

Using ebooks to Promote Leadership, Civic Education, The Good Citizen, and Contributing to Society

One first thought. Often fiction can be as potent and engaging way to teach about real life as nonfiction.

First, there is the importance of understanding citizenship. The Hawaii Educational Policy Center did a policy paper examining this topic:
<http://manoa.hawaii.edu/hepc/wp-content/uploads/The-Good-Citizen-HEPC-May-6th-2015.pdf>

Most definitions of citizenship do not use the term *Good Citizen*, but the sense of basic criteria, standards, or obligations, and idealism, are strongly implied. They have several elements in common:

1. The Good Citizen *has learned and can remember* key historical events in the creation and development of democracy, including seminal documents and the ideas contained therein; *but it is not enough to have “taken” American and World history courses and scored well on tests.*
2. The Good Citizen has an *intellectual capacity* to critically analyze ideas, philosophies, and interpretations, and to develop an active habit of mind in evaluating books, texts, media, and all manner of communications; *but it is not enough if the knowledge and capacity to think critically are not applied in the real world;*
3. The Good Citizen *actively participates* in civic life, including political life, *but it is not enough to routinely vote every couple of years;*
4. The Good Citizen has an admirable character, genuinely *cares* about the wellbeing of other citizens in immediate community and the larger society, reflecting idealism and a sense of personal responsibility. In other words, citizenship education is related to character education.

In *The Art of Loving*, Eric Fromm identified four essential characteristics of the highest level of love, which are excellent criteria for success:

First, you’ve got to KNOW the individual, or the place, or the organization. But that is not enough. Knowledge alone gets you to first base, but not all the way home. **Second**, you’ve got to CARE about him/her, or it, to the point where you are sincerely cheering for them. But just knowing and caring can still leave you as a passive observer. **Third**, you’ve got to RESPOND to their needs. The hungry must be fed. The homeless must be housed. The sick must be treated. The marginalized must be heard. But knowing, caring and responding can still express themselves as a Know It All – a patronizing colonial power or sorts.

Fourth, you've got to RESPECT the object of your love.

In many ways, The Good Citizen tracks these criteria as well.

What does this have to do with this collection of affordable ebooks?

<http://jimshonhawaiibooks.com/>

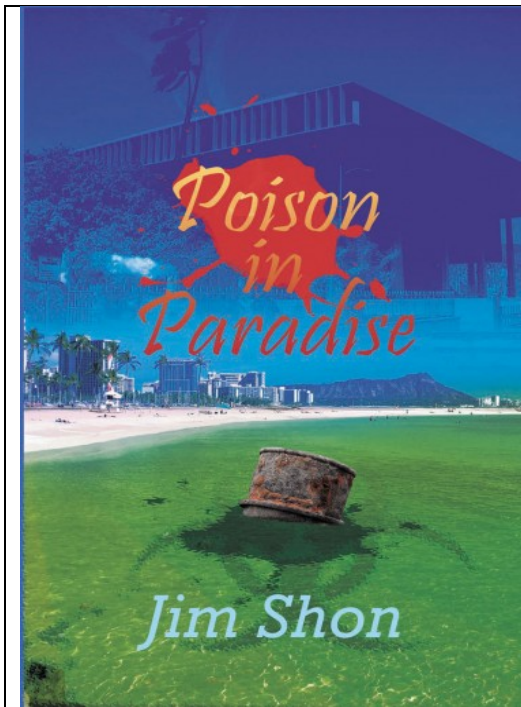
Here are a few elements of these that hopefully contribute to becoming a Good Citizen:

1. They all teach us to look deeper than first, superficial impressions. For people, for institutions, for ideas. What may appear to be true at first, upon further thoughtful inspection, may not be true at all.
2. They all teach us that people, human nature, and democracy are complex. Many layers of nuance. Not black and white. Not good vs. evil. They teach us to use logic. To think.
3. They all teach us to appreciate that society is not easily divided between government and the private sector. The borders are porous. Problems are addressed by people of good will on all sides. Public is partly private. Private is partly public.
4. They all teach us that Hawaii's multicultural, multiethnic society, while it has its problems, demonstrates that it is the character and actions of our neighbors that count, not preconceived prejudiced view of them.
5. They all seek to stimulate thoughtful discussions about the essential questions that Rotary Clubs pose to its members:
 - Is it the truth?
 - Is it fair to all concerned?
 - Will it build goodwill and better friendships?
 - Will it be beneficial to all concerned?
6. They all invite us to wrestle with the evolving role of the media and technology.
7. They all present us with contemporary issues:

FIVE HOT TOPICS in FIVE BOOKS

1. *Poison in Paradise* explores sexual harassment, and how this leads to revenge.
2. *Inside the Capitol* explores the reasons why making good policy in a legislature is so hard.
3. *A Charter School Story* explores the tribal warfare between traditional schools and charter schools.
4. *The Case of the Good Deed* explores the overdevelopment of the Kakaako district of Honolulu.
5. *The Case of the Rainforest Reunion* explores tragedy of the Opioid epidemic.

