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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

DECLARING DISINFORMATION AND DIGITAL HATE SPEECH AS THREATS TO  
DEMOCRACY AND URGING DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES TO ADDRESS  
THESE THREATS.

1           WHEREAS, disinformation and digital hate speech are  
2 pervasive threats to modern society; and  
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4           WHEREAS, a 2018 report published by Statista found that  
5 sixty-four percent of teenagers in the United States have  
6 encountered hate speech on social media; and  
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8           WHEREAS, disinformation and digital hate speech have been  
9 linked to acts of violence, including mass shootings at a church  
10 in Charleston, North Carolina, and a synagogue in Pittsburgh,  
11 Pennsylvania; and  
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13           WHEREAS, just under half of the deaths caused by right-wing  
14 incidents were committed by people who showed support for white  
15 supremacy; and  
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17           WHEREAS, in a June 2019 report entitled *Hate Speech on*  
18 *Social Media: Global Comparisons*, the Council on Foreign  
19 Relations noted that digital hate speech has been linked to a  
20 global increase in violence toward minorities; and  
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22           WHEREAS, the same study found that policies used to curb  
23 digital hate speech are often inconsistently enforced by social  
24 media companies; and  
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26           WHEREAS, from 2015 to 2020, the use of websites and social  
27 media by right-wing extremists rose in five of the six years;  
28 and  
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# H.C.R. NO. 34

1 WHEREAS, disinformation and digital hate speech have also  
2 been linked to the insurrection that occurred at the United  
3 States Capitol on January 6, 2021; and  
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5 WHEREAS, a 2021 Washington Post investigation found that  
6 right-wing extremists have been involved in two hundred sixty-  
7 seven plots or attacks in the United States since 2015,  
8 resulting in ninety-one fatalities; and  
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10 WHEREAS, to safeguard the vital functions of democracy and  
11 public service, the State has an obligation to protect  
12 government institutions, public officials, and public employees  
13 from threats of violent extremism that are organized online;  
14 now, therefore,  
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16 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
17 Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular  
18 Session of 2024, the Senate concurring, that this body declares  
19 disinformation and digital hate speech as threats to democracy  
20 and urges all state departments and agencies to address these  
21 threats; and  
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that all State departments and  
24 agencies are urged to address disinformation and digital hate  
25 speech by:  
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- 27 (1) Developing public safety plans to protect public  
28 institutions and employees from threats of violence  
29 that are organized online;  
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- 31 (2) Increasing access to media literacy and training in  
32 how to effectively identify and respond to  
33 disinformation and digital hate speech;  
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- 35 (3) Establishing trauma-informed protocols to assist those  
36 who are targeted and harmed by disinformation and  
37 digital hate speech; and  
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- 39 (4) Making any necessary amendments to rules and policies  
40 to address disinformation and hate speech; and  
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