

## Research Your Idea

Have a great idea for an invention or product? Need to find out how to protect your intellectual property? Start with a patent or trademark search to see if someone already has IP rights for the same idea. You can conduct your preliminary search at the Hawaii State Library's Patent and Trademark Resource Center, located on the 2<sup>nd</sup> floor within the Federal Documents Section.

Walk-in, phone and e-mail assistance available.

**Hours:** Monday & Wednesday: 10 am–5 pm  
Tuesday, Friday & Saturday: 9 am–5 pm  
Thursday: 9 am–8 pm

## **Resources & Services at the Library**

- One computer dedicated to patent and trademark searching.
- Specialized reference services relating to patent, trademarks and copyright.
- Training on preliminary patent search.
- Intellectual property seminars on patents, trademarks and copyright topics.
- Free access to patent and trademark databases, including examiner-based patent search systems PubEAST and PubWEST.
- Collection of full-color plant patents in print.
- Collection of books on intellectual property

Read more about the Hawaii State Library PTRC: <http://www.librarieshawaii.org/how-do-i-get-federal-documents/patent-and-trademarks/>

# Learn Patent and Trademark Basics

Patent and Trademark  
Services  
at the Hawaii State Library  
Federal Documents Section



Hawaii State Library  
Federal Documents  
Section

2<sup>nd</sup> floor

478 South King St  
Honolulu, HI 96813



Tel: 808-586-3477

Email: [ohsfed@librarieshawaii.org](mailto:ohsfed@librarieshawaii.org)

Ask a Librarian:

<http://www.librarieshawaii.org/connect/staff/sk-a-librarian/>

# PTRC

Program

patent &  
trademark  
resource  
center

[www.uspto.gov/ptrc](http://www.uspto.gov/ptrc)

## What is a patent?

A patent is an intellectual property right granted to inventors by a country's government for a limited period of time to exclude others from making, using, offering for sale, selling or importing the invention.

### What can be patented?

An invention must be new, useful, and non-obvious to be patentable.

### Types of Patents

#### Utility Patent

Issued for the invention of process, machine, manufacture, or composition of matter, or an improvement thereof.

#### Plant Patent

Issued for a new and distinct variety of plant asexually reproduced, including cultivated sports, mutants, hybrids, and newly found seedlings other than tuber propagated plants or plants found in an uncultivated state.

#### Design Patent

Issued for a new, original, and ornamental design embodied in or applied to an article of manufacture.

### Learn more about patents

U.S. Patent and Trademark Office

<http://www.uspto.gov/patent>

### Patent Guidebook for Beginners

R 346.0486 Pr

Pressman, David. *Patent It Yourself*. Nolo, 2018.

## What is a trademark?

A trademark is a brand name used or intended to be used to identify and distinguish the goods and services of one seller or provider from those of others.

A trademark can be any word, name, symbol, device, or any combination. A trademark used to identify the source of a service rather than goods is called a service mark.

### Categories of Trademarks

There are five main categories of trademarks: fanciful, arbitrary, suggestive, descriptive and generic. The strength of your mark depends on the type of mark you chose. Descriptive marks are not federally registrable without proof of secondary meaning, or acquired distinctiveness. Generic or genericized marks such as 'laptop' or 'aspirin' are not registrable or enforceable.

### Examples of Trademarks



### Learn more about trademarks

Patent and Trademark Office

<http://www.uspto.gov/trademark>

### Trademark Guidebook for Beginners

R 346.0488 Fi

Fishman, Stephen, J.D. *Trademark: Legal Care for Your Business and Produce Name*. Nolo, 2016.

## Copyright basics

Copyright is a form of intellectual property right for original works of authorship fixed in a tangible medium of expression.

It protects literary, dramatic, musical, and artistic works, such as poetry, novels, movies, songs, computer software, and architecture. Copyright covers both published and unpublished works

### What is intellectual property?

Intellectual property (IP) refers to any creation of the mind, such as inventions; literary and artistic works; designs, symbols, names and images used in commerce.

### Learn more about copyright

U.S. Copyright Office

<https://copyright.gov/>

U.S. Copyright Office Circulars

<https://www.copyright.gov/circs/>

Copyright.gov FAQs: Registering a Work

<https://www.copyright.gov/help/faq/faq-register.html>

Copyright Search

U.S. Copyright Office

Visit <https://copyright.gov/>, find the *Resource* tab, and click *Search Copyright Records*.

Catalog of Copyright Entries

<https://onlinebooks.library.upenn.edu/cce/>

### Copyright Guidebook for Beginners

R 346.0482 Fi

Fishman, Stephen, J.D. *The Copyright Handbook: What Every Writer Needs to Know*. Nolo, 2017.