

Honolulu, Hawaii

, 2026

FEB 20

RE: H.B. No. 1782

H.D. 2

Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2026
State of Hawaii

Madame:

Your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, to which was referred H.B. No. 1782, H.D. 1, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE FOR THE PROTECTION OF MINORS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to establish safeguards, protections, oversight, and penalties for interactions between minors and artificial intelligence companion systems or conversational artificial intelligence services.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Education; Office of Wellness and Resilience; Imua Alliance; Public Citizen; Hawai'i Psychological Association; Hawai'i State Teachers Association; Catholic Charities Hawai'i; Young People's Alliance; Transparency Coalition; Hawai'i Children's Action Network Speaks!; Common Sense Media; Lou's Quality Home Health Care Services, LLC; and numerous individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs; Department of the Attorney General; and TechNet.

Your Committee finds that artificial intelligence (AI) chatbots do not create harm in a vacuum; they amplify pre-existing vulnerabilities. The American Psychological Association's



November 2025 health advisory warns that these technologies "have engaged in unsafe interactions with vulnerable populations, such as children or those with already established history of mental health issues, encouraging self-harm (including suicide), substance use, eating disorders, aggressive behavior, and delusional thinking." This measure establishes safeguards, protections, oversight, and penalties for interactions between minors and conversational AI services.

Your Committee notes that, as this measure progresses through the legislative process, an effective date of July 1, 2027 should be considered.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Moving the provisions of this measure to chapter 481B, Hawaii Revised Statutes, which would subject its provisions to the laws governing unfair methods of competition and unfair or deceptive acts or practices in the conduct of any trade or commerce;
- (2) Specifying that the disclosure is required when a provider of a conversational AI service or AI companion system knows or has reasonable certainty that a user is a minor;
- (3) Requiring providers of conversational AI services or AI companion systems to institute reasonable measures to prevent the services or systems from making any reasonable representation or statement that would lead a reasonable person to believe that the person is interacting with a human being where the user is seeking or receiving crisis intervention for self-harm or suicide and inserting a definition for "crisis intervention"; and
- (4) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity, consistency, and style.

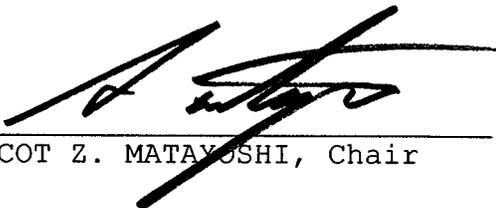
Your Committee respectfully requests your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs, should it deliberate on this measure, to examine whether the speech made by an artificial intelligence companion system or a conversational artificial intelligence service would be protected by the First Amendment,



whether at the corporate level or otherwise, and, consequently, whether the speech generated by the artificial intelligence companion system or conversational artificial intelligence service will subject the corporations to liability.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 1782, H.D. 1, as amended herein, and recommends that it be referred to your Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 1782, H.D. 2.

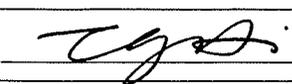
Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Consumer
Protection & Commerce,



SCOT Z. MATAYOSHI, Chair



Record of Votes of the Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

Bill/Resolution No.: HB1782 HD1	Committee Referral: ECD, CR, JHA	Date: 2/18/26 2/19/26		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on the measure.				
The recommendation is to: <input type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended (as is) <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments (HD) <input type="checkbox"/> Hold <input type="checkbox"/> Pass short form bill with HD to recommit for future public hearing (recommit)				
CPC Members	Ayes	Ayes (WR)	Nays	Excused
1. MATAYOSHI, Scot Z. (C)	✓			
2. GRANDINETTI, Tina Nakada (VC)	✓			
3. CHUN, Cory M.	✓			
4. ILAGAN, Greggor	✓			
5. ICHIYAMA, Linda	✓			
6. IWAMOTO, Kim Coco		✓		
7. KONG, Sam Satoru	✓			
8. LOWEN, Nicole E.				✓
9. MARTEN, Lisa				✓
10. TAM, Adrian K.	✓			
11. PIERICK, Elijah				✓
TOTAL (11)	7	1		3
The recommendation is: <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted If joint referral, _____ did not support recommendation. <div style="text-align:center; font-size: small;">committee acronym(s)</div>				
Vice Chair's or designee's signature: <u></u>				
Distribution: Original (White) – Committee Duplicate (Yellow) – Chief Clerk's Office Duplicate (Pink) – HMSO				