STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96804

Date: 02/14/2023
Time: 02:15 PM
Location: 309 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Committee: House Education

Department:	Education
Person Testifying:	Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education
Title of Bill:	HB 0079 RELATING TO MEDIA LITERACY.
Purpose of Bill:	Authorizes school complexes to incorporate media literacy in its standards-based curriculum, including content that prevents negative impacts of misinformation, disinformation, digital discrimination, and online hate speech.

Department's Position:

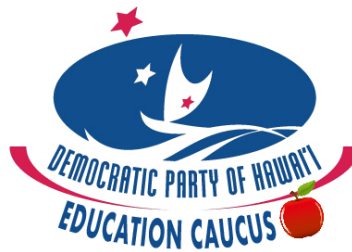The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) offers comments on HB 0079.

The Department recognizes it is imperative for all students to be educated in media literacy and digital citizenship to prepare them with the skills and knowledge to successfully navigate the digital world.

The Department has collaborated with internal and external stakeholders to create a strategic multi-year computer science action plan focused on advancing innovative outcomes and learning experiences for all students. This action plan includes the delivery of high-quality standards-based computer science instruction and learning opportunities for all grade levels. The K-12 computer science standards consist of five (5) core concepts that include media literacy and digital citizenship-related topics (such as internet safety, digital footprint, news and media literacy, and cyberbullying).

In alignment with Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii (SLH) 2018 and Act 158, SLH 2021, each of the Department's fifteen (15) complex area computer science teams are developing their respective implementation plans that define learning pathways for students to develop foundational computer science skills at the elementary level and

scaffold them into progressively more advanced learning opportunities at the middle and high school levels. In addition to core computer science courses, the Department is collaborating with other content areas to create "integrated computer science" learning experiences that incorporate media literacy and digital citizenship concepts.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on HB 79.

HOUSE BILL 79, RELATING TO MEDIA LITERACY

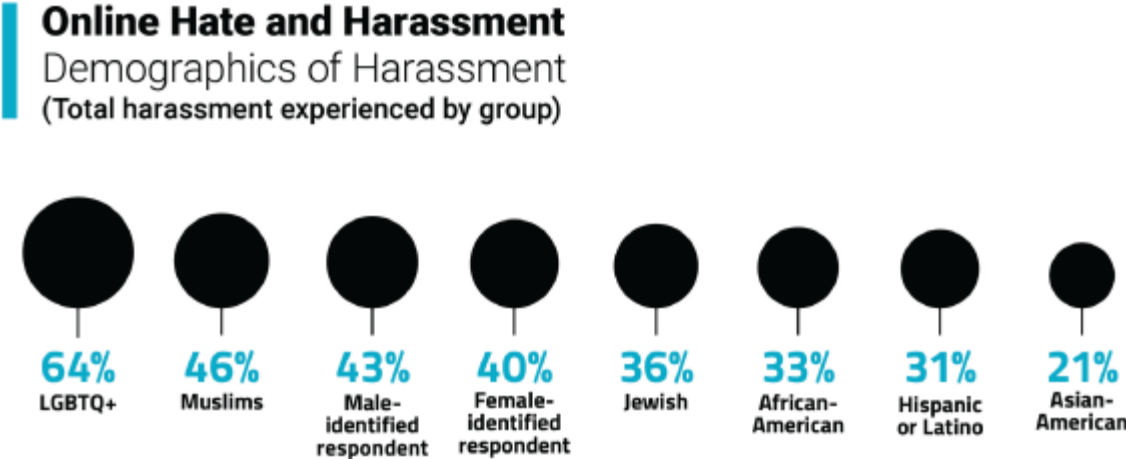FEBRUARY 14, 2023 · HOUSE EDUCATION COMMITTEE · CHAIR REP. JUSTIN H. WOODSON

POSITION: Support.

RATIONALE: The Democratic Party of Hawai'i Education Caucus **supports** HB 79, relating to media literacy, which authorizes school complexes to incorporate media literacy in its standards-based curriculum, including content that prevents negative impacts of misinformation, disinformation, digital discrimination, and online hate speech.

Today, global democracy is endangered by xenophobic authoritarians that seek to suppress the rights and perspectives of marginalized people. As the January 6th hearings in the U.S. have shown, ahistorical claims to power have devastating consequences. White nationalists have been revealed as central to the riots that took place on that day, which were intended to subvert democracy and sustain a political regime that disregarded the basic rights of immigrants and refugees, repealed legal protections for racial and gender minorities, and systematically disenfranchised people of color.

