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# SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII PROFESSIONAL CHAPTER OF THE SOCIETY OF PROFESSIONAL JOURNALISTS TO RECOMMEND A PROCESS THAT INDIVIDUALS CAN UTILIZE TO EVALUATE AND IDENTIFY WHETHER OR NOT NEWS SOURCES ADHERE TO ETHICAL AND OBJECTIVE STANDARDS.

1           WHEREAS, the Society of Professional Journalists and  
2 objective news adhere to a code of ethics and journalistic  
3 standards that can ensure objective reporting, truth, and  
4 prevent the spread of misinformation; and

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6           WHEREAS, the collapse of independent local media in the  
7 digital economy has seen legacy media consolidate and become  
8 increasingly more expensive to access for Americans and  
9 residents of the State; and

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11           WHEREAS, proliferation of social media has enabled some  
12 organizations and individuals with broad reach presenting  
13 themselves as news sources to intentionally or inadvertently  
14 spread misinformation, making it difficult for the average  
15 person to distinguish truth from fiction; and

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17           WHEREAS, the continued advancements in artificial  
18 intelligence have created a new tool to create and disseminate  
19 unverifiable information more easily than ever before; and

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21           WHEREAS, developing a way to recognize sources of news and  
22 information that adhere to ethical, objective, journalistic  
23 standards will help arm the public with a means to distinguish  
24 between truth and misinformation; and

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26           WHEREAS, with the rise and exacerbation of misinformation,  
27 other states and countries have established task forces, media  
28 literacy campaigns, and introduced legislation to mitigate the  
29 harmful effects of misinformation; and

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31           WHEREAS, the Hawaii Professional Chapter of the Society of  
32 Professional Journalists has a responsibility to ensure that



1 information is reported with accuracy and objectivity that acts  
2 in accordance with ethical standards; now, therefore,

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4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second  
5 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2024,  
6 that the Hawaii Professional Chapter of the Society of  
7 Professional Journalists is requested to recommend a process  
8 that individuals can utilize to evaluate and identify whether or  
9 not news sources adhere to ethical and objective standards; and

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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Professional Chapter  
12 of the Society of Professional Journalists is requested to  
13 submit a report of its findings and recommendations to the  
14 Legislature no later than forty days prior to the convening of  
15 the Regular Session of 2025; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
18 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Hawaii  
19 Professional Chapter of the Society of Professional Journalists.

