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GOVERNOR



CATHERINE PAYNE
CHAIRPERSON

STATE OF HAWAII
STATE PUBLIC CHARTER SCHOOL COMMISSION
(‘AHA KULA HO‘ĀMANA)

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FOR: SB 2070 SD1 Relating to Education
DATE: March 1, 2018
TIME: 12:05 p.m.
COMMITTEE: Senate Committee on Ways and Means
ROOM: Room 211
FROM: Sione Thompson, Executive Director
State Public Charter School Commission

LATE

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and members of the Committee:

The State Public Charter School Commission (“Commission”) appreciates the opportunity to submit this testimony in **SUPPORT of THE INTENT of SB 2070 SD1**, which requires the Department of Education to develop a plan to teach digital citizenship and media literacy in public schools, including public charter schools.

The Commission appreciates that the measure includes public charter schools in this program. We look forward to working with the Department of Education on this and are available to facilitate any outreach and requests for input and assistance from public charter schools.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

LATE

SB-2070-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2018 10:43:42 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2018 12:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauren K Terry	Testifying for Media Literacy Now	Support	No

Comments:

Is there anything more important that schools can do for our students, and for our democracy, than to teach literacy? In today's world, Media Literacy is synonymous with literacy.

Young people today are consuming and creating media constantly with little guidance. They have an unprecedented challenge to discern among a tidal wave of news sources. A new challenge in discerning fact from fiction will be the sophisticated manipulation of images and video. In addition, we are seeing serious public health issues arising from young people's media diet: such as anxiety, depression and skyrocketing suicide attributed to social media use, as well as the effects of overwhelming unhealthy messages around body image, substance use, sexual activity, and violence.

Children with connected devices can send and receive messages to and from anyone in the world at any time without parental or other adult supervision. Without guidance, young people are subject to influence from anyone with an internet connection – individuals, corporations, and extremist organizations.

Media Literacy education gives students the tools to question the messages they see everyday – in entertainment media, in video games, in the news, in advertisements. It gives them the skills to produce their own stories in thoughtful and ethical ways, and to understand the big picture of how media shapes us as individuals and as a society.

Media Literacy has become a hot-button issue for policy makers, as concerned citizens raise the alarm. Legislators across the country are acting. Last year, five states passed new laws to elevate Media Literacy and digital citizenship education as a priority in their schools. Many others have already acted or are taking up bills this year.

Our children need guidance from professional educators. Meanwhile, the schools need more help to deal with issues arising from quickly changing communications technology. Schools are coping with problems of social media that spill over into school day. Meanwhile, the furor around "fake news" and other propaganda are a good reminder of the mission of public schools to educate the future citizens of our democracy.

Senator Mike Gabbard's Senate Bill 2070 would create an Advisory Council to determine how the state can direct its current resources to help educators provide these essential and urgent life skills to students. **Several states have passed, on a bipartisan basis, similar legislation.** We believe that this bill is an excellent step toward overcoming barriers that prevent schools and teachers from bringing comprehensive Media Literacy skills to all students. Please call me with any questions.

Sincerely,

Lauren K. Terry

Executive Director

Media Literacy Now

857-225-2836

LATE

SB-2070-SD-1

Submitted on: 3/1/2018 2:47:11 AM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2018 12:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for OCC Legislative Priorities Committee, Democratic Party of Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

**PRESENTATION OF THE
OAHU COUNTY COMMITTEE ON LEGISLATIVE PRIORITIES
DEMOCRATIC PARTY OF HAWAI'I**

TO THE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

THE SENATE

TWENTY-NINTH LEGISLATURE

REGULAR SESSION OF 2018

Thursday, March 1, 2018

12:05 p.m.

Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 211

RE: Testimony in Support of SB **2070 SD1** RELATING TO EDUCATION

To the Honorable Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair; the Honorable Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice-Chair, and Members of the Committee on Ways and Means:

Good afternoon, my name is Melodie Aduja. I serve as Chair of the Oahu County Legislative Priorities Committee of the Democratic Party of Hawaii. Thank you for the opportunity to provide written testimony on Senate Bill No. **2070 SD1**, relating to Education; Digital Citizenship; and Media Literacy.

