
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AND WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the number of women
2 graduating with degrees in computer science has decreased
3 nationwide from thirty-seven percent in 1985 to eighteen percent
4 in 2015. Women currently comprise only twenty-four percent of
5 the computing workforce. At the same time, computing jobs in the
6 United States are growing at three times the rate of overall job
7 creation. In 2015 there were more than a half million open
8 computing jobs in the nation, but only forty-thousand computer
9 science graduates.

10 The legislature also finds that Hawaii has the goal of
11 increasing the number of technology jobs in the state and will
12 require a well-trained and competent workforce to fill these
13 positions. Increasing the number of women earning degrees in
14 computer science allows women to enter this growing job market
15 and increase their quality of life.

16 The legislature also finds that while progress has been
17 made in certain subjects through successful implementation of



1 the STEM initiatives, there are fewer advanced placement exams
2 taken in computer science than in any other STEM subject area.
3 In Hawaii thirty-three percent of advanced placement computer
4 science exam takers were female.

5 The legislature also finds that other higher learning
6 institutions have taken measures that have successfully
7 increased the number of women majoring in computer science by
8 providing a learning environment that is supportive of women.
9 Higher learning institutions that have made the effort to market
10 and tailor courses in computer science to women have seen an
11 increase in women enrolled in these degree programs.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a
13 center for women in technology within the University of Hawaii
14 department of information and computer sciences.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by adding a new part to be appropriately designated and
17 to read as follows:

18 **§304A- Center for women in technology; establishment.** (a)
19 There is established at the University of Hawaii, within the
20 department of information and computer sciences, the center for
21 women in technology. The center for women in technology shall:



1 (1) Advise and assist to develop marketing and outreach to
2 build interest in the computer science program among women.

3 (2) Review current curriculum and adopt teaching methods
4 that are female friendly and guard against gender-based
5 stereotypes.

6 (3) Set measurable goals to increase the number of women
7 enrolled in the department of information and computer sciences
8 and to build interest in the field among current and future
9 female students.

10 (4) Coordinate programs with middle and high schools such
11 as mentoring, summer workshops, after-school courses, and
12 similar programs in computer science.

13 (5) The center shall serve as the clearinghouse for matters
14 involving women in computer science in the state.

15 (b) The affairs and operations of the center for women in
16 technology shall be administered by a director appointed by and
17 responsible to the chancellor of the University of Hawaii. The
18 center for women in technology shall draw on existing personnel
19 within the state government as much as possible for necessary
20 supplementation. Where demand for programs and services exceeds
21 the capabilities of the permanent staff as supplemented,



1 additional personnel resources may be acquired on a contract
2 basis without regard to chapter 76. Permanent staff shall be
3 covered by chapter 76 or section 304A-1002 as may be
4 appropriate.

5 (c) The center for women in technology shall receive the
6 full cooperation of all state agencies in the use of staff
7 members, facilities, and other resources necessary to accomplish
8 the purposes of this subpart.

9 (d) The director shall prepare an annual report to the
10 legislature on the status of the program and overall
11 achievement. The annual report shall be submitted no later than
12 twenty days prior to the convening of each regular legislative
13 session

14 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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H.B. NO. 1165

INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 23 2017



H.B. NO. 1165

Report Title:

Center for Women in Technology; UH

Description:

Establishes a Center for Women in Technology within the University of Hawaii, Department of Information and Computer Sciences.

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