



February 6, 2018

Hawaii Senate Committee on Education
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair

Re: **Support for SB 2070** - Digital Citizenship and Media Literacy Skills

Dear Chair & Vice Chair:

Common Sense Kids Action is pleased to offer our strongest support for SB 2070. This bill is a promise to our schoolchildren. It is a commitment to teach them the skills they need to navigate our complex digital culture.

Kids encounter many difficult situations online today, from cyberbullying to privacy violations to identity theft and concerns about information quality. We need to support their educational, social, and personal development by equipping them with techniques to engage online in safe, productive, healthy, and appropriate manners. This bill is based on a rich vein of educational research and proposed curricula about technology, digital media, and media and information literacy.

As just one example among many about the need for this bill, a recent report from a group of researchers at Stanford University has found that 82¹ percent of middle school aged students failed to distinguish between an ad labeled "sponsored content" and a real news story from an established publication.

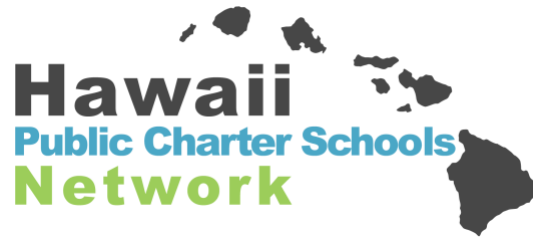
We support SB 2070 and thank you for your attention to this key issue.

Respectfully submitted,

Shum Preston

National Director of Communications and Advocacy
Common Sense Kids Action

¹ Wineburg, Sam and McGrew, Sarah and Breakstone, Joel and Ortega, Teresa. (2016). *Evaluating Information: The Cornerstone of Civic Online Reasoning*. Stanford Digital Repository.



February 7, 2018

To: Honorable Michelle Kidani, Chair
Honorable Kaiali'i Kahele, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Education

From: Jeannine Souki, Executive Director
Hawaii Public Charter Schools Network

Re: **SB 2070 – RELATING TO EDUCATION – SUPORT INTENT**
Conference Room 229 – Hawaii State Capitol – February 7, 2017, 2:51 P.M.

On behalf of the Hawaii Public Charter School Network (HPCSN), I respectfully submit our testimony for SB 2070, Relating to Education.

HPCSN supports this intent of this bill which 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. HPCSN also requests the inclusion of a charter school representative and Hawaii language immersion school representative to serve on the proposed advisory committee to be convened by the DOE for the purpose of making recommendations on best practices for purposes of developing and implementing the plan.

HPCSN is concerned that a one-size fits most plan for developing digital citizenship and media literacy may be challenging to implement in some public charter schools because some intentionally delay the introduction of technology. Having a public charter school and a Hawaiian language school representative will help provide perspectives for non-traditional public schools.

To illustrate the variation of how different charter school approaches to technology, I offer one example of charter school that uses Waldorf approach. This Waldorf-focused charter school aims to engage children with what they really need in the order they need it (the developmental approach) and foster strong bodies, healthy senses, rounded and inspired emotional development, and a passion and curiosity for intellectual learning before introducing the powerful influence of technology.

One of the Waldorf beliefs is that exposing children to computer technology before they are ready (around 7th grade) can hamper their ability to fully develop strong bodies, healthy habits of discipline and self-control, fluency with creative and artistic expression and flexible and agile minds. Another belief holds that technological literacy—a crucial 21st century skill—can be mastered quickly when children reach adolescence and have the developmental maturity to know how, why, and when to use technology as a tool.

Waldorf Schools are very careful in structuring the environment for children so that wonder and imagination thrive. Younger children are told stories by their teachers, requiring them to create their own mental pictures and imaginings, rather than viewing an image created by someone else. Middle and high school students are inspired by studying biographies and finding relevance and connections to their world. The school's philosophy is that a slow-tech approach to learning will lead to stronger children in the end.

HPCSN respectfully requests the Committee to amend this bill to recognize that charter schools and Hawaiian language immersion schools' participation as members to advisory committee will help address and not overlook innovative practices of these schools as the DOE develops recommendations for best practices and implementation of a state plan for teaching digital citizenship and media literacy.

Mahalo for your consideration. HPCSN works to improve the operation and governance of public charter schools in Hawai'i and to be a voice for children and families that seek choices and quality in an independent public-school setting.



KAMEHAMEHA SCHOOLS®

Senate Committee Education

Time: 2:51 p.m.

Date: February 7, 2018

Where: State Capitol Room 229

TESTIMONY

By Ka'ano'i Walk

Kamehameha Schools

RE: SB 2070, Relating to Education

E ka Luna Ho'omalua Kidani, ka Hope Luna Ho'omalua Kahele, a me nā Lālā Kenekoa o ke Kōmike Ho'ona'auao o ka 'Aha Kenekoa, aloha! My name is Ka'ano'i Walk and I serve as the Senior Policy Analyst of the Kūamahi Community Education Division of Kamehameha Schools.

We are writing to **support** SB 2070, relating to education, which requires the Hawai'i 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 Kula Kaiapuni or Hawaiian language immersion schools. We support this measure as an important step toward promoting 21st century learning and applaud the measure's inclusion of Hawai'i public charter schools and Kula Kaiapuni.

We respectfully request that the advisory committee established in this bill work with the Hawaiian-focused charter schools and Kula Kaiapuni to advance digital citizenry in a Hawaiian-culture- and language-appropriate-way.

Founded in 1887, Kamehameha Schools is an organization striving to advance a thriving Lāhui where all Native Hawaiians are successful, grounded in traditional values, and leading in the local and global communities. We believe that community success is individual success, Hawaiian culture-based education leads to academic success and local leadership drives global leadership.

'A'oha hana nui ke alu 'ia. No task is too large when we all work together! Mahalo nui