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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the people of the  
2 State of Hawaii possess a fundamental constitutional right to  
3 privacy, safety, and personal dignity, and that the State  
4 has a compelling interest in protecting the well-being,  
5 education, and development of its children. Schools exist not  
6 only to impart academic knowledge, but to prepare students to  
7 participate safely, critically, and responsibly in an  
8 increasingly complex digital society. Currently, Hawaii is one  
9 of only six states in the nation with no statewide law or  
10 guidance limiting the use of phones and other electronic devices  
11 in school.

12       The legislature further finds that the pervasive presence  
13 of cell phones, social media platforms, and artificial  
14 intelligence-driven content in schools has fundamentally altered  
15 the learning environment. Students are routinely exposed often  
16 without meaningful choice or understanding to systems



1 deliberately designed to capture attention, manipulate behavior,  
2 and maximize engagement at the expense of focus, mental health,  
3 and academic achievement.

4 Recent advances in artificial intelligence have  
5 dramatically intensified these risks. AI-generated images,  
6 videos, audio, and text—commonly referred to as synthetic  
7 media, deepfakes, or “AI slop”—are now capable of convincingly  
8 imitating real people, events, and communications. These tools  
9 are increasingly used to spread misinformation, fabricate images  
10 and videos, impersonate others, harass classmates, exploit  
11 minors, and undermine trust in what students see and hear. The  
12 legislature finds that young people are particularly vulnerable  
13 to these harms, as they are still developing the cognitive  
14 skills necessary to distinguish reality from fabrication and  
15 truth from manipulation.

16 The legislature further finds that excessive access to cell  
17 phones and social media during the instructional day fragments  
18 attention, disrupts classroom learning, and diverts  
19 teachers’ time away from instruction and toward constant  
20 enforcement and redirection. Educators across the nation  
21 overwhelmingly report that unrestricted device use interferes



1 with learning, exacerbates anxiety and depression, and  
2 contributes to declining academic performance.

3 At the same time, the legislature recognizes that simply  
4 restricting technology without education is insufficient.  
5 Students must be equipped with the skills to critically evaluate  
6 digital content, understand how artificial intelligence systems  
7 and social media platforms influence behavior, recognize the  
8 risks of manipulated or false content, and protect themselves  
9 and others from online harms such as cyberbullying,  
10 impersonation, fraud, predatory behavior, and exploitation.

11 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 12 (1) Develop an electronic telecommunication device ban in  
13 schools across the State;  
14 (2) Provide students with age-appropriate education in  
15 social media and artificial intelligence literacy; and  
16 (3) Require the DOE to conduct a review and report on the  
17 effectiveness of the ban and social media and  
18 artificial intelligence literacy education.

19 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
21 and to read as follows:



1        "§302A-        Electronic telecommunication device use.        (a)

2        Effective beginning with the 2026-2027 school year and  
3        thereafter, no student, shall use or operate any electronic  
4        telecommunication device, including any mobile telephone  
5        service, during instructional hours, whether on campus or off-  
6        campus unless for a school related activity.

7        (b) Effective beginning with the 2026-2027 school year and  
8        thereafter, and subject to the exceptions herein, no student  
9        shall use an electronic telecommunication device throughout the  
10       instructional day. If a student brings an electronic  
11       telecommunication device in any public school building or on the  
12       grounds thereof during an instructional day, the electronic  
13       telecommunication device shall either be turned off and properly  
14       stowed away for the duration of the instructional day or  
15       prohibited from being turned on and used during the  
16       instructional day.

17       (c) The provisions of this section do not apply to a  
18       student whose individualized education program, individualized  
19       accommodation plan, section 504 plan, or individualized health  
20       plan requires the student's use of an electronic  
21       telecommunication device, or when a student is expressly



1 authorized by a teacher to use their electronic  
2 telecommunication device for instructional purposes.

3 (d) The provisions of this section shall not apply when it  
4 is necessary to use an electronic telecommunication device to  
5 respond to an emergency situation.

6 (e) The department shall adopt rules under chapter 91 to  
7 carry out the purposes of this section.

8 For the purpose this section:

9 "Electronic telecommunication device" means any electronic  
10 device that can connect to the internet or other devices, but  
11 shall not include department approved and issued devices."

12 SECTION 3. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
13 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
14 and to read as follows:

15 **"§302A- Social media and artificial intelligence**  
16 **literacy education.** (a) The department shall develop and  
17 administer a comprehensive age-appropriate and developmentally  
18 appropriate K-12 social media and artificial intelligence  
19 literacy education curriculum.

20 (b) The curriculum shall include the social, emotional,  
21 and physical effects of social media and consider the following:



- 1        (1) The negative effects of social media on mental health,  
2        including addiction, anxiety, depression, and reduced  
3        attention and concentration;
- 4        (2) The design of social media platforms and artificial  
5        intelligence systems to influence user behavior,  
6        including engagement optimization, recommendation  
7        algorithms, and persuasive design techniques;
- 8        (3) The creation, use, and dissemination of artificial  
9        intelligence-generated content, including synthetic  
10       images, videos, audio, text, and other AI-generated  
11       media, sometimes referred to as "deepfakes" or "AI  
12       slop";
- 13       (4) The risks associated with artificial intelligence-  
14       generated content, including misinformation,  
15       disinformation, impersonation, fraud, harassment, and  
16       reputational harm;
- 17       (5) Strategies to critically evaluate digital content and  
18       to identify indicators that content may be  
19       artificially generated or manipulated, including but  
20       not limited to visual inconsistencies, audio  
21       irregularities, contextual anomalies, source



1 verification, and corroboration across reliable  
2 sources;

3 (6) The limitations of artificial intelligence detection  
4 tools and the importance of skepticism, media  
5 literacy, and critical thinking when evaluating  
6 digital information;

7 (7) The permanency and downstream consequences of sharing  
8 content online including artificial intelligence-  
9 generated content;

10 (8) Best practices for maintaining personal security and  
11 privacy online, including the protection of personal  
12 data, biometric information, and digital identity;

13 (9) The identification of cyberbullying, impersonation,  
14 predatory behavior, human trafficking, and other  
15 online harms that may be facilitated or amplified  
16 through social media or artificial intelligence  
17 technologies; and

18 (10) How and where to report suspicious, harmful, or  
19 deceptive online content or behavior.

20 (c) The curriculum shall emphasize critical thinking,  
21 digital citizenship, and informed decision-making, and shall be



1 updated periodically to reflect technological developments and  
2 emerging risks.

3 (d) The department shall make available online the  
4 instructional material being used pursuant to this section, and  
5 each school shall notify parents or guardians of availability of  
6 such materials."

7 SECTION 4. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
8 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
9 and to read as follows:

10 "§302A- Review and Report. (a) The department shall  
11 periodically reassess the effectiveness of the electronic  
12 telecommunication device use restrictions and the social media  
13 and artificial intelligence literacy education implemented  
14 pursuant to section 302A- .

15 (b) The reassessment shall evaluate, to the extent  
16 practicable:

17 (1) The impact of the electronic telecommunication device  
18 restrictions on classroom instructions, student  
19 engagement, and academic outcomes;

20 (2) The effectiveness of the social media and artificial  
21 intelligence literacy curriculum in improving





1 students' understanding of digital risks, critical  
2 thinking skills, and online safety;

3 (3) Implementation challenges, enforcement issues, and  
4 unintended consequences;

5 (4) Feedback from teachers, administrators, students, and  
6 parents; and

7 (5) Whether changes in technology, student behavior, or  
8 educational best practices warrant modifications to  
9 the restrictions or curriculum.

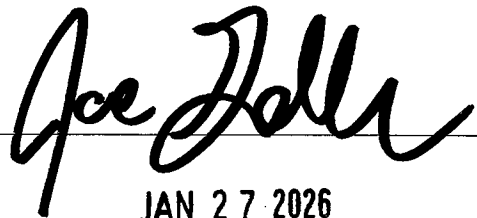
10 (c) No later than three years after the effective date of  
11 this Act, and every five years thereafter, the department shall  
12 submit a written report of its findings and recommendations,  
13 including any proposed statutory or administrative changes, to  
14 the legislature and made available to the public.

15 (d) The department shall adopt rules under chapter 91 to  
16 carry out the purposes of this section."

17 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

19 INTRODUCED BY:

  
JAN 27 2026



# H.B. NO. 2466

**Report Title:**

DOE; Cell Phone Use; Social Media Education; Artificial Intelligence Literacy; Public Schools

**Description:**

Requires the department of education to prohibit electronic telecommunication device usage during the instructional day and implement a social media and artificial intelligence literacy education campaign. Creates exemptions for students requiring accommodations, emergency situations, and teacher authorizations. Requires the department of education to submit a report three years after the initial effective date, and then every five years thereafter.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