Understanding the Novel Poison in Paradise



The year is 1986 in the multi-cultural and multi-ethnic mosaic that is Hawaii. *Poison in Paradise* is about power politics, crime arrogance, cover-ups, the media, and the inner working of a legislature. It is set at a time when the environmental movement was just learning to challenge the growing appetite for development and profit.

Follow the inner thoughts and maneuvers of rival legislators, and how the world of the state capitol is interwoven with the corporate appetites of a declining agricultural industry, the state of the media and how it covered public affairs before the arrival of the Internet.

<https://books.litfirepublishing.com/product/poison-in-paradise/>

Poison in Paradise reflects the multi-cultural, multi-ethnic fabric of Hawaii's government and society. Its main characters represent some of the most influential stakeholders and contentious issues of the 1980's.

Main Characters

Ramsey Bingham - Chair of the Board of the Sandwich Isles Chemical Corp.

Carleton Brent – London based Insurance mogul

Eastland Bridges – a Hawaii State Senator

Mei-Ling Bridges – wife of Senator Eastland Bridges

Flora Garcia – Children affected by possible pollution

Stephani Harrison– Carleton Brent's personal assistant

Betsy Ito – Office Manager for Eastland Bridges

Barbara Lum – TV Reporter

Bobby Martin – State Senator

Randall Ogawa – State Senator, close friend of Helen Tokugawa

Byron Park – Honolulu detective

Michael Robinson – former staff for Bridges, State Representative

Steven Sinclair – private investigator

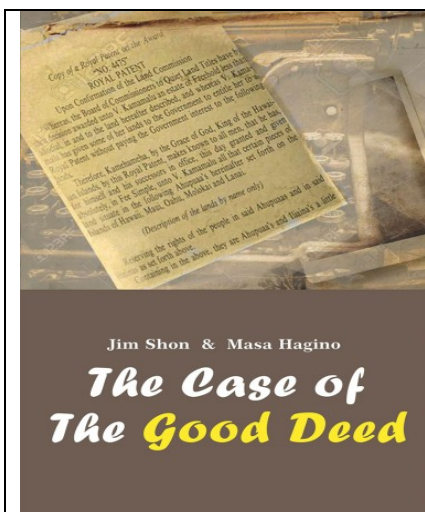
Helen Tokugawa – Former staff for Eastland Bridges, State Senator

Bill Wilcox – Plantation Forman

Thelma Winters – Native Hawaiian; Chair, Leeward Community Action Coalition

Understanding the Case of the Good Deed

<https://books.litfirepublishing.com/product/the-case-of-the-good-deed/>



The Case of the Good Deed follows two investigators reminiscent of Charlie Chan and Mr. Moto, but not the same. An old Hawaiian deed from the mid-19th century is found in the wall of an historic church. The deed is to a valuable parcel in rapidly developing downtown Kakaako. A young museum researcher and a young reporter believe it can complicate if not stop a major development. Then a suspicious and tragic death. Was it an accident? Follow Detective Charlie, Izakaya owner Moto, and reporter Zoe as they unravel the authenticity of the deed, and if the death was murder.

