

Hawai'i Legal Research

By Victoria Szymczak, Cory Lenz & Roberta Woods. (2022), 256 pages, ISBN: 9781531017149. \$35

Subject: State-specific legal research (Hawai'i).

Useful for: Useful for newer legal researchers who want to understand the Hawaiian legal system and research Hawaiian law.

Format: Chapters with index.

Reviewer's Comments:

As a former independent kingdom that became a state in the United States, Hawai'i has a unique legal history and culture. Research into Hawaiian law requires an awareness of the legal research issues that are common to every U.S. state, as well as issues specific to Hawai'i. This first edition of Hawai'i Legal Research meets the needs of researchers who are new to Hawaiian law, whether they are law students researching for the first time or more experienced practitioners. In addition to covering Hawai'i state legal research, the authors discuss more general strategies that are useful for any researcher, including how to research federal laws.

The authors give recommendations for completing research projects involving Hawai'i law, considering that pre-statehood laws and cases are still valid, and some relevant legal materials are only available in print. The text seeks to make research as smooth and straightforward as possible, laying out an effective research process, offering examples so that the reader can follow along, and providing URLs to Hawai'i's online legal resources. There is an overview of the Hawaiian legal system and its origins from the kingdom period through the territorial period into statehood since 1959, along with suggestions for approaching research for different eras of governance.

As the book walks the reader through the research process, it covers various sources of Hawai'i law and how to apply them. The Constitution of Hawai'i is described, including its acknowledgment of native Hawaiian custom and law. The text also explains how to locate and use secondary sources, case law, statutes, and administrative materials, on the most important research platforms as well as in print. There is also a section on legal citation, explaining general Bluebook rules and Hawai'i distinctions. At the end of the book, the authors include a selection of practical materials: a Sample Research Plan

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where a user can fill in the blanks; a list of Common Boolean Search Connectors; and a list of Citator Symbols for Bloomberg, Lexis, and Westlaw.

This is an extremely useful guide to researching Hawaiian law, for researchers at various levels of experience. In addition, it provides a valuable introduction to legal research for students, with Hawai'i as a focus.

Reviewed by: Joshua Levine, Cardozo School of Law, in 2024.