

JAN 15 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HEALTH.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that in 2023, thirty-
2 three states, including Hawaii, filed a suit against Meta
3 Platforms, Inc.; Instagram, LLC; and other companies for
4 deliberately designing addictive features on their platforms.
5 The legislature further finds that excessive social media use is
6 one of a wide range of online activities that individuals may
7 engage with problematically. Additionally, various vulnerable
8 and underserved communities in the State are disproportionately
9 engaged in addictive or problematic online activities.

10 The legislature finds however, that many online activities
11 are largely unregulated and unmonitored, and many users engage
12 with addictive or problematic online activities privately and
13 anonymously, inhibiting recognition of the problem by oneself,
14 family, or partners. Although the State does not tolerate
15 disingenuous and predatory practices against vulnerable
16 populations including children, it is difficult to determine
17 what supports and safeguards are needed for its constituents



1 without understanding the behaviors or activities the
2 constituents engage in.

3 Therefore, the purpose of this Act is to require the
4 department of health to conduct a study to evaluate State
5 residents' engagement with a range of online activities that can
6 be inherently addictive and disproportionately affect vulnerable
7 and minority populations.

8 SECTION 2. (a) The department of health shall conduct a
9 study to evaluate State residents' engagement with a range of
10 online activities that can be inherently addictive and
11 disproportionately affect vulnerable and minority populations.
12 To better understand local participation in potentially
13 addictive online activities, the study shall include a
14 prevalence survey to measure participation in social media,
15 mobile phone use, video gaming, high-risk stock and
16 cryptocurrency trading, and a range of other behaviors with a
17 risk to cause harm.

18 (b) The department of health shall submit a report of its
19 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
20 legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior
21 to the convening of the regular session of 2026.



1 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
2 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
3 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 for
4 the department of health to conduct a study on addictive online
5 activities pursuant to section 2 of this Act.

6 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
7 health for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

9

INTRODUCED BY: 



S.B. NO. 333

Report Title:

DOH; Study; Addictive Online Activities; Report; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Health to conduct a study on addictive online activities engaged in by residents of the State and submit a report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2026.

Appropriates funds.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

