



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/07/2018
Time: 02:51 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 2070 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: 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. Requires the department of education to convene an advisory committee to make recommendations on best practices for purposes of developing and implementing the plan. Requires an annual report to legislature.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 2070.

Currently, the Department is developing a multi-year comprehensive computer science plan for grades kindergarten through twelve in public schools, including Hawaiian language immersion and charter schools. This plan includes implementation dates, benchmarks, and strategies to integrate digital citizenship and media literacy.

To ensure equitable and expanded access to computer science learning opportunities for K-12 students by 2022, the Department is addressing the following eight deliverables:

- 1) Adoption of Computer Science Standards aligned to national efforts,
- 2) Development of single courses and pathway courses for maximum student access,
- 3) Identification of standards-based curricular resources,
- 4) Quality K-12 professional development in computer science including fellowships and externships for teachers,
- 5) A schedule of academic competitions in partnership with business, industry and government,
- 6) Expansion of regional and school-based student demonstrations,
- 7) Increased partnerships for access to meaningful internship and apprentice models, and
- 8) Improved career counseling and information sharing around current and emerging computer science related work and study opportunities in Hawaii.

Respectfully, the Department offers comment on the following proposals in this measure:

Advisory Committee (Page 3, Lines 4-6): The Department is in the process of gathering feedback from stakeholders to adopt K-12 Computer Science Standards aligned to national efforts. During Spring 2018, the Department will solicit internal and external stakeholder feedback on the draft computer science plan.

Advisory Committee Stakeholders (Page 3, Lines 4-12): Since Fall 2017, the Department has been consulting with internal (i.e. principals, teachers, librarians, etc.) and external stakeholders (i.e. post-secondary, non-profit, industry, etc.) regarding computer science standards. The Department will continue to solicit feedback and recommendations from these key stakeholders as the plan is developed and throughout implementation.

Materials and Resources (Page 3, Lines 15-20): The multi-year plan includes identification of instructional materials and resources in media literacy, digital citizenship, and internet safety aligned with federal programs and guidelines (i.e. E-rate, Children's Internet Protection Act (CIPA), etc.).

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2070.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.

SB-2070

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 1:51:21 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/7/2018 2:51:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erin McNeill	Media Literacy Now	Support	No

Comments:

Feb. 5, 2018

Dear Legislators:

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.

Sen. Mike Gabbard’s bill, SB2070, 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.

Best regards,

Erin McNeill

President, Media Literacy Now, a national education policy initiative

MediaLiteracyNow.org

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SB-2070

Submitted on: 2/2/2018 8:07:43 PM

Testimony for EDU on 2/7/2018 2:51:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaulana Dameg		Support	No

Comments: