

Project Citizen

A Portfolio-based Civic Education Program

If our democratic society is to function, schools must be places where children practice the necessary dispositions and skills for their roles as citizens. Research shows that commitment to voting, for instance, can be developed well before a person has the right to vote. Thus, civic education can and should be a K-12 focus.

Discussions of current events, interacting with civic leaders, engaging in simulations of civic processes, and learning about and taking action to resolve community issues all foster students' commitment and capacity for participation.

We the People: Project Citizen is a service-learning curricular program that promotes competent and responsible engagement in local and state government. The program helps young people learn how to monitor and influence public policy. In the process, they develop support for democratic values and principles, tolerance, and feelings of political efficacy.

Read about how one school successfully implemented Project Citizen in their 8th grade social studies classes at www.puna-hou.edu/page.cfm?p=1087

The Hawaii Project Citizen is sponsored by the Center for Civic Education and funded by the U.S. Department of Education. For more information about this free curriculum, call 1-800-350-4223, email: lyla@lylaberg.com, or go online at www.civiced.org.

Political factoids

- 79 percent of young voters on Super Tuesday attended college.
- Of all eligible young voters with college experience, 1 in 4 voted on Super Tuesday, compared with just 1 in 14 of the non-college youth. Young people most likely to be affected by the war in Iraq or a downturn in the economy are often misinformed, disengaged and politically silent.
- Students whose families are wealthy are two times as likely as those whose families have average incomes to learn how laws are made and how Congress works. Opportunities to learn about politics and citizenship evidently, at present, depend on a student's wealth, academic skills and race.

Source: San Francisco Chronicle

Raising good citizens at home and at school

By Lyla Berg, Ph.D

As a state legislator, educator and parent, I have spent nearly a lifetime contemplating what 'democracy' truly means.

Truth be told, families are not democracies. Children did not "vote for" the parents who make decisions on their behalf, nor do children have equal say in what goes on in their household.

Indeed, a family's purpose is to provide a safe and nurturing environment in which adult members raise developing human beings in accordance to their family's unique values, beliefs, and customs. Children, especially between the ages of birth to twenty, need parents to provide structure, guidance, discipline, as well as encouragement.

So how do we – parents, families, and schools – prepare young people to live as citizens in a democratic society? Here are some tips on what parents can do at home to prepare children to be effective community members.

1. Have a variety of media available to read with and aloud to your child, such as newspapers and magazines, or view broadcast news together and discuss current events with your children. A democracy relies on well informed, educated, and engaged citizens. Model this behavior.

2. Ask your children what they think about an issue. Use the dinner table or driving time to have children express their opinions. Ask them to support their perspectives with facts. Listen and value your children's opinions.

3. Demonstrate and practice respectful attitudes and behaviors towards your spouse, children, and others. Parents teach children by modeling respect for differences, patience, and understanding, especially when another's perspectives are conflicting and diverse.

4. Address family issues together. Ask family members to suggest mutually beneficial solutions. The ability to communicate, work through uncomfortable situations, and reach agreements must be practiced consistently.

5. Teach children to find the balance between fulfilling an individual need and the needs of others. Conflict often occurs between siblings and can also be seen in our own neighborhoods and communities. Learning how to get what one wants without hurting or hindering another helps children live responsibly and harmoniously with others.

6. Enable your child to feel 'empowered' in some aspect of his or her life. Children must experience a sense of influence in their lives, while at the same time, taking responsibility and accepting the consequences of their actions. Talk with your child to develop an understanding for both of you about what occurred.

7. Be an activist. Write letters to local newspapers. Vote. Volunteer and get involved in a school, sports, or community organization. Par-



participate in bettering your community.

8. Finally, insist that your child's school incorporate civic education and service learning as an integral part of the school's curriculum. Democracy is not a spectator sport. Learning to be a citizen in a democracy requires practice and active engagement.

Being aware of what is happening in the world at the local, national, and international levels; behaving with consideration and courtesy toward others; feeling safe to express one's perspectives and accepting diverse points of view; and discovering ways to help people achieve their individual and collective hopes and dreams are skills desperately needed in our society. These skills CAN – and should – be taught in families.

Lyla Berg, Ph.D., is Vice-Chair of the Education Committee in the Hawaii House of Representatives and State Coordinator for Project Citizen with the Center for Civic Education. She is a single mother and has a 21-year old son in college.

