

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**

P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2214, S.D. 1

**February 22, 2022
10:00 a.m.
Room 211 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO DIGITAL LITERACY

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

Senate Bill No. 2214, S.D. 1, adds a new section to Chapter 312, HRS, to establish a Digital Literacy Program (DLP) to be overseen by the Board of Education and implemented by the State Librarian to promote digital literacy through programmatic activities, including making digital technology accessible to individuals with disabilities. The bill also establishes 1.00 full-time equivalent position and appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 23 for the Hawai'i State Public Library System to administer the DLP.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY
DIRECTOR

CHUNG I. CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Tuesday, February 22, 2022
10:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 211

In consideration of

SB2214, SD1

RELATING TO DIGITAL LITERACY.

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports SB2214, SD1**, that 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, including making digital technology accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Over the course of the last two years, the COVID-19 pandemic has spotlighted the need for broadband infrastructure and digital equity for all of Hawai'i's residents, and the Hawai'i State Public Libraries have been at the forefront of enabling wifi access and digital literacy training at their branches. In addition, the federal government identified the need to fund broadband infrastructure and digital equity programs across the country.

With this once in a generation opportunity, it is important that we address broadband access, affordability, adoption and literacy and lay the foundation for Hawai'i to achieve its digital equity goals and to thrive in the digital economy. We see the Hawai'i State Public Libraries as an essential frontline organization to meet that challenge.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit this testimony.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony in SUPPORT of SB2214 SD1
RELATING TO DIGITAL LITERACY.**

SEN. DONOVAN M. DELA CRUZ, CHAIR
SEN. GILBERT S. C. KEITH-AGARAN, VICE CHAIR
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

Hearing Date: February 22, 2022

Room Number: Videoconference

- 1 **Fiscal Implications:** Unspecified general fund appropriation.
- 2 **Department Testimony:** The Department of Health (DOH) supports the purpose of this Act to
- 3 increase access to digital tools, promote digital literacy, and enable online connections within
- 4 Hawaii's state public libraries. Seeing a doctor online via telehealth or requesting a birth or
- 5 marriage certificate online requires internet access and digital skills to use a computer. With
- 6 fifty-one (51) state public libraries located within our communities including rural areas,
- 7 Hawaii's residents especially kūpuna and those with disabilities can greatly benefit from the
- 8 digital literacy program. Libraries provide supportive, educational, and positive environments
- 9 which is essential for learning.
- 10 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



STATE OF HAWAII
HAWAII STATE PUBLIC LIBRARY SYSTEM
OFFICE OF THE STATE LIBRARIAN
44 MERCHANT STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS
Tuesday, February 22, 2022
10:00 am
State Capitol, Room 211 + videoconference

By Stacey A. Aldrich
State Librarian

**S.B. 2214 SD1 RELATING TO DIGITAL LITERACY; LIBRARIES; BOARD OF EDUCATION;
STATE LIBRARIAN**

To: Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz
Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran
Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means

The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on SB2214 SD1, requiring the Board of Education through the State Librarian to establish digital literacy programs for public libraries.

HSPLS strongly supports this bill as it formally recognizes the role that public libraries play in supporting digital literacy for our communities. HSPLS appreciates and supports the SD1 language which broadens the scope of digital literacy programs to include all community members including individuals with disabilities, and the need to have a full-time employee dedicated to coordinate and facilitate a statewide digital literacy program.

The public library is the place to provide digital tools and resources everyone needs to be successful in the digital world - from keiki who need skills for education to kupuna who need to access government resources and manage general day-to-day life activities such as shopping, medical appointments, etc.

Over the last 10 months, the public libraries have participated in pilot projects with the Workforce Development Council of the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations and the AARP. The projects have helped us to better understand the different needs of the community and that there is no one-size-fits-all programming. HSPLS' goal is to provide an array of digital skill building opportunities from one-on-one coaching to physical/virtual classes that will support basic to advanced digital literacy skills, so that our communities can grow and successfully participate in the 21st century.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on this Bill and your continued support of the Hawaii State Public Library System.



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February 17, 2022

The Honorable Bennette Misalucha
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Room 215
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: SB 2214 – Digital Literacy Program - SUPPORT

Dear Senator Misalucha,

TechNet respectfully submits this letter in strong support of SB 2214, which establishes a digital literacy program to promote digital literacy through programmatic activities that expose children and parents to digital tools.

