

Hawaii Content Standards



The Hawaii Content Standards are based on the National Council of Social Studies definition of Social Studies. One goal of the curriculum is for students to develop “civic responsibility and the skills of participatory citizenship.”

In SIRS’ study of the Hawaii Content Standards, we see a direct correlation between the goals and objectives that are emphasized and the framework upon which SIRS Interactive Citizenship has been developed. SIRS Interactive Citizenship content emphasizes the generalizations and concepts that act as the framework for understanding democratic political institutions and their emergence throughout history, while the Discovery and Inquiry activities and related chapter lessons exemplify our commitment to critical thinking skills.

What Citizens Need to Know About Government, addresses the expectations for Political Science and Civics and presents a framework for understanding America’s ongoing struggle to realize the ideals of the Declaration of Independence and the U.S. Constitution and each citizen’s role in this democracy. Through this framework, students are able to connect the past to the present as well as appreciate universal historical themes and dilemmas by accessing primary sources such as, biographies, documents, diaries, letters, legends and speeches and links to related articles and web sites while focusing on the basic concepts of government. Thus, students develop the higher order thinking skills deemed necessary by the Hawaii Content Standards.

<<http://doe.k12.hi.us/Standards/index.htm>> [2002, February 11]



Hawaii Content Standards
correlation with
What Citizens Need to Know About Government



Political Science / Civics
Grades 9 - 12

Governance/Power/Authority

1. Students should understand the ways and reasons people and groups create government and use this knowledge to make reasoned decisions.
Analyze how governments acquire, use, and justify power, e.g., how limited governments differ from unlimited ones.

- Chapter 1 examines the function and purpose of government. Historical and contemporary examples of limited and unlimited governments are provided.

Democracy

2. Students understand and demonstrate the principles and values underlying American constitutional democracy.
Analyze the historical development of the principles and ideals of American constitutional government and evaluate the extent to which they have been realized.

- Chapter 1 explores the underlying principles of American democracy. The European roots of American democracy are examined. The writings of 18th century philosophers, such as, Hobbes, Locke, Montesquieu, Rousseau and Voltaire are available through embedded text links.

Global Cooperation, Conflict, and Interdependence

3. Students understand similarities and differences across cultural perspectives, and evaluate the ways individuals, groups, societies, nations, and organizations change and interact.

Analyze and evaluate the interconnections of local and regional issues with global challenges and how this changes over time and with technology.

Explain the United States' changing role in international policies and relations and the strength and limitations of U.S. influence on foreign affairs.

- *Chapter 28 examines foreign policy and the United States' role in a changing world.*

Citizenship/Participation

4. Students understand roles, rights (personal, economic, political) and responsibilities of American citizens and exercise them in civic action.

Debate positions on issues regarding rights and responsibilities, come to consensus on the issues, and take action to gain larger community involvement on the issues, e.g., a service-learning project.

Analyze and evaluate the role that political parties play in American politics and participate in political life, e.g., contacting public officials.

- *Chapter 14 examines the rights and responsibilities of citizenship.*
- *Chapter 16 focuses on political parties. Links to the Democratic, Republican, Libertarian, and Green Parties web sites are available.*
- *Chapter 6, The Congress, has links to the Senate and House of Representatives web sites. Students can access information on individuals representing their local communities and state.*
- *Part II, Problems of Government, focuses on issues of public importance. These include:*
 - *ethics*
 - *environment*
 - *education*
 - *poverty*
 - *health issues*
 - *agriculture*
 - *cities*
 - *transportation*
 - *business*
 - *labor*
 - *national defense*
 - *foreign policy*