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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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

1           WHEREAS, disinformation and digital hate speech are  
2 pervasive threats to modern society; and  
3

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  
29

30           WHEREAS, disinformation and digital hate speech have also  
31 been linked to the insurrection that occurred at the United  
32 States Capitol on January 6, 2021; and



# H.R. NO. 23

1  
2 WHEREAS, a 2021 Washington Post investigation found that  
3 right-wing extremists have been involved in two hundred sixty-  
4 seven plots or attacks in the United States since 2015,  
5 resulting in ninety-one fatalities; and  
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7 WHEREAS, to safeguard the vital functions of democracy and  
8 public service, the State has an obligation to protect  
9 government institutions, public officials, and public employees  
10 from threats of violent extremism that are organized online;  
11 now, therefore,  
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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
14 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
15 Session of 2024, that this body declares disinformation and  
16 digital hate speech as threats to democracy and urges all state  
17 departments and agencies to address these threats; and  
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all State departments and  
20 agencies are urged to address disinformation and digital hate  
21 speech by:  
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- 23 (1) Developing public safety plans to protect public  
24 institutions and employees from threats of violence  
25 that are organized online;  
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- 27 (2) Increasing access to media literacy and training in  
28 how to effectively identify and respond to  
29 disinformation and digital hate speech;  
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- 31 (3) Establishing trauma-informed protocols to assist those  
32 who are targeted and harmed by disinformation and  
33 digital hate speech; and  
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- 35 (4) Making any necessary amendments to rules and policies  
36 to address disinformation and hate speech; and  
37

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
39 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Comptroller;  
40 Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; Attorney General;  
41 Director of Finance; Director of Business, Economic Development,  
42 and Tourism; Director of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; Director

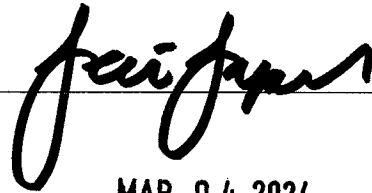


# H.R. NO. 23

1 of Corrections and Rehabilitation; Adjutant General; Chairperson  
2 of the Board of Education; Superintendent of Education;  
3 Chairperson of the Hawaiian Homes Commission; Director of  
4 Health; Director of Human Resources Development; Director of  
5 Human Services; Director of Labor and Industrial Relations;  
6 Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Director  
7 of Law Enforcement; Director of Taxation; Director of  
8 Transportation; President of the University of Hawaii System;  
9 and Chief Information Officer of the Office of Enterprise  
10 Technology Services.

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OFFERED BY:



MAR 04 2024

