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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIFORM EMPLOYEE AND STUDENT ONLINE PRIVACY  
PROTECTION ACT.

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

1           SECTION 1. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by  
2 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read  
3 as follows:

4                           "CHAPTER

5           **THE UNIFORM EMPLOYEE AND STUDENT ONLINE PRIVACY PROTECTION ACT**

6           §   -1   Short title. This chapter may be cited as the  
7 Uniform Employee and Student Online Privacy Protection Act.

8           §   -2   Definitions. As used in this chapter:

9           "Content" means information, other than login information,  
10 that is contained in a protected personal online account,  
11 accessible to the account holder, and not publicly available.

12           "Educational institution" means a person that provides  
13 students at the postsecondary level an organized program of  
14 study or training which is academic, technical, trade-oriented,  
15 or preparatory for gaining employment and for which the person  
16 gives academic credit. The term includes:



- 1 (1) A public or private institution; and
- 2 (2) An agent or designee of the educational institution.

3 "Electronic" means relating to technology having  
4 electrical, digital, magnetic, wireless, optical,  
5 electromagnetic, or similar capabilities.

6 "Employee" means an individual who provides services or  
7 labor to an employer in exchange for salary, wages, or the  
8 equivalent or, for an unpaid intern, academic credit or  
9 occupational experience. The term includes:

- 10 (1) A prospective employee who has:
  - 11 (A) Expressed to the employer an interest in being an
  - 12 employee; or
  - 13 (B) Applied to or is applying for employment by, or
  - 14 is being recruited for employment by, the
  - 15 employer; and
- 16 (2) An independent contractor.

17 "Employer" means a person that provides salary, wages, or  
18 the equivalent to an employee in exchange for services or labor  
19 or engages the services or labor of an unpaid intern. The term  
20 includes an agent or designee of the employer.



1 "Login information" means a user name and password,  
2 password, or other means or credentials of authentication  
3 required to access or control:

- 4 (1) A protected personal online account; or
- 5 (2) An electronic device, which the employee's employer or  
6 the student's educational institution has not supplied  
7 or paid for in full, that itself provides access to or  
8 control over the account.

9 "Login requirement" means a requirement that login  
10 information shall be provided before a protected personal online  
11 account or electronic device can be accessed or controlled.

12 "Online" means accessible by means of a computer network or  
13 the Internet.

14 "Person" means an individual, estate, business or nonprofit  
15 entity, public corporation, government or governmental  
16 subdivision, agency, or instrumentality, or other legal entity.

17 "Protected personal online account" means an employee's or  
18 student's online account that is protected by a login  
19 requirement. The term does not include an online account or the  
20 part of an online account:

- 21 (1) That is publicly available; or



1 (2) That the employer or educational institution has  
2 notified the employee or student might be subject to a  
3 request for login information or content, and that:

4 (A) The employer or educational institution supplies,  
5 pays for in full, or issues login information  
6 under its domain name; or

7 (B) The employee or student creates, maintains, or  
8 uses primarily on behalf of or under the  
9 direction of the employer or educational  
10 institution in connection with the employee's  
11 employment or the student's education.

12 "Publicly available" means available to the general public.

13 "Record" means information that is inscribed on a tangible  
14 medium or that is stored in an electronic or other medium and is  
15 retrievable in perceivable form.

16 "State" means a state of the United States, the District of  
17 Columbia, the United States Virgin Islands, or any territory or  
18 insular possession subject to the jurisdiction of the United  
19 States.

20 "Student" means an individual who participates in an  
21 educational institution's organized program of study or  
22 training. The term includes:



1 (1) A prospective student who expresses to the institution  
2 an interest in being admitted to, applies for  
3 admission to, or is being recruited for admission by,  
4 the educational institution; and

5 (2) A parent or legal guardian of a student under the age  
6 of majority.

7 **§ -3 Protection of employee online account. (a)**

8 Subject to the exceptions in subsection (b), an employer shall  
9 not:

10 (1) Require or coerce an employee to:

11 (A) Disclose the login information for a protected  
12 personal online account;

13 (B) Disclose the content of the account, except that  
14 an employer may request an employee to add the  
15 employer to, or not remove the employer from, the  
16 set of persons to which the employee grants  
17 access to the content;

18 (C) Alter the settings of the online account in a  
19 manner that makes the login information for, or  
20 content of the account more accessible to others;  
21 or