<https://books.litfirepublishing.com/product/the-case-of-the-good-deed/>

A rainbow of Hawaii characters appear in *The Case of the Good Deed*

Dr. Dayton Apo, Director, The Cook Museum

Charlie C. Chang – a Honolulu Police Detective

Kirk Daniels – a young researcher at the Cook Museum

Joe and Molly (Mai Tai) Davis – owners and managers of a small walk up apartment

Henry Doyle – a City bus driver

Yoshiro “Moto” Fujimoto – a restaurant owner

Sheri Ishihara – a young resident of Kaka’ako, girlfriend of Kekoa Potter

Julie – a bar owner in Chinatown

Peter Kalani – a projectionist at a local theater, Uncle of Kekoa Potter

Kawika...a Hawai’ian resident of Honolulu in the 19th century

Kono – Shilling’s assistant Zoe Lee – a young reporter

Dr. Jon Miller – a University of Hawai’i Professor

Kekoa Potter – a young resident of Kaka’ako, nephew of Peter Kalani

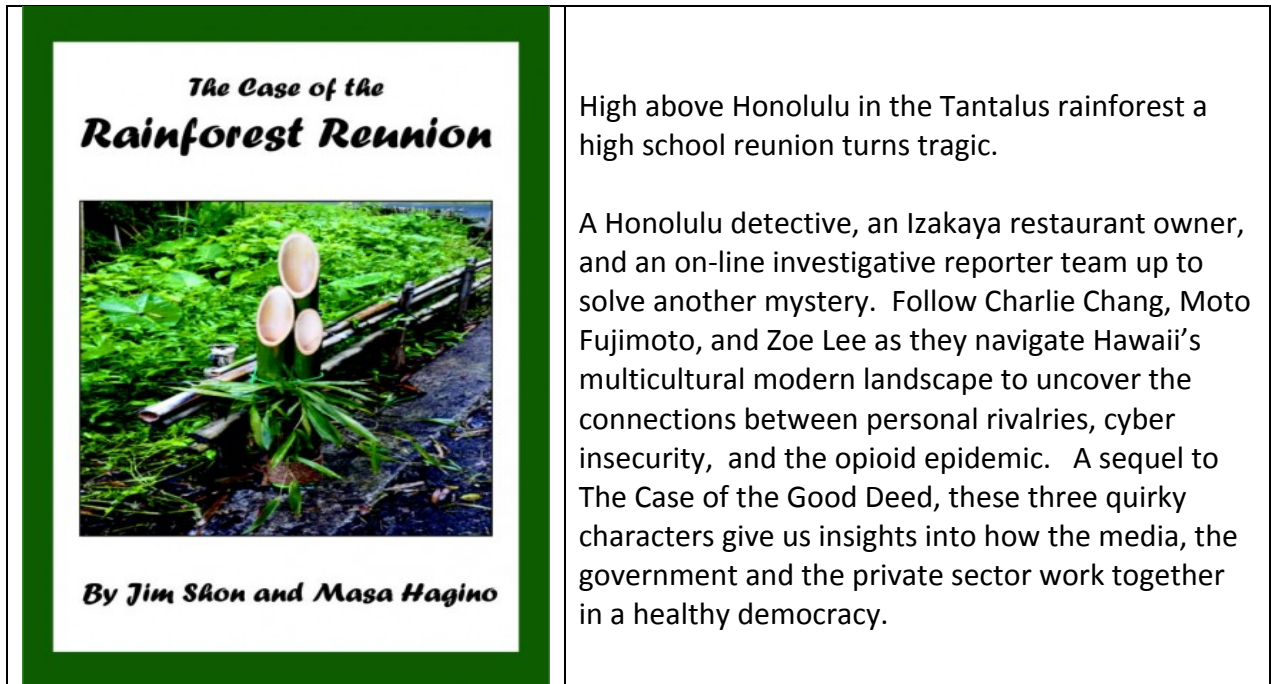
Leighton Thomas, Chief of Staff for the Kaka’ako Commission

Sally, the Cat Lady – someone who feeds stray cats in Kaka’ako

Robert Shilling – a developer Clare Song – the Head of a forensic investigation lab

Stan Takahashi – a Honolulu Police Detective

Understanding The Case of the Rainforest Reunion



<https://books.litfirepublishing.com/product/the-case-of-the-rainforest-reunion/>

MAIN CHARACTERS

Charlie C. Chang – a Honolulu Police Detective

Joe and Molly (Mai Tai) Davis – owners and managers of a small walk up apartment

Yoshiro “Moto” Fujimoto – a restaurant owner

Michael Furutani, Chair of the Police Commission, Businessman

Arthur Kido, Police Chief

Julie – a bar owner in Chinatown

Zoe Lee – a young reporter

Clare Song – the Head of a forensic investigation lab

Tako Bob – alias for a cybersecurity consultant

Senator Byron Wakayama – Representing the Makiki Tantalus district.

The Grover Cleveland High School Class of 94

Ben Flores – Unemployed ; Sabrina Matsumoto – Former Waikiki waitress

Sarah Taira – lives in Punchbowl condo; divorced, practices criminal law

Wendy Gushiken – lives in Manoa, is a chef at the Pacific Club, husband is a banker.

Maya Kai - lives in Waipahu, owns a small accounting firm, single.

Judy Conlin – single, lives in Helena Montana, runs outdoor adventure tours;

Gary Hoe – lives in Waianae; teaches math at Leeward Community College

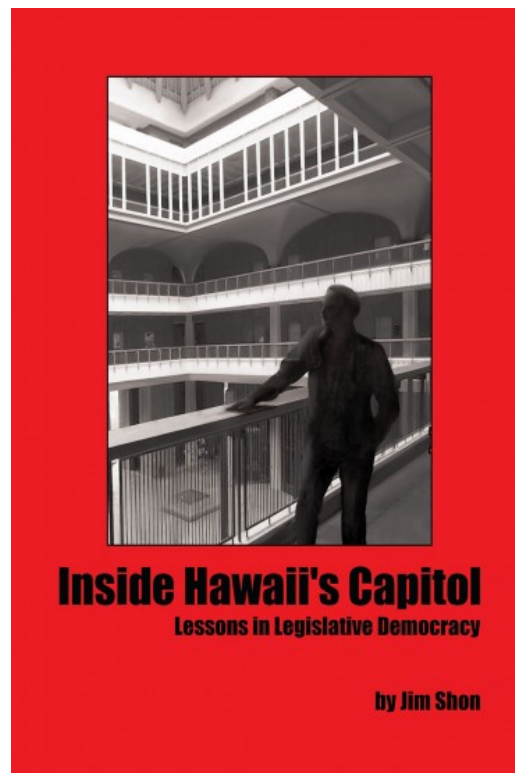
Reed Radcliff – lives in San Francisco; investment advisor for futures stocks

