

JAN 22 2021

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the modern digital
2 world influences media content of news on current events,
3 thereby shaping the public's perception. Media literacy is a
4 necessary skill that allows all citizens to access, analyze, and
5 evaluate information using a variety of forms of communication.
6 At the same time, "digital citizens" must have the ability to
7 recognize and value the rights, responsibilities, and
8 opportunities of living, learning, and working in an
9 interconnected digital world in order to engage in safe, legal,
10 and ethical behaviors.

11 The legislature further finds that students from grades
12 kindergarten through twelve should be educated in media literacy
13 to obtain the skills and experiences needed to become full and
14 healthy participants in the digital world, including instruction
15 in understanding how media shapes perceptions, healthy or
16 unhealthy behaviors, and decision-making.



1 The legislature also finds that students use technology to
2 play, learn, and communicate at school and home and need to
3 learn how to use technology responsibly. Students must
4 understand how to use personal technology in ways that are safe
5 and healthy, and that augment their learning experience, which
6 is necessary to analyze and evaluate information transmitted by
7 media.

8 The legislature further finds that instruction in media
9 literacy should be incorporated into every classroom and every
10 curriculum content area to prepare students to live and work in
11 a digital world. Teachers have an obligation to guide students'
12 exploration of the digital landscape and encourage them to be
13 critical thinkers.

14 The purpose of this Act is to require the department of
15 education to develop a plan to implement curricula for digital
16 citizenship and media literacy based on recommendations and
17 strategies provided by an advisory committee.

18 SECTION 2. (a) The department of education shall convene
19 an advisory committee to make recommendations for purposes of
20 developing the plan under subsection (c). The advisory
21 committee shall include:



1 (1) Experts in media literacy, including but not limited
2 to academic experts and non-profit organizations;
3 and

4 (2) Other stakeholders, including but not limited to
5 teachers, librarians, parent organizations,
6 administrators and students; provided that the
7 stakeholders pursuant to this paragraph reflect
8 regional representation, including rural areas.

9 (b) The advisory committee shall submit a report of its
10 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
11 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
12 to the convening of the regular session of 2022. The report
13 shall include:

14 (1) The timeline for implementing instruction in digital
15 citizenship and media literacy for grades kindergarten
16 through twelve; and

17 (2) Recommendations that include but are not limited to:

18 (A) Best practices, resources, and models for grade-
19 appropriate instruction in critical thinking
20 skills relating to the consumption and production
21 of all media, digital citizenship, and internet



1 safety; provided that the recommendations shall
2 comply with federal E-rate programs and the
3 federal Children's Internet Protection Act;

4 (B) Guidelines for teaching students how to identify
5 legitimate sources of information and sources
6 that represent a range of positions or opinions;

7 (C) Strategies that will support the department of
8 education in the implementation of the best
9 practices identified in paragraph (1), including
10 strategies for delivering professional
11 development to educators and administrators;

12 (D) Any revisions, if necessary, to state education
13 standards and any state instructional technology
14 plan; and to policies and procedures on media
15 literacy, including digital citizenship and
16 internet safety; and

17 (E) Any other matters, including proposed
18 legislation, deemed relevant by the advisory
19 committee.

20 (c) The department of education shall develop a plan to
21 establish and implement instruction in media literacy, in grades



1 kindergarten through twelve in public schools, including charter
2 schools and Hawaiian language immersion schools, taking into
3 consideration the report submitted pursuant to subsection (b).

4 (d) Following the submission of the report submitted
5 pursuant to subsection (b), the department of education shall
6 annually submit to the legislature, no later than twenty days
7 prior to the convening of each regular session, a report of its
8 updated findings and recommendations, including the current
9 status of implementing the media literacy curricula as described
10 in subsection (b).

11 (e) For purposes of this section:

12 "Digital citizenship" means knowledge and skills necessary
13 for consumption of media, digital products, current technology,
14 and social media, including appropriate, responsible, and
15 healthy behavior, as well as cyberbullying prevention.

16 "Media literacy" means the ability to access, analyze,
17 evaluate, develop, produce, and interpret media, including the
18 thoughtful, safe, and strategic uses of online and other media
19 resources.

20



S.B. NO. 362

1 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

2

INTRODUCED BY:





S.B. NO. 362

Report Title:

Department of Education; Digital Citizenship; Media Literacy

Description:

Requires the Department of Education to convene an advisory committee to make recommendations on the best practices for purposes of developing and implementing a plan to teach digital citizenship and media literacy in grades kindergarten through twelve in public schools, including charter schools and Hawaiian language immersion schools. Requires the Department of Education to develop the plan based on recommendations. Requires updated annual reports to the Legislature.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

