

JAN 21 2022

S.B. NO. 2214

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DIGITAL LITERACY.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, according to a 2015  
2 report by the Association of Library Service to Children,  
3 library services increasingly center on digital tools and media.  
4 In 2015, seventy-five per cent of households owned some form of  
5 digital media device. However, guidance and knowledge on the  
6 use of digital media is often lacking. Providing parents and  
7 children with a deeper understanding of the digital tools  
8 available to them is essential to the well-being of families in  
9 the twenty-first century.

10       The legislature further finds that digital literacy skills  
11 are crucial for career success in the twenty-first century.  
12 According to a Brookings Institution report from 2017,  
13 workplaces across the country and globe have undergone a rapid  
14 process of digitization. The percentage of workplaces with high  
15 levels of digital content has grown dramatically in recent  
16 years, while the percentage of workplaces that rely on a lower  
17 level of digital content has decreased by a similarly dramatic



1 margin. While digitization offers advantages to employees with  
2 extensive digital literacy, it also increases barriers for  
3 members of the workforce who lack digital skills. Increasing  
4 digital literacy among students and members of the workforce  
5 would increase their competitiveness in an economy increasingly  
6 defined by the ability to use digital tools.

7 The purpose of this Act is to increase access to digital  
8 tools and promote digital literacy by establishing a digital  
9 literacy program to be administered by the board of education  
10 through the state librarian.

11 SECTION 2. Chapter 312, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
12 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
13 and to read as follows:

14 "§312- Digital literacy program. (a) In addition to  
15 its other duties, the board of education, through the state  
16 librarian, shall:

17 (1) Provide for the establishment and ongoing operation of  
18 digital literacy programs for the public libraries in  
19 the State; and

20 (2) Provide coordination and facilitation of the  
21 activities of digital literacy service providers and



1           digital literacy programs in the public, private, and  
2           volunteer sectors.

3           (b) The objectives of the digital literacy program shall  
4           be to provide programmatic activities that promote digital  
5           learning and well-being by improving parents' skills and  
6           attitudes toward digital education and tools; increasing  
7           children's skills using digital tools; and developing digital  
8           skills among students and within the workforce.

9           (c) The digital literacy program shall not affect existing  
10          department of education programs relating to adult education as  
11          provided under sections 302A-432 to 302A-435."

12          SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

13          SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY:

Bennette G. Minchuk



# S.B. NO. 2214

**Report Title:**

Digital Literacy; Libraries; Board of Education; State Librarian

**Description:**

Establishes a digital literacy program to be overseen by the Board of Education and implemented by the State Librarian to promote digital literacy through programmatic activities that expose children and parents to digital tools.

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