

Bathroom Reader

Issue 14, May 2015

MAGNA CARTA TURNS 800 YEARS OLD



Eight hundred years ago this year, on June 15, 1215, King John placed his royal seal on the Magna Carta.

It has 63 clauses which discuss the church, feudal land law, trade, royal officials' behavior, and legal reforms. The charter also provided for a council of 25 barons who were allowed to levy war on the king should he infringe it. That's some serious checks and balances!

The Magna Carta was reissued several times and it gradually became less a statement of the current laws than a source of basic principles. Over time, it became a symbol, with each successive generation reading into it a protection of its own threatened liberties.

It had a strong influence on federal and state constitutions, shaped by what 18th century Americans believed it to signify. Certain rights were understood to come from the Magna Carta like freedom from unlawful searches and seizures, a right to a speedy

trial, a right to a jury trial in both criminal and civil cases, and protection from loss of life, liberty, or property without due process of law.

WORD OF THE WEEK

Here are the Word of the Week winners since last issue.

Justine Chmielewski

- *Chewbacca defense*

Tom Michener - *Hospiticide*

Kamalolo Koanui-Kong - *just deserts*

Congratulations to the winners! Final drawing for this semester is May 10.

KINGDOM OF HAWAII LAWS GET NEW CLASSIFICATION



Most of us don't really pay attention to the call numbers on books.

Once we get the number and find the book, that's usually it.

But, starting soon, take a closer look at laws from the Kingdom of Hawai'i. They'll no longer be classified with Hawai'i state material and will use "KVJ," which falls under the "KV" subclass for Pacific area jurisdictions in the Library of Congress classifica-

tion scheme. This is a big change; even the U.S. State Department had to sign off on it.

Our own librarian Keiko Okuhara and Professor Vicki Szymczak, the Library Director, assisted the Library of Congress in creating the new classification and the Law Library will be the very first in the country to use it. Great work!

RESERVING ROOMS

Library rooms are available for study groups of three people or more. Reservations can be made for up to 2 consecutive hours at a time and should be made 48 hours in advance. Reservations will be posted on the doors and online.

The form to reserve rooms is on the Library website. If you need help locating it, please ask at the Circulation Desk. Good luck!

"And so with the sunshine and the great bursts of leaves growing on the trees, just as things grow in fast movies, I had that familiar conviction that life was beginning over again with the summer."

-F. Scott Fitzgerald,
The Great Gatsby