



CYBERBULLYING

DEFINITION:

The act of harassing someone online by sending or posting mean messages.¹

FACTS:

- 71.9% of students reported being cyberbullied once or twice in the school year.²
- Over 70% of teens said that blocking cyberbullies was the most effective method of prevention.³

Hawaii Laws:

- **Harassment (HRS §711-1106)**⁴

A person commits the offense of harassment if, with intent to harass, annoy, or alarm any other person, that person repeatedly makes telephone calls, fax, or electronic mail transmissions without purpose of legitimate communication.

Penalty: Petty misdemeanor; maximum of 30 days in jail or 6 months probation with up to 5 days in jail as a condition of probation.

- **Harassment by Impersonation (HRS §711-1106.6)**⁵

A person commits the offense of harassment by impersonation if that person poses as another person, with the intent to harass, annoy, or alarm any other person directly or indirectly by transmission of any personal information of the person to another by any oral statement, written statement, or any statement by electronic means.

Penalty: Misdemeanor; maximum of 1 year in jail or 1 year probation with up to 6 months in jail as a condition of probation.

References:

1. *Definition of Cyberbullying*. Dictionary. (n.d.) Web.
2. Roberts, Simone; Kemp, Jana; Rathbun, Amy; Morgan, Rachel E.; and Snyder, Thomas D.. "Indicators of School Crimes and Safety: 2013." Bureau of Justice Statistics. (2014) Web.
3. "Stop Cyberbullying Before It Starts." National Crime Prevention Council. (n.d.) Web.
4. 711 Hawaii Revised Statutes. Sections 1106 and 1106.6. Hawaii State Legislature. Web.
5. Ibid.

A Parent's Role in Putting a Stop to Cyberbullying⁶

- Talk with your child about how to behave and communicate politely over the Internet and mobile devices.
- Make sure your child understands that comments and images posted on the Internet can never be deleted.
- Teach your child to keep the passwords to their online accounts private.
- Talk to your child about how to handle strong emotions, such as anger.
- If your child receives an angry or taunting message, teach them to refrain from responding and to tell a responsible adult.
- Know how much time your child is spending on the Internet and mobile device.
- Enjoy the Internet with your child.
- Encourage your local schools to educate the students on cyber ethics and the law.

Encourage
your child to tell
a trusted adult and
continue telling an
adult until the adult
takes action.

For more information, go to: ag.hawaii.gov/cpja/ccp/internetsafety/

References:

6. A Parent's Role in Putting a Stop to Cyberbullying. My Secure Cyberspace. (n.d.) Web.