



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

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
AND
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND**

**Thursday, March 17, 2022
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Room 309 + videoconference**

**By Stacey A. Aldrich
State Librarian**

**S.B. 2214 SD2 RELATING TO DIGITAL LITERACY; LIBRARIES; BOARD OF EDUCATION;
STATE LIBRARIAN**

To: Chair Justin H. Woodson
Vice Chair Jeanne Kapela
Members of the House Committee on Education

Chair David A. Tarnas
Vice Chair Patrick Pihana Branco
Members of the House Committee on Water & Land

The Hawaii State Public Library System (HSPLS) appreciates the opportunity to provide testimony on SB2214 SD2, 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 SD2 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

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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.



DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

MIKE MCCARTNEY
DIRECTOR

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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Statement of
MIKE MCCARTNEY
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the

**HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND**

Thursday, March 17, 2022
2:00 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of

**SB2214, SD2
RELATING TO DIGITAL LITERACY.**

Chairs Woodson and Tarnas, Vice Chairs Kapela and Branco and members of the Committees. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) **supports SB2214, SD2**, 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.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
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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 HOUSE COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION
ON
SENATE BILL NO. 2214, S.D. 2

March 17, 2022
2:00 p.m.
Room 309 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. 2, 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.



Chamber of Commerce HAWAII

The Voice of Business

**Testimony to the House Committee on Education
Thursday, March 17, 2022, at 2:00 P.M.
Conference Room 309 & Videoconference**

RE: SB 2214 SD2 Relating to Digital Literacy

Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee:

The Chamber of Commerce Hawaii ("The Chamber") **supports** SB 2214 SD2 which 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.

The Chamber is Hawaii's leading statewide business advocacy organization, representing about 2,000+ businesses. Approximately 80% of our members are small businesses with less than 20 employees. As the "Voice of Business" in Hawaii, the organization works on behalf of members and the entire business community to improve the state's economic climate and to foster positive action on issues of common concern.

Through strategic and deliberate collaboration, the Chamber is investing in K-12 career and technical education, and synergy with business community, resulting in new industry partner connections, sector-driven workforce development solutions, increased certification attainment and high-quality work-based learning (WBL) experiences.

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. Increasing digital literacy among students and members of the workforce would increase their competitiveness in an economy increasingly defined by the ability to use digital tools.

With the rise in workforce shortages across multiple industries, this bill will help students graduate and participate in the modern-day workplace, while also strengthening and diversifying our economy.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Thursday, March 17, 2022 at 2:00 PM
Via Video Conference

House Committee on Education

To: Representative Justin Woodson, Chair
Representative Jeanne Kapela, Vice Chair

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

Re: **SB 2214, SD2 – 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, SD2 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.



House Committee on Education

Date: March 17, 2022
 Time: 2:00 p.m.
 Where: Conference Room 309 & Videoconference

RE: **Supporting SB2214 SD2** Relating to Digital Literacy

Aloha mai e Chair Woodson, Vice Chair Kapela, and Members of the Committee,

As members of the Broadband Hui, the listed organizations and individuals **SUPPORT SB2214 SD2**, 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 SD2**. 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	Mark Iha	Tangent Inc.	mark@tangent.systems	96813
17	Pamela Tumpap	Maui Chamber of Commerce	pamela@mauichamber.com	96793
18	Rich Matsuda	W. M. Keck Observatory	rmatsuda@keck.hawaii.edu	96743
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22	Susan Tai	Economic Development Alliance of Hawaii	susantaikaneko@gmail.com	96814
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24	Wayne Buente		wayne.buente@gmail.com	96822

SB-2214-SD-2

Submitted on: 3/15/2022 8:28:14 PM

Testimony for EDN on 3/17/2022 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alice Kim	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Now in the 21st century, digital literacy facilitates access to most important aspects of our lives including health care, education, and jobs. Unfortunately, not everyone has the needed digital literacy skills, and those who lack them tend to include individuals of certain demographics such as minorities, those with lower incomes, and older people. As community centers for lifelong learning, public libraries play an important role in bridging the digital divide. Because income affects access to technology, including Internet, people in lower-income communities usually rely on public libraries more to access the Internet. Digital literacy serves as an important role in developing an engaged and inclusive society, and technology serves as a powerful tool for building stronger communities and providing more opportunities for community members.