- 1 (D) Access the account in the presence of the  
2 employer in a manner that enables the employer to  
3 observe the login information for or content of  
4 the account; or
- 5 (2) Take, or threaten to take, adverse action against an  
6 employee for failure to comply with:
- 7 (A) An employer requirement, coercive action, or  
8 request that violates paragraph (1); or
- 9 (B) An employer request under paragraph (1)(B) to add  
10 the employer to, or not remove the employer from,  
11 the set of persons to which the employee grants  
12 access to the content of a protected personal  
13 online account.
- 14 (b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall prevent an employer  
15 from:
- 16 (1) Accessing information about an employee that is  
17 publicly available;
- 18 (2) Complying with a federal or state law, court order, or  
19 rule of a self-regulatory organization established by  
20 federal or state statute, including a self-regulatory  
21 organization as defined in section 3(a)(26) of the



1 Securities and Exchange Act of 1934, title 15 United  
2 States Code section 78c(a)(26); or  
3 (3) Requiring or requesting, based on specific facts about  
4 the employee's protected personal online account,  
5 access to the content of, but not the login  
6 information for, the account in order to:  
7 (A) Ensure compliance, or investigate non-compliance,  
8 with:  
9 (i) Federal or state law; or  
10 (ii) An employer prohibition against work-related  
11 employee misconduct of which the employee  
12 has reasonable notice, which is in a record,  
13 and that was not created primarily to gain  
14 access to a protected personal online  
15 account; or  
16 (B) Protect against:  
17 (i) A threat to safety;  
18 (ii) A threat to employer information technology  
19 or communications technology systems or to  
20 employer property; or  
21 (iii) Disclosure of information in which the  
22 employer has a proprietary interest or



1 information the employer has a legal  
2 obligation to keep confidential.

3 (c) An employer that accesses employee content for a  
4 purpose specified in subsection (b) (3):

5 (1) Shall reasonably attempt to limit its access to  
6 content that is relevant to the specified purpose;

7 (2) Shall use the content only for the specified purpose;  
8 and

9 (3) Shall not alter the content unless necessary to  
10 achieve the specified purpose.

11 (d) An employer that acquires the login information for an  
12 employee's protected personal online account by means of  
13 otherwise lawful technology that monitors the employer's  
14 network, or employer-provided devices, for a network security,  
15 data confidentiality, or system maintenance purpose:

16 (1) Shall not use the login information to access or  
17 enable another person to access the account;

18 (2) Shall make a reasonable effort to keep the login  
19 information secure;

20 (3) Unless otherwise provided in paragraph (4), shall  
21 dispose of the login information as soon as, as





1           securely as, and to the extent reasonably practicable;

2           and

3           (4) Shall, if the employer retains the login information  
4           for use in an ongoing investigation of an actual or  
5           suspected breach of computer, network, or data  
6           security, make a reasonable effort to keep the login  
7           information secure and dispose of it as soon as, as  
8           securely as, and to the extent reasonably practicable  
9           after completing the investigation.

10          §   -4   **Protection of student online account.** (a) Subject  
11 to the exceptions in subsection (b), an educational institution  
12 shall not:

13           (1) Require or coerce a student to:

14                   (A) Disclose the login information for a protected  
15                   personal online account;

16                   (B) Disclose the content of the account, except that  
17                   an educational institution may request a student  
18                   to add the educational institution to, or not  
19                   remove the educational institution from, the set  
20                   of persons to which the student grants access to  
21                   the content;



- 1 (C) Alter the settings of the account in a manner
- 2 that makes the login information for or content
- 3 of the account more accessible to others; or
- 4 (D) Access the account in the presence of the
- 5 educational institution in a manner that enables
- 6 the educational institution to observe the login
- 7 information for or content of the account; or
- 8 (2) Take, or threaten to take, adverse action against a
- 9 student for failure to comply with:
  - 10 (A) An educational institution requirement, coercive
  - 11 action, or request, that violates paragraph (1);
  - 12 or
  - 13 (B) An educational institution request under
  - 14 paragraph (1)(B) to add the educational
  - 15 institution to, or not remove the educational
  - 16 institution from, the set of persons to which the
  - 17 student grants access to the content of a
  - 18 protected personal online account.
- 19 (b) Nothing in subsection (a) shall prevent an educational
- 20 institution from:
  - 21 (1) Accessing information about a student that is publicly
  - 22 available;