The OCC Legislative Priorities Committee is in favor of Senate Bill No. **2070 SD1** and support its passage.

Senate Bill No. **2070 SD1** is in alignment with the Platform of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i ("DPH"), 2016, as it (1) requires the department of education to develop a plan to teach digital citizenship and media literacy in grades kindergarten through twelve in public schools, including charter schools and Hawaiian language immersion schools; (2) requires the department of education to convene an advisory committee to make recommendations on best practices for purposes of developing and implementing the plan; and (3) requires an annual report to legislature.

The DPH Platform states that "[s]tate and county governments have a key role to play in setting reasonable standards for industry and trade." (Platform of the DPH, P. 1, Lines 44-45 (2016)).

A diversified and healthy economy in Hawai'i requires a well-educated and healthy citizenry. (Platform of the DPH, P. 1, Line 38 (2016)).

We recognize that the responsible use and development of technology in all its manifestations offers immense potential for our community, government, including institutions of higher education and business sectors. We encourage synergistic research, development, commercialization and educational programs to promote technological proficiency and innovation. In particular, we support Science, Technology, Engineering and Math (STEM) initiatives in our public, private and charter schools as these prepare the next generation to address the needs of our state. We also support programs that facilitate incubator i.e., start-up, opportunities for new and promising technologies, and encourage the local retention of our intellectual resources." (Platform of the DPH, P. 2, Lines 97-99 (2016)).

Given that Senate Bill No. **2070 SD1** (1) requires the department of education to develop a plan to teach digital citizenship and media literacy in grades kindergarten through twelve in public schools, including charter schools and Hawaiian language immersion schools; (2) requires the department of education to convene an advisory committee to make recommendations on best practices for purposes of developing and implementing the plan; and (3) requires an annual report to legislature, it is the position of the OCC Legislative Priorities Committee to support this measure.

Thank you very much for your kind consideration.

Sincerely yours,

/s/ Melodie Aduja

Melodie Aduja, Chair, OCC Legislative Priorities Committee

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com, Text/Tel.: (808) 258-8889

LATE

SB-2070-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 4:34:10 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2018 12:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-2070-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2018 11:30:53 PM

Testimony for WAM on 3/1/2018 12:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachelann Purcell Taliloa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Legislators,

Media literacy is a vital aspect of education that Hawaii's public schools are lacking. As a born and raised State of Hawai'i native that went to public school, I support the intent of SB2070 one reservation.

As social interactions have morfed throughout recent decades youth are learning internet safety through trial and error, a dangerous and potentially lethal notion. It has never been more crucial for young people to learn internet safety because society is saturated with instant access to dangerous situations. We no longer live in an era where a young person needs to walk down a dark alley to be exposed to danger, rather they need only open a chat room and give way to their curiosity to be put into harms way. With the ever evolving world of technology, it is better that students be exposed to ethical ways to use the internet and utitlize the classroom as a safe environment to explore their curiosities.

Furthermore, the job and housing markest have continuously become more reliant on digital citizenship. Today, it is difficult to apply for a job or even search for employment without a basic understanding of the internet. As Hawaii's children grow and fill our jobs, they will continiously need to be more literate on how to be digitally connected. It makes sense to teach practical applications of technology and raise a generation with strong media literacy.

Lastly, I see this bill as being one avenue to combating cyber bullying. With the increasing rate of youth suicides caused by bullying, cyber bullying needs to be a priority in our schools, in our state and in our nation. When a student is bullied at school, eventually the school bell will ring and they will leave the toxic environment of their attackers. Now, students are no longer safe so long as they are digitally connected. They will be bullied anywhere. Encouraging proper usage of media interaction in our schools could neccesitate futher development of cyber bullying regulations.

I wish to emphasize the importance of including students as equally valued members of this proposed committee. Students will add a valuable voice to what best practices will

be better received by our youth today. They will know what is new and changing and must have their opinions hold equal weight in the larger discussion.

I look forward to the progress of this bill and the future of increasing the media literacy of Hawaii's children.

Respectfully,

Rachelann Taliloa