HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2024 STATE OF HAWAII

H.C.R. NO. 74

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DECLARING DISINFORMATION AND DIGITAL HATE SPEECH AS THREATS TO DEMOCRACY AND URGING DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES TO ADDRESS THESE THREATS.

1 2	WHEREAS, disinformation and digital hate speech are pervasive threats to modern society; and
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4	WHEREAS, a 2018 report published by Statista found that
5	sixty-four percent of teenagers in the United States have
6	encountered hate speech on social media; and
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8	WHEREAS, disinformation and digital hate speech have been
9	linked to acts of violence, including mass shootings at a church
10	in Charleston, North Carolina, and a synagogue in Pittsburgh,
11	Pennsylvania; and
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13	WHEREAS, just under half of the deaths caused by right-wing
14	incidents were committed by people who showed support for white
15	supremacy; and
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17	WHEREAS, in a June 2019 report entitled Hate Speech on
18	Social Media: Global Comparisons, the Council on Foreign
19	Relations noted that digital hate speech has been linked to a
20	global increase in violence toward minorities; and
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22	WHEREAS, the same study found that policies used to curb
23	digital hate speech are often inconsistently enforced by social
24	media companies; and
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26	WHEREAS, from 2015 to 2020, the use of websites and social
27	media by right-wing extremists rose in five of the six years;
28	and
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1 WHEREAS, disinformation and digital hate speech have also 2 been linked to the insurrection that occurred at the United States Capitol on January 6, 2021; and 3 4 5 WHEREAS, a 2021 Washington Post investigation found that right-wing extremists have been involved in two hundred sixty-6 seven plots or attacks in the United States since 2015, 7 resulting in ninety-one fatalities; and 8 9 10 WHEREAS, to safeguard the vital functions of democracy and 11 public service, the State has an obligation to protect government institutions, public officials, and public employees 12 from threats of violent extremism that are organized online; 13 14 now, therefore, 15 16 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the 17 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that this body declares 18 19 disinformation and digital hate speech as threats to democracy 20 and urges all state departments and agencies to address these 21 threats; and 22 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all State departments and agencies are urged to address disinformation and digital hate 24 speech by: 25 26 27 Developing public safety plans to protect public (1)28 institutions and employees from threats of violence 29 that are organized online; 30 (2) 31 Increasing access to media literacy and training in 32 how to effectively identify and respond to 33 disinformation and digital hate speech; 34 35 (3) Establishing trauma-informed protocols to assist those who are targeted and harmed by disinformation and 36 37 digital hate speech; and 38 39 (4) Making any necessary amendments to rules and policies to address disinformation and hate speech; and 40 41

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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this 2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor: Comptroller; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; Attorney 3 4 General; Director of Finance; Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Director of Commerce and Consumer 5 Affairs; Director of Corrections and Rehabilitation; Adjutant 6 7 General; Chairperson of the Board of Education; Superintendent of Education; Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission; 8 Director of Health; Director of Human Resources Development; 9 10 Director of Human Services; Director of Labor and Industrial 11 Relations; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural 12 Resources; Director of Law Enforcement; Director of Taxation; 13 Director of Transportation; President of the University of Hawaii System; and Chief Information Officer of the Office of 14 Enterprise Technology Services. 15 16

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OFFERED BY:

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