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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DIGITAL LITERACY.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, according to a 2015  
2 report by the Association of Library Service to Children,  
3 library services increasingly center on digital tools and media.  
4 In 2015, seventy-five per cent of households owned some form of  
5 digital media device. However, guidance and knowledge on the  
6 use of digital media are often lacking. Providing parents and  
7 children with a deeper understanding of the digital tools  
8 available to them is essential to the well-being of families in  
9 the twenty-first century.

10       The legislature further finds that digital literacy skills  
11 are crucial for career success in the twenty-first century.  
12 According to a Brookings Institution report from 2017,  
13 workplaces across the country and globe have undergone a rapid  
14 process of digitization. The percentage of workplaces with high  
15 levels of digital content has grown dramatically in recent  
16 years, while the percentage of workplaces that rely on a lower  
17 level of digital content has decreased by a similarly dramatic  
18 margin. While digitization offers advantages to digitally



1 literate individuals, it also increases barriers for members of  
2 the public who lack digital skills. Increasing digital literacy  
3 among members of the public would increase their competitiveness  
4 in an economy increasingly defined by the ability to use digital  
5 tools.

6 The purpose of this Act is to increase access to digital  
7 tools and promote digital literacy by establishing a digital  
8 literacy program to be administered by the board of education  
9 through the state librarian.

10 SECTION 2. Chapter 312, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
11 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
12 and to read as follows:

13 "§312- Digital literacy program. (a) The board of  
14 education, through the state librarian, shall:

15 (1) Provide for the establishment and ongoing operation of  
16 a digital literacy program for the public libraries in  
17 the State; and

18 (2) Provide coordination and facilitation of the  
19 activities of digital literacy service providers and  
20 digital literacy programs in the public, private, and  
21 volunteer sectors.



1        (b) The objectives of the digital literacy program shall  
2 be to provide programmatic activities promoting digital learning  
3 in the community by providing digital skill building  
4 opportunities that aim to improve:

5        (1) Knowledge and skills in digital literacy;

6        (2) Knowledge and skills in the use of digital education  
7 tools and platforms; and

8        (3) Knowledge, skills, and the use of digital education  
9 tools and platforms to make digital technology

10 accessible to individuals with disabilities.

11        (c) The digital literacy program shall not affect existing  
12 department of education programs relating to adult education as  
13 provided under sections 302A-432 to 302A-435."

14        SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$75,000 or so much  
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the  
17 establishment and administration of the digital literacy program  
18 established by this Act.

19        The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii state  
20 public library system for the purposes of this Act.

21        SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.



**Report Title:**

Digital Literacy; Libraries; Board of Education; State Librarian; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes a digital literacy program to be overseen by the Board of Education and implemented by the state librarian to promote digital literacy through programmatic activities, including making digital technology accessible to individuals with disabilities. Appropriates funds. (CD1)

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