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1200 Ala Kapuna Street ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96819
Tel: (808) 833-2711 ♦ Fax: (808) 839-7106 ♦ Web: www.hsta.org

Corey Rosenlee
President
Osa Tui Jr.
Vice President
Logan Okita
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON
WAYS AND MEANS

RE: SB 970 - RELATING TO COMPUTER SCIENCE PROFESSIONAL
DEVELOPMENT

TUESDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Dela Cruz, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports SB 970**, relating to computer science professional development.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association (HSTA) is the exclusive representative of the state's 13,700 public school teachers as the local affiliate of the 2.2 million member National Education Association. This measure would appropriate funds to the department of education to establish a program with eligible entities to develop and implement teacher professional development for computer science courses and content.

The landscape in the area of computer sciences is ever-changing, thus the requested program is necessary to help guarantee that our public school teachers are able to provide our public school students with the most up-to-date information in this rapidly expanding field. Passing this bill will help ensure that when public school students graduate they are prepared for the higher education or to join the workforce with the computer science skills they need.

The Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support** SB 970.

SB-970

Submitted on: 2/18/2019 8:45:48 AM

Testimony for WAM on 2/19/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	Testifying for O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/19/2019
Time: 09:30 AM
Location: 211
Committee: Senate Ways and Means

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: SB 0970 RELATING TO COMPUTER SCIENCE PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds to the department of education to establish a program with eligible entities to develop and implement teacher professional development for computer science courses and content.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 970 to develop and implement teacher professional development for computer science courses and content and respectfully provides comments.

During the 2017-2018 school year, the Department collaborated with stakeholders to create a strategic multi-year computer science action plan focused on advancing innovative outcomes and learning experiences for all students. This action plan includes the delivery of high quality professional opportunities and embedded coaching that is essential to building teacher capacity and confidence in the development of rigorous computer science instruction in grades K-12.

The Department recognizes its imperative to increase equity and access to computer science programs statewide for students. Therefore, its teachers must be afforded an array of high quality computer science professional development. To address this need, a personnel services list was established to expedite a complex area's or school's ability to procure services related to computer science learning and outcomes.

Further, in fall 2018, the Department collaborated with the Hawaii Teacher Standards Board to enable grade K-12 teachers to add computer science as a new license field to their existing certification.

In closing, the Department is appreciative of the appropriation included in this measure to expand computer science offerings and content within its schools and complex areas beginning in school year 2019-2020 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Education (BOE) approved budget.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on SB 970.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.