TechNet is the national, bipartisan network of technology CEOs and senior executives. Our diverse membership includes dynamic American businesses ranging from startups to some of the most recognizable companies in the world. TechNet represents over four million employees and countless customers in the fields of information technology, e-commerce, sharing and gig economies, advanced energy, cybersecurity, venture capital, and finance.

Whether at home or in the workplace, digital devices are increasingly common as a means of accessing, understanding, creating, and communicating information. A majority of households owns some form of digital media device, and workplaces are undergoing rapid digitization. With this growth in the availability of and reliance upon digital tools, the creation of a digital literacy program would provide Hawaiians with a deeper understanding of the digital tools available to them in their households and increase their competitiveness as members of today's workforce.

For these reasons, TechNet strongly supports SB 2214. If you have any questions regarding TechNet's support of this bill, please contact Lia Nitake, Deputy Executive Director, at 310-940-5506 or Lnitake@technet.org.

Sincerely,

Lia Nitake
Deputy Executive Director, California and the Southwest
TechNet

Tuesday, February 22, 2022 at 10:00 AM
Via Video Conference

Senate Committee on Ways and Means

To: Senator Donovan Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair

From: Michael Robinson
Vice President, Government Relations & Community Affairs

Re: **SB 2214, SD1 – Testimony In Support
Relating to Digital Literacy**

My name is Michael Robinson, and I am the Vice President of Government Relations & Community Affairs at Hawai'i Pacific Health. Hawai'i Pacific Health is a not-for-profit health care system comprised of its four medical centers – Kapi'olani, Pali Momi, Straub and Wilcox and over 70 locations statewide with a mission of creating a healthier Hawai'i.

I am writing in SUPPORT of SB 2214, SD1 which establishes a digital literacy program to be overseen by the Board of Education and implemented by the State Librarian. The purpose of this measure is to promote literacy through various means, including making digital technology accessible to individuals with disabilities.

Digital literacy skills are crucial for career success in the twenty-first century. The percentage of workplaces with high levels of digital content has grown dramatically in recent years, while the percentage of workplaces that rely on a lower level of digital content has decreased by a similarly dramatic margin. Establishing a digital literacy program in Hawaii would ensure that students learn the necessary skills that would prepare them for the 21st century economy and for employment after graduation. While digitization offers advantages to employees with extensive digital literacy, it also increases barriers for members of the workforce who lack digital skills. Promoting digital literacy fosters a workforce that is equipped to deal with the modern working environment.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Senate Committee on Ways and Means

Date: Feb. 22, 2021
 Time: 10:00 a.m.
 Where: Conference Room 211 & Videoconference

RE: **Supporting SB2214 SD1** Relating to Digital Literacy

Aloha mai e Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agran and Members of the Committee,

As members of the Broadband Hui, the listed organizations and individuals **SUPPORT SB2214 SD1**, which is intended to increase access to digital tools and promote digital literacy by establishing a digital literacy program to be administered by the Board of Education through the state librarian.

Over the past 18 months, our organizations have collaborated, each within their own ability, to increase Hawai'i's digital capacity, thereby supporting the continuity of social connections, education, employment, and access to other essential services throughout the pandemic. We are proud to include Hawai'i State Librarian Stacey A. Aldrich as one of our hui members, and we applaud her work.

Through the work of the Broadband Hui, we have supported broadband infrastructure development in rural communities, provided digital devices for students and families, supported the accessibility of telehealth, provided information on low-cost internet options, and adopted a Digital Equity Declaration to set a vision and goals for a more equitable digital future.

As we stated at the outset of the pandemic, addressing digital inequity through broadband access, digital literacy, and digitally-enabled societal systems is one of our greatest opportunities for economic and social recovery, diversification, and resilience. One of the components critical to the progress of digital equity for our community is that of digital literacy, which this bill aims to address. We agree with the legislature that digital literacy skills are crucial for career success in the twenty-first century, and that the role of the state librarian and associated resources are central in that effort.

For these reasons, we kindly request you pass **SB2214 SD1**. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

(Please see names on the following page.)

