

Abstract

North Kohala, the northwestern district on the island of Hawai`i, does not have its own local government as is common in other states in the union. In the State of Hawai`i, the lowest level of local government is County, of which there are five, each made up of one or more islands. Thus, community development and other policies in North Kohala are governed by its Community Development Plan, which outlines and provides guidance for development within this district, overseen by the County of Hawai`i. The community of North Kohala desires to develop guidelines and policies that will augment the vitality of arts and culture facilities and activities within their district. A non-profit organization focused on sustainability and community building, OneIsland, has been funded to assist by garnering community support through involvement in the planning process. OneIsland intends to use Geographic Information Systems (GIS) and associated technologies such as Esri's ArcGIS Online (AGOL); however, as an organization, they focus on sustainability and community building and do not have technical support. As such, they needed assistance to create a web-based mapping tool which can be used to facilitate communication during community involvement sessions called Listening Circles (LCs).

This thesis focused on creating a web map application that OneIsland could use to collect community input regarding the locations of future arts and cultural events and establishments in the district. The application needed to be simple non-web programmers and general public internet users to operate and manage while incorporating local artistry in the form of icons and a splash screen map. A workflow was generated for OneIsland to follow until they had become familiar with the platform used. Use tests with OneIsland and two unrelated naïve users indicated that the web map application and supporting workflow were simple to use and follow while still allowing OneIsland to collect community input.