During the Trump Administration's tenure in the Oval Office, hate crimes in the U.S. surged by nearly 20 percent. Even after the 2020 election, extremist aggression continued, culminating in the January 6th insurrection. Just over two months later, on March 19, 2021, a 21-year-old man engaged in a shooting spree in Atlanta, Georgia, leaving eight women–including six of Asian

Kris Coffield, Chair · Mitzie Higa, Vice Chair · Amy Perruso, Female SCC Representative · Justin Hughey, Male SCC Representative

ancestry–dead and sparking worldwide protests against anti-Asian violence. Racial violence is often coordinated in cyberspace, through secretive online web forums and, increasingly, on social media websites that have become platforms for the perpetuation of political resentment and the reproduction of social inequality.

Online Hate and Harassment
Demographics of Harassment
(Total harassment experienced by group)

64%	46%	43%	40%	36%	33%	31%	21%
LGBTQ+	Muslims	Male-identified respondent	Female-identified respondent	Jewish	African-American	Hispanic or Latino	Asian-American

Source: Anti-Defamation League, *Online Hate and Harassment: The American Experience 2021*

These issues are not just matters of global or national concern. They are also issues that we must contend with locally, as misinformation spreads throughout the Hawaiian Islands. During the COVID-19 pandemic, misinformation about vaccines undermined our state's effort to protect public health. Similarly, prejudicial outbursts have precipitated violence on our shores and a lack of faith in basic civic institutions.

Therefore, we have a responsibility to empower our keiki with the skills necessary to overcome misinformation and online hate speech, so that they don't succumb to the vitriol that is tearing apart the fabric of the U.S. It is essential that we authorize schools and school complex areas to develop educational curricula and digital interventions that address the articulation of discrimination and falsehoods in cyberspace.

When she spoke on Inauguration Day just two weeks after the January 6th attacks, Amanda Gorman was right: even as we grieve, we grow; even as we hurt, we hope; even when we're tired, we keep trying because we're forever tied together. It is in that spirit that we support all efforts to enable our youth to reclaim digital space as a safe space for communal collaboration, rather than violent confrontation.

Kris Coffield · Chairperson, DPH Education Caucus · (808) 679-7454 · kriscoffield@gmail.com

![CCIA logo] **Computer & Communications Industry Association** — Open Markets. Open Systems. Open Networks.

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February 14, 2023

House Committee on Education
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania St
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: HB 79 - "RELATING TO MEDIA LITERACY." (Support)

Dear Chair Woodson and Members of the House Committee on Education:

On behalf of the Computer & Communications Industry Association (CCIA), I write to support HB 79.

CCIA is a 50-year-old not-for-profit international tech trade association that advocates for policy and market conditions that benefit innovation, the tech sector, and consumers.[1] We strongly believe children deserve an enhanced level of security and privacy online. Currently, there are a number of efforts among our members to incorporate protective design features into their websites and platforms.[2] CCIA's members have been leading the effort in raising the standard for teen safety and privacy across the tech industry by creating new features, settings, parental tools, and protections that are age-appropriate and tailored to the differing developmental needs of young people.

Given the complexity of tackling this critical issue, existing industry efforts to support child safety and privacy online could be bolstered by educational curricula focused on how to be a good citizen online. Offering such education to children would provide a more holistic approach to fostering children's online safety. Specifically, we laud the efforts to include a curriculum that "prevents the negative impacts of misinformation, disinformation, digital discrimination, and online hate speech." Enabling educators to teach young people how to operate and respond in appropriate ways would promote safer online habits and may serve as a deterrent to engaging in negative online behaviors such as cyberbullying or voluntarily giving away personally identifiable information.[3]

Online services, both for personal and educational purposes, are part of everyday life for many young people. The Child Mind Institute, which develops and provides educators and school-based mental health professionals with evidence-based prevention and intervention training programs for schools K-12, has expressed that it is possible that removing access to

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[1] For over 50 years, CCIA has promoted open markets, open systems, and open networks. CCIA members employ more than 1.6 million workers, invest more than $100 billion in research and development, and contribute trillions of dollars in productivity to the global economy. A list of CCIA members is available at https://www.ccianet.org/members.

[2] Jordan Rodell, *Why Implementing Education is a Logical Starting Point for Children's Safety Online*, Disruptive Competition Project (Feb. 7, 2023). https://www.project-disco.org/privacy/020723-why-implementing-education-is-a-logical-starting-point-for-childrens-safety-online/.