	Name	Organization	Email Address	Zip
1	Christine Matsuda	Pa'akai Communications	christine@paakaicomunications.com	96817
2	Christine Sakuda	Transform Hawaii Government	csakuda@transformhawaii.gov	96806
3	Daniel C. Smith, Ph.D.	(Individual support)	smithdan@hawaii.edu	96782
4	Deborah Bond-Upson	LearningBond	deborah@learningbond.org	96734
5	Douglass Adams	Dept of Research & Development, COH	douglass.adams@hawaiicounty.gov	96720-4245
6	Jaclyn Kaina	Kauai Economic Development Board	jkaina@kedb.com	96766
7	Jeanne Skog	Skog Rasmussen LLC	jskog@skograsmussen.com	96793
8	Jenifer Sunrise Winter		jwinter@hawaii.edu	96821
9	Jules Ung	Banyan Networks	jung@banyannetworks.com	96817
10	Kaleo Bennett	Auamo Collaborative	kokua@auamocollaborative.org	96720
11	Katie Hendrickson		katie@code.org	45701
12	Kau`i Burgess	Kamehameha Schools	kaburges@ksbe.edu	96813
13	Kristilyn Oda		kristioda@gmail.com	96707
14	Laura Arcibal		lkmarcibal@gmail.com	96795
15	Lynn Otaguro	O'ahu County Democrats Digital Equity Committee	lmotaguro@yahoo.com	96821
16	Pamela Tumpap	Maui Chamber of Commerce	pamela@mauichamber.com	96793
17	Rich Matsuda	W. M. Keck Observatory	rmatsuda@keck.hawaii.edu	96743
18	Summer Keliipio	`A`ali`i Alliance	kernel_overdub_of@icloud.com	96744
19	Susan Tai	Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii	susantaikaneko@gmail.com	96814
20	Tamara Rajaram		tamarar@3red8.com	95014
21	Wayne Buente		wayne.buente@gmail.com	96822

SB-2214-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2022 2:09:51 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michael Olderr	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

The opportunity of growth and learning should not be diswayed by physical limitations or bound by the rules of the past.

SB-2214-SD-1

Submitted on: 2/16/2022 6:37:00 PM

Testimony for WAM on 2/22/2022 10:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Michael Press	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Michael Press. I am a teacher at Ilima Intermediate in Ewa Beach on Oahu. Please support and pass this bill. Mahalo!

Senator Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Chair
Senator Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, Vice Chair
COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS

LATE

February 22, 2022
10:00 AM

Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2214, S.D. 1 RELATING TO DIGITAL LITERACY.

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, including making digital technology accessible to individuals with disabilities. Appropriates funds.

Aloha Chair Donovan M. Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Gilbert S.C. Keith-Agaran, and members of the committee on Ways and Means. My name is Alina Lujan Butler and I am a graduate student in the Master's of Social Work program from the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa. I am writing in support of SB2214, which seeks to establish a digital literacy program to be overseen by the Board of Education and implemented by the State Librarian to promote digital literacy.

Throughout the past few years in which we all have had to endure and adapt during the COVID-19 pandemic, certain barriers and disparities that affect our communities have been highlighted and brought to the forefront. Digital literacy and access to digital technology has been essential for communication whether for work, school, or social interaction in general. Unfortunately, with the rise of virtual or digital communication, this has also called attention to the lack of digital literacy among Americans, especially among our most vulnerable populations. Without digital literacy, entire groups of individuals are put at a significant disadvantage among their peers. This can especially be seen among students that had to attempt to adapt to virtual learning at home during the pandemic. Access to a competent internet connection, understanding of how to operate a digital tool, and/or how to safely interact online are all much needed features for students to successfully thrive and later utilize these skills when entering the workforce.

Lastly, digital literacy is crucial for individuals with disabilities and ensuring accessibility. Digital literacy can lead to increased independence and self-sufficiency, which are central areas of concern for individuals with disabilities. As an individual with a disability myself, and a social worker that works daily with people with disabilities, the importance of being able to communicate and express oneself digitally is critical and the urgent need to do so has only been amplified by the current digital demands of working, learning, and interacting during the COVID-19 pandemic and in years to come.

SB2214 will not only help contribute to our economy by educating our students and preparing them to enter the workforce, but will also help to alleviate significant barriers that have previously not allowed many individuals in our community to effectively and competently

communicate, interact, and learn alongside their peers. I urge the committee to pass SB2214, S.D. 1.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Alina Lujan Butler
University of Hawai'i at Manoa
(671) 689-8714