June 30, 2022

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,  
President  
and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki,  
Speaker and Members of the  
House of Representatives  
Thirty-First State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

This is to inform you that on June 30, 2022, the following bill was signed into law:

SB2214 SD2 HD1 CD1  
RELATING TO DIGITAL LITERACY.  
ACT 232

Sincerely,

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor, State of Hawai'i
A BILL FOR AN ACT
RELATING TO DIGITAL LITERACY.

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

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that, according to a 2015 report by the Association of Library Service to Children, library services increasingly center on digital tools and media. In 2015, seventy-five per cent of households owned some form of digital media device. However, guidance and knowledge on the use of digital media are often lacking. Providing parents and children with a deeper understanding of the digital tools available to them is essential to the well-being of families in the twenty-first century.

The legislature further finds that digital literacy skills are crucial for career success in the twenty-first century. According to a Brookings Institution report from 2017, workplaces across the country and globe have undergone a rapid process of digitization. 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. While digitization offers advantages to digitally
literacy individuals, it also increases barriers for members of
the public who lack digital skills. Increasing digital literacy
among members of the public would increase their competitiveness
in an economy increasingly defined by the ability to use digital
tools.

The purpose of this Act is 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.

SECTION 2. Chapter 312, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
and to read as follows:

"§312- Digital literacy program. (a) The board of
education, through the state librarian, shall:

(1) Provide for the establishment and ongoing operation of
a digital literacy program for the public libraries in
the State; and

(2) Provide coordination and facilitation of the
activities of digital literacy service providers and
digital literacy programs in the public, private, and
volunteer sectors."
(b) The objectives of the digital literacy program shall be to provide programmatic activities promoting digital learning in the community by providing digital skill building opportunities that aim to improve:

(1) Knowledge and skills in digital literacy;
(2) Knowledge and skills in the use of digital education tools and platforms; and
(3) Knowledge, skills, and the use of digital education tools and platforms to make digital technology accessible to individuals with disabilities.

(c) The digital literacy program shall not affect existing department of education programs relating to adult education as provided under sections 302A-432 to 302A-435."

SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of $75,000 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the establishment and administration of the digital literacy program established by this Act.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the Hawaii state public library system for the purposes of this Act.

SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.
SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.
S.B. NO.

APPROVED this 30th day of June, 2022

GOVERNOR OF THE STATE OF HAWAII
S.B. No. 2214, S.D. 2, H.D. 1, C.D. 1

THE SENATE OF THE STATE OF HAWAI‘I

Date: May 3, 2022
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

We hereby certify that the foregoing Bill this day passed Final Reading in the Senate
of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawai‘i, Regular Session of 2022.

[Signature]
President of the Senate

[Signature]
Clerk of the Senate
THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES OF THE STATE OF HAWAI'I

Date: May 03, 2022
Honolulu, Hawaii

We hereby certify that the above-referenced Bill on this day passed Final Reading in the House of Representatives of the Thirty-First Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022.

Scott K. Saiki
Speaker
House of Representatives

Brian L. Takeshita
Chief Clerk
House of Representatives