

HR-35

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 12:30:00 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/24/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail Vannatta	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I am writing to support HR 35, Urging the DOE to incorporate digital literacy into the existing state curriculum. The COVID Pandemic has underscored the use of digital platforms for instructional delivery and has reinforced the need for media literacy and digital citizenship education throughout the content areas.

Digital literacy is the ability to use the skills needed to live, learn and work in a society where digital communication - internet, social media, instructional lesson management systems (LMS) in schools, multi-media platforms to demonstrate understandings and produce content, etc. - are prevalent. Besides the creation of content, students need to learn how to "read" digital content for biases and need to learn how to become ethical creators of knowledge. Students need to learn these higher order thinking skills to demonstrate content understandings that will be enable them to be successful in the workplace. Students need to learn how to become good digital citizens by practicing these medial literacy skills.

Citizenship is no longer confined to our state. Because of the world wide web, students are citizens of the global digital world and must learn how to become more digital literate, ethical users and creators of digital media and ultimately become positive and contributing members of a global digital society. Please promote digital literacy and digital citizenship skills into the public school curricula to benefit our students and the global society. More than ever, we need ethical users and creators of digital knowledge. Mahalo!

Re: Support for HR 35 Related to Education and Media Literacy

Dear Chair Justin H. Woodson, Vice Chair Jeanne Kapela, and members of the committee,

My name is Jolee Melink and I support HR35. As a graduate student in social work, I am increasingly aware of the importance of media literacy for future generations. I offer my support for and comments to HR35 below:

HR35 teaches responsibility.

Media literacy curriculum has the ability to educate students about the impact their online presence has on their lives and communities. The number of children and young adults who use smartphones and computers is increasing. Students should learn about the consequences that are associated with what they post online as it is often public and permanent. In the Journal of Medical Internet Research (2018) a study reported that young people who have experienced cyberbullying are at greater risk for self-harm and suicidal behavior. Schools could address issues of cyberbullying, loss of privacy, and teach students how to protect themselves from the negative components of digital media.

HR35 creates educated consumers of media.

Pew Research (2021) found that approximately 48% of all surveyed adults receive their news from Facebook, Twitter, or other social media sites. Additionally, an MIT study that was published in Science magazine (2018) found that “falsehoods are 70% more likely to be retweeted than the truth, and reach their first 1,500 people six times faster”. The increased accessibility and circulation of falsehoods make it more important than ever to create an informed audience. With the creation of media literacy programs, students would learn and practice critical thinking skills to interpret the media they consume.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

To: Rep. Justin H. Woodson, Chair of Education Committee
For: **HR35 – RELATING TO EDUCATION**
Date: Thursday, March 24 at 2pm
Where: Hawaii State Capitol, Conference Room 309 & Videoconference

Aloha, Representative Justin Woodson and Education Committee Members. I am a resident of Oahu, a master of social work student at UH Mānoa's School of Social Work and Public Health, and a community member who finds value in media literacy for our children and youth. I submit testimony today on behalf of myself in strong support of HR35 – RELATING TO EDUCATION.

With the growing access to social media in this digital age, I believe it's vital that media literacy be incorporated into the existing public school curriculum. It's known that children and youth find community, connection, knowledge, and creative expression online; however, not without risks. Media literacy can allow children to gain the skills and tools to access and consume social media responsibly and safely. Additionally, educational opportunities can serve as a space to discuss the influential power of social media and how to be aware of this power and related pitfalls. As one knows, bullying, coercion, grooming, tracking, privacy invasion, and scams are just a few risks children are exposed to with perhaps limited oversight and guidance on how to navigate. However, conversations regarding potential hazards can be normalized and discussed in a safe space among trusted teachers and school administrators.

With the recent implementation of media literacy into the public school curriculum by two states, Colorado and California, Hawaii can glean from their experience and receive access to a list of resources and materials to increase success ultimately.

I thank you for your continued work in supporting the educational development of our children and youth and for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HR35.

Jamie Rodriguez