



**TESTIMONY OF  
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL  
TWENTY-SIXTH LEGISLATURE, 2012**

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**LATE TESTIMONY**

**ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:**  
H.B. NO. 2295, RELATING TO CYBERBULLYING.

**BEFORE THE:**  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

**DATE:** Friday, February 3, 2012 **TIME:** 2 p.m.

**LOCATION:** State Capitol, Room 325

**TESTIFIER(S):** David M. Louie, Attorney General, or  
Lance Goto, Deputy Attorney General

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Chair Keith-Agaran and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General (the "Department"), while appreciating the intent of the bill in protecting the State's children, has legal concerns about the bill and is currently working with the author of the bill to address those concerns.

The purpose of this bill is to create the offense of harassment by cyberbullying. On its website, the National Conference on State Legislators reports:

Many states have enacted "cyberstalking" or "cyberharassment" laws or have laws that explicitly include electronic forms of communication within more traditional stalking or harassment laws. In addition, recent concerns about protecting minors from online bullying or harassment have led states to enact "cyberbullying" laws.

The Department is working cooperatively with the bill's author to review such "cyberstalking," "cyberharassment," and "cyberbulling" laws from other states, in an effort to come to an agreement on alternative language that will serve the bill's purpose of protecting the state's children from the type of online bullying.