[3] *See, e.g.,* New Jersey's recently passed law signed by Governor Phil Murphy (D) on January 4, 2023. Press Release, Phil Murphy, N.J. Governor, Governor Murphy Signs Bipartisan Legislation Establishing First in the Nation K-12 Information Literacy Education (Jan. 4, 2023), https://www.nj.gov/governor/news/news/562022/20230104b.shtml.

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social media and the internet from children may actually have adverse effects.[4] Alternatively, many experts recommend that parents help young people learn self-regulation skills and proper online behavior similar to teaching them self-regulation when it comes to other personal habits and choices.

The connected nature of social media has also led some to claim that online services may be negatively impacting teenagers' mental health. However, researchers argue that this theory is not well supported by existing evidence and repeats a "moral panic" argument frequently associated with new technologies and new modes of communication. Instead, social media effects are nuanced,[5] small at best, reciprocal over time, and gender-specific. Pew Research Center found that teens themselves also paint a nuanced picture of the effects of social media. It is one in which majorities credit these platforms[6] with deepening connections and providing a support network when they need it. In Pew's recent survey, 80% of teens say that what they see on social media makes them feel more connected to what's going on in their friends' lives, and 71% say it makes them feel like they have a place where they can show their creative side. Additionally, 67% also say these platforms make them feel as if they have people who can support them through tough times.

Due to many of the positive impacts social media and online services as a whole have had on connecting with loved ones, education, resources, and much more, it is imperative to educate young people on how to appropriately and effectively navigate these spaces to further facilitate these positive outcomes from internet use while also giving them the tools to protect themselves when negative occurrences arise.

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We appreciate the Committee's consideration of these comments and stand ready to provide additional information as the Legislature considers proposals related to technology policy.

Sincerely,

Jordan Rodell
State Policy Manager
Computer & Communications Industry Association

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[4] JoJo Marshall, *When should you come between a teenager and their phone?*, Child Mind Institute (Dec. 19, 2022), https://childmind.org/article/when-should-you-come-between-a-teenager-and-her-phone/#what-happens-when-you-confiscate-that-phone

[5] Amy Orben *et al.*, *Social Media's enduring effect on adolescent life satisfaction*, PNAS (May 6, 2019), https://www.pnas.org/doi/10.1073/pnas.1902058116.

[6] Monica Anderson *et al.*, *Connection, creativity and drama: Teen life on social media in 2022,* Pew Research Center: Internet, Science & Tech (Nov. 17, 2022), https://www.pewresearch.org/internet/2022/11/16/connection-creativity-and-drama-teen-life-on-social-media-in-2022/.

Hawai'i State Youth Commission

House Committee on Education
Tuesday, February 14, 2023, at 2:15 PM
Via Videoconference in Conference Room 309, State Capitol

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 79: RELATING TO MEDIA LITERACY

Aloha Chair Woodson, Vice-Chair Marten, and members of the committee!

The Hawai'i State Youth Commission (HiYC) was established to "advise the governor and legislature on the effects of legislative policies, needs, assessments, priorities, programs, and budgets concerning the youth of the state." We are writing in **strong support** of HB 79.

This bill authorizes school complexes to incorporate media literacy in its standards-based curriculum, including content that prevents negative impacts of misinformation, disinformation, digital discrimination, and online hate speech. We believe that Hawai'i students deserve to have their education prioritized and valued. Please support this measure.

Media literacy is defined as the ability to access and analyze media messages, while also creating, reflecting, and using the power of information and communication for a purpose. Authorizing schools to incorporate media literacy into its curriculum allows students to develop the skills required for the technological environment that they are currently living and growing up in. Additionally, through this bill, students will be trained to filter out misinformation, disinformation, digital discrimination, and online hate speech, which contributes both to the education and mental health of youth. **Ensuring that youth are equipped with these capabilities promotes a robust curriculum that is needed for the state's keiki.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 79.

Hawai'i State Youth Commission
hawaiistateyc@gmail.com

HB-79
Submitted on: 2/10/2023 7:01:09 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/14/2023 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Andrew Crossland	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I oppose this Bill.

HB-79
Submitted on: 2/12/2023 2:03:32 PM
Testimony for EDN on 2/14/2023 2:15:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this meaure. As a media and communications professional, I see the impact of misinformation and propaganda every day. It is essential to any democracy that information be free and accessible, but it is also essential that citizens be able to think critically about that information and have the skills necessary to discern sources and biases in information. This skill is only going to become more and more important in the information age. Please support HB79.