Shirley Garcia – lives in Kalihi; works as a physical therapist at the Rehab Hospital;
Eileen Kerrigan – lives in Syracuse, NY, manages IT systems at Lemoyne College
Will Kalaipoula - lives in Makiki, works for State Department of Land and Natural Resources,
Jake Kim – lives in Hawaii Kai, Pharmacist at HealthRite Drug Store;
Jarrett Tanji – Lives in Pearl City, Used car salesman; divorced.
Jason Menor – Lives in Los Angeles, plays soccer for the LA Galaxy.

Understanding Inside The Capitol

Nonfiction

<https://books.litfirepublishing.com/product/inside-hawaiis-capitol-lessons-in-legislative-democracy/>



Jim Shon’s book takes you inside the hopes, aspirations, triumphs, and failures of the legislative process. Having covered the legislature as a reporter, I was left thinking it was both better and worse than I remember it”.

Tom Coffman, author of *Catch a Wave* and *Nation Within*

Inside Hawaii's Capitol tells the tale of Jim Shon's twelve years as a member of the Hawaii State Legislature. Readers are encouraged to put themselves into the shoes of a legislator and to gain an appreciation for the strengths and weaknesses of today's representative form of democracy in general, and Hawaii's recent experience in particular.

Step back from the media hype and sound-bite rhetoric of today's politics to reflect on both the promises and the frustrations of the Capitol world and to understand how the "system" attempts to deal with complex problems that often seem beyond the modern legislature's grasp.

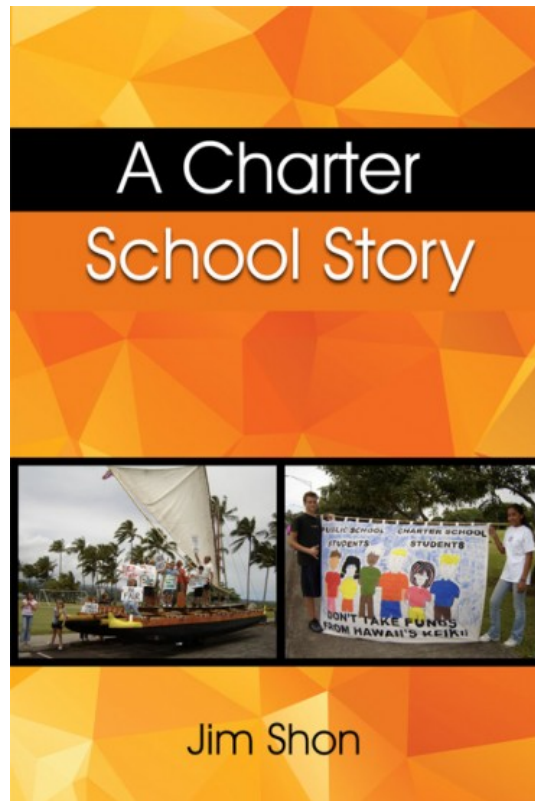
Most chapters include a number of lessons and personal conclusions about our democratic process. Readers are invited to ponder these, to agree or disagree, and to better understand how our community elects its representatives and gathers each year to make its laws.

This is not a "dirty laundry" book, nor the lofty memoirs of a powerful politician. It will not please those who take delight in trashing government or elected officials. Shon is a true believer in democracy, warts and all. *Inside Hawaii's Capitol* is admittedly the view of only one participant, but it can serve as a citizen's handbook for those who would appreciate insights into legislative life. It is also a rare insider case study, valuable for citizens and students of American politics.

Understanding A Charter School Story

Nonfiction

<https://books.litfirepublishing.com/product/a-charter-school-story/>



A Charter School Story describes the challenges and successes in Hawaii's efforts to create a charter school system. For two years Jim Shon was its chief administrator – charged not only with securing funding and amending Hawaii's laws, but also with explaining how charter schools are different, and why they deserve our full support. If you are wondering what the charter school movement is all about, and where charters fit in the reform of public education, Shon's chronicle of his stormy and controversial tenure is worth reading. If you are thinking of starting your own charter school, this book tells you what you are in for.