for rapid operations expansion furthering HHT's positive economic impact in our communities.”

HHT is an information technology firm converting documents, including text and graphics to sophisticated electronic versions for government and commercial clients. Owned by the Council for Native Hawaiian Advancement, HHT’s mission is to sustain a viable technology industry in Hawaiian homestead communities and build local economic capacities and partnerships.

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