

## HOW TO READ A LEGAL CITATION

A legal citation refers to a specific legal source, such as a constitution, a statute, a reported case, a regulation, a treatise, or a law review article. The basic format includes the volume number, abbreviated title of the source, and beginning page or section number(s). The citation may also include the year an opinion was rendered or the source was published.

The following are sample citations of Federal and Hawai‘i primary law sources:

### CONSTITUTIONS

<i>(Federal)</i>				<i>(State)</i>		
U.S. Const.,	art. III ,	§2,	cl.3	Haw. Const.,	art I,	§ 5
Source	Article	Section	Clause	Source	Article	Section

### STATUTES

<i>(Federal)</i>				<i>(State)</i>		
29	U.S.C.A.	§ 626	(1999)	HRS	§378-2	(Supp.2004)
Title	U.S. Code Annotated	Section No.	Date of Publication	Hawai‘i Revised Statutes	Section No.	Publication Date of Supplement

### CASES

*(Federal)*

United States Supreme Court

Gen. Dynamics Land Sys. v. Cline, 540 U.S. 581, 124 S. Ct. 1236, 157 L. Ed. 2d 1094 (2004)

<i>Official Citation</i>				<i>Parallel Citations</i>						
Gen. Dynamics Land Sys. v. Cline	540	U.S.	581	124	S.Ct.	1236	157	L. Ed. 2d	1094	2004
Case Name	Volume	U. S. Reports	Page	Volume	Supreme Court Reporter	Page	Volume	Lawyers Edition 2 <sup>nd</sup> Series	Page	Year

## Federal Circuit Courts of Appeals

Marshall v. Hawaiian Tel. Co., 575 F.2d 763 (9<sup>th</sup> Cir. 1978)

Marshall v. Hawaiian Tel. Co.	575	F.2d	763	9 <sup>th</sup> Cir.	1978
Case Name	Volume	Federal Reporter 2 <sup>nd</sup> Series	Page	U.S.Circuit Court	Year

## Federal District Courts

Ruggles v. Keebler Co., 224 F. Supp. 2d 1295 (D. Kan. 2002)

Ruggles v. Keebler Co.	224	F. Supp. 2d	1295	D. Kan.	2002
Case Name	Volume	Federal Supplement 2 <sup>nd</sup> Series	Page	U.S. District Court for Kansas	Year

*(State)*

Schefke v. Reliable Collection Agency, Ltd., 96 Hawai'i 408, 32 P.3d 52 (2001)

<i>Official Citation</i>				<i>Unofficial/National Reporter</i>			
Schefke v. Reliable Collection Agency, Ltd	96	Hawai'i	408	32	P.3d	52	2001
Case Name	Volume	Hawai'i Reports	Page	Volume	Pacific Reporter 3 <sup>rd</sup> Series	Page	Year

Smith v. Chaney Brooks Realty, Inc., 10 Haw. App. 250, 865 P.2d 170 (1994)

<i>Official Citation</i>				<i>Unofficial/National Reporter</i>			
Smith v. Chaney Brooks Realty, Inc.	10	Haw. App.	250	865	P.2d	170	1994
Case Name	Volume	Hawai'i Appellate Reports	Page	Volume	Pacific Reporter 2 <sup>nd</sup> Series	Page	Year

## REGULATIONS

*(Federal)*

29 C.F.R. § 1625.1 (2004)

29	C.F.R.	§ 1625.1	2004
Title No.	Code of Federal Regulations	Section symbol & specific section	Date of code edition cited

*(State)*

HAR §12 - 46 -5

HAR	12	46	5
Hawaii Administrative Rules	Title	Chapter	Section

## **For additional information on how to cite legal materials, consult:**

American Bar Association, Legal Technology Resource Center. *Universal Citation*.  
<http://www.abanet.org/tech/ltrc/research/citation/>

Boston College Law Library. *Reading legal citations*.  
<http://www.bc.edu/schools/law/library/research/researchguides/citations/>

*The Bluebook: a uniform system of citation*, 17<sup>th</sup> ed. (Cambridge, Ma., The Harvard Law Review Association, 2000).

Garner, Bryan A., Jeff Newman, Tiger Jackson. *The redbook: a manual on legal style*. St. Paul, Mn., West Group, 2002.

Martin, Peter W. *Introduction to Basic Legal Citation* (2003 ed.). <http://www.law.cornell.edu/citation/>

Prince, Mary Miles. *Prince's Bieber dictionary of legal citations: a reference guide for attorneys, legal secretaries, paralegals, and law students*, 6<sup>th</sup> ed. Buffalo, NY., William S. Hein, 2001.

Standler, Ronald B. *Legal Research and Citation Style in USA* (2000, 2004). <http://www.rbs0.com/lawcite.htm>

U.S. Department of Justice. Tax Division. *Citation and style manual*. Washington, D.C., The Division, 1997.

*Universal citation guide*, 2<sup>nd</sup> ed. Committee on Citation Formats, American Association of Law Libraries. (Madison, WI: State Bar of Wisconsin, 2004).

West Texas A&M University, Cornette Library. *Legal Citations*.  
<http://www.wtamu.edu/library/govt/casecite.shtml>