PROJECT Citizen

Department of Education

Special programs

No Child Left Behind – Title I

Contact: Sharon Nakagawa and Solomon Kaulukukui, 394-1380

The Title I program is part of the No Child Left Behind Act that supports programs in schools and school districts to improve the learning of children from low-income families. The No Child Left Behind Act also provides educational options to families. This federal law allows parents to choose other public schools or take advantage of free tutoring if their child attends a school that needs improvement.

Families and Schools Together

Contact: Kalen Kitagawa, 394-1384

FAST is a unique, multi-family group approach that supports parents to be the primary prevention agents for their children 0 to 16 years of age. FAST has three components: outreach, multi-family group sessions, and ongoing monthly reunions. The families join together to participate in the fun-filled sequence of activities designed to build respect for parents and bonds among family members and between family members and the school.

Extended Learning Opportunities: 21st Century Community Learning Center

Contact: Solomon Kaulukukui, 394-1385

The purpose of this program are to provide opportunities to communities to establish or expand activities in community learning centers that focus on:

1. Opportunities for academic enrichment, including tutorial services in core academic subjects;
2. An array of additional services, programs, and activities, such as youth development and violence prevention programs; and
3. Opportunities for families for literacy and other educational development.

Migrant Education

Contact: Solomon Kaulukukui, 394-1385

The purpose of this program is to provide educational and support services to enable students, whose parents work in agriculture or fishing on a temporary or seasonal basis, to meet the same high content and performance standards that all children are expected to meet. Also this program encourages children to remain in school through high school completion. Eligible families are those who have moved within the last 36 months to seek or work in agriculture or fishing on a temporary or seasonal basis to help support their family.

Hawaii Family Literacy Program

Contact: Kalen Kitagawa, 394-1384 (Oahu)

Family Literacy serves parents and their young children in high poverty communities with their literacy, educational, and job preparation needs.





Military programs and resources

For more information on these programs and resources, please contact:

Air Force

Airman and Family Readiness Center (AFRC)

Bldg #1105, 655 Vickers Ave.
Hickam AFB, HI 96853
449-0300

Family Advocacy Programs

Bldg #554,
750 Singer Blvd.
Hickam AFB, HI 96853
449-0177

Army

Army Community Service Center (ACS), Army Family Advocacy Program

Bldg. #2091
Schofield Barracks, HI 96857-5000
655-4227
www.mwrarmyhawaii.com

Coast Guard

Coast Guard Work-Life Center
Integrated Support Command (ISC)
400 Sand Island Parkway
Honolulu, HI 96819-4398
842-2085, 842-2090

Marines

Marine Corps Community Services (MCCS) Personal Services Division
Family Advocacy Program (FAP)
Bldg #216
Marine Corps Base Hawaii
Kaneohe Bay, HI 96863
257-7787, 257-7790

Navy

Navy Fleet and Family Support Center (FFSC) Pearl Harbor
Navy Region Hawaii
Moanalua Navy Services Center
4827 Bougainville Drive, Honolulu, HI 96818
474-1999
www.greatlifehawaii.com

Seeking help

Parenting classes and resources for active military personnel and family members

Hawaii military services (Air Force, Army, Coast Guard, Navy, Marines) offer resources and a broad range of parenting and education programs for active military parents and families. Programs vary by service and course titles may vary. Possible programs and classes include:

- Parenting classes
- Play And Learn sessions
- Deployment Issues
- Infant/Child CPR class
- Anger and Stress Management classes
- Counseling and Parenting Consultations
- Military Life Consultants
- Parenting Support Groups
- Family Resource Library of books and videos
- Family Life Activities and Events

School Liaison Officers

Hawaii is the only military location that is supported by a School Liaison Officer (SLO) in all branches of service: Air Force, Army, Marines, and Navy, and Coast Guard. In addition, the State Department of Education has a Military Liaison. The SLOs and Military Liaison are vital links between Hawaii public schools, military families, and students regarding public education in Hawaii. For more information contact:

Air Force School Liaison Officer

Darren Dean,
darren.dean@hickam.af.mil, 808-448-5236

Army School Liaison Officer

Wayne Yoshino,
wayne.yoshinoii@us.army.mil,
808-655-9818



Coast Guard School Liaison Officer

LCDR Michael Saramosing,
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Hawaii State Department of Education, Military Liaison

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Marines School Liaison Officer

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Navy School Liaison Officer

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