

**SR-163**

Submitted on: 3/25/2021 1:14:02 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/29/2021 3:20:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Allix Hessick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm voting yes on this because it's so important that children nowadays have the tools necessary to navigate media.

Representative Michelle N. Kidani, Chair

Representative Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

Senate Committee on Education

Colleen McCown

Monday, March 29, 2021 @ 3:20pm

Support for S.R. 163:

**URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO INCLUDE CIVIC ONLINE REASONING AND MEDIA LITERACY IN ITS INFORMATION TECHNOLOGY CURRICULUM**

I am an MSW student at UH Manoa and I am offering my testimony in support of S.R.163 which would teach civic and online reasoning and media literacy to Hawaii's students to better prepare them to judge the credibility of media and online sources.

Our world is becoming increasingly dependent on technology and online media sources for the consumption and dissemination of news and other information. Young people especially utilize social media sites as their primary source of information gathering. The past two presidential election cycles have given rise to the phenomenon of "fake news" fueled by the algorithms that drive social media. The proliferation of misinformation through online sources has proven to be powerful, destructive, and dangerous.

Offering education to young students that includes civic online reasoning and media literacy will help our youth to discern between fact and fiction when engaging in online platforms. Additionally, students will become more equipped to distinguish credible sources and analyze the information that they find. Media literacy is essential in our modern world and we are doing a disservice to our youth if we do not prepare them to effectively navigate it.

Building these skills of discernment early on will aid in the development of well informed and engaged citizens moving forward into the future. I urge the committee to pass S.R.163. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.