- 1           (2)   Complying with a federal or state law, court order, or
- 2                   rule of a self-regulatory organization established by
- 3                   federal or state statute; or
- 4           (3)   Requiring or requesting, based upon specific facts
- 5                   about the student's protected personal online account,
- 6                   access to the content of, but not the login
- 7                   information for, the account in order to:
- 8                   (A)   Ensure compliance, or investigate non-compliance,
- 9                               with:
- 10                               (i)   Federal or state law; or
- 11                               (ii)   An educational institution prohibition
- 12                                       against education-related student misconduct
- 13                                       of which the student has reasonable notice,
- 14                                       which is in a record, and that was not
- 15                                       created primarily to gain access to a
- 16                                       protected personal online account; or
- 17                   (B)   Protect against:
- 18                               (i)   A threat to safety;
- 19                               (ii)   A threat to educational institution
- 20                                       information technology or communications
- 21                                       technology systems or to educational
- 22                                       institution property; or



1 (iii) Disclosure of information in which the  
2 educational institution has a proprietary  
3 interest or information the educational  
4 institution has a legal obligation to keep  
5 confidential.

6 (c) An educational institution that accesses student  
7 content for a purpose specified in subsection (b) (3):

8 (1) Shall reasonably attempt to limit its access to  
9 content that is relevant to the specified purpose;

10 (2) Shall use the content only for the specified purpose;  
11 and

12 (3) Shall not alter the content unless necessary to  
13 achieve the specified purpose.

14 (d) An educational institution that acquires the login  
15 information for a student's protected personal online account by  
16 means of otherwise lawful technology that monitors the  
17 educational institution's network, or educational institution-  
18 provided devices, for a network security, data confidentiality,  
19 or system maintenance purpose:

20 (1) Shall not use the login information to access or  
21 enable another person to access the account;



- 1           (2) Shall make a reasonable effort to keep the login
- 2                   information secure;
- 3           (3) Unless otherwise provided in paragraph (4), shall
- 4                   dispose of the login information as soon as, as
- 5                   securely as, and to the extent reasonably practicable;
- 6                   and
- 7           (4) If the educational institution retains the login
- 8                   information for use in an ongoing investigation of an
- 9                   actual or suspected breach of computer, network, or
- 10                  data security, shall make a reasonable effort to keep
- 11                  the login information secure and dispose of it as soon
- 12                  as, as securely as, and to the extent reasonably
- 13                  practicable after completing the investigation.

14           § -5 Civil action. (a) The attorney general may bring

15 a civil action in district court against an employer or

16 educational institution for a violation of this chapter. A

17 prevailing attorney general may obtain:

- 18           (1) Injunctive and other equitable relief; and
- 19           (2) A civil penalty of up to \$1,000 for each violation,
- 20                   but not exceeding \$100,000 for all violations caused
- 21                   by the same event.



1 (b) An employee or student may bring a civil action  
2 against the individual's employer or educational institution for  
3 a violation of this chapter. A prevailing employee or student  
4 may obtain:

- 5 (1) Injunctive and other equitable relief;
- 6 (2) Actual damages; and
- 7 (3) Costs and reasonable attorney's fees.

8 (c) An action under subsection (a) shall not preclude an  
9 action under subsection (b), and an action under subsection (b)  
10 shall not preclude an action under subsection (a).

11 (d) This chapter shall not affect a right or remedy  
12 available under law other than this chapter.

13 **§ -6 Uniformity of application and construction.** In  
14 applying and construing this chapter, consideration shall be  
15 given to the need to promote uniformity of the law with respect  
16 to its subject matter among states that enact it.

17 **§ -7 Relation to Electronic Signatures In Global And**  
18 **National Commerce Act.** This chapter modifies, limits, or  
19 supersedes the Electronic Signatures in Global and National  
20 Commerce Act, title 15 United States Code section 7001 et seq.,  
21 but does not modify, limit, or supersede section 101(c) of that  
22 Act, title 15 United States Code section 7001(c), or authorize



1 electronic delivery of any of the notices described in section  
2 103(b) of that Act, title 15 United States Code section 7003(b).

3       **§ -8 Relation to other state laws.** If any provision in  
4 this chapter conflicts with a provision in any other chapter,  
5 the provision in this chapter shall control.

6       **§ -9 Severability.** If any provision of this chapter or  
7 its application to any person or circumstance is held invalid,  
8 the invalidity does not affect other provisions or applications  
9 of this chapter which can be given effect without the invalid  
10 provision or application, and to this end the provisions of this  
11 chapter are severable."

12       SECTION 2. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
13 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
14 begun before its effective date.

15       SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

Online Privacy; Employees; Applicants; Students; Prospective Students

**Description:**

Adopts uniform laws on protecting the online accounts of employees, unpaid interns, applicants, students, and prospective students from employers and educational institutions, respectively. (SB429 HD2)

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

