## JAN 3 1 2025

## SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO AMEND ITS TECHNOLOGY MONITORING POLICIES AND GUIDELINES TO INCLUDE MONITORING THAT BLOCKS STUDENTS FROM RECEIVING INAPPROPRIATE MESSAGES AND ACCESSING HARMFUL MATERIAL.

WHEREAS, in July 2016, the Department of Education issued the most recent "Technology Responsible Use Guidelines (for digital devices, network, and internet services owned and leased by the Hawaii State Department of Education for its students)"; and

WHEREAS, the guidelines section entitled "Monitoring for student safety" is almost completely unrelated to the safety of the students being monitored and states:

Monitoring for student safety

Devices and accounts accessing HIDOE Internet and Networks are the property of HIDOE. HIDOE monitors and reserves the right to monitor all such devices, networks, and internet activities by students. Students shall have no expectation of privacy in their use of HIDOE-owned digital devices, network, and internet services, including email and stored files. HIDOE at its discretion will alert appropriate law enforcement authorities of suspected illegal activity involving the use of the digital devices and network and internet services, and it is not required to obtain student or parent consent for such reporting. HIDOE reserves the right to review and remove any student's files and records used on HIDOE devices and accounts to maintain the integrity of the network, to repair a HIDOE digital device, investigate a violation of these guidelines, and to ensure that the digital device is being used responsibly.

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WHEREAS, it appears that the intent of the "Monitoring for student safety" and the guidelines is to protect the department from liability and prevent harm to the network and equipment; and

WHEREAS, the guidelines do not contain any monitoring provisions for the protection of students, especially at-risk and other youth vulnerable to neglect, abuse, violence, substance abuse, suicide, sex trafficking, and other sexual exploitation; and

WHEREAS, students, including special needs students, using social media, Google Classroom, and email have received inappropriate messages through their school accounts and department devices; and

WHEREAS, forty-six percent of teens ages thirteen to seventeen have been victims of cyberbullying; and

WHEREAS, in the United States, nearly forty percent of sex trafficking victims are recruited online through employment portals and social networking websites; and

 WHEREAS, the Department of Education's technology guidelines should include monitoring that protects students, with an emphasis on protecting at-risk, special needs, and other vulnerable students, by preventing inappropriate messages that harm students and intervening when students encounter information that could lead to harm; now, therefore,

 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, that the Department of Education is requested to amend its technology monitoring policies and guidelines to include monitoring that blocks students from receiving inappropriate messages and accessing harmful material; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Education and the Superintendent of Education.

OFFERED BY: