

MAR 10 2017

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT
A STATE PLAN FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION IN ALL PUBLIC
SCHOOLS.

1 WHEREAS, computer science drives job growth and innovation
2 throughout the economy and society of the State, with
3 occupations involving computing making up over two-thirds of all
4 projected new jobs in science, technology, engineering, and
5 mathematics (STEM) fields; and
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7 WHEREAS, recent survey and research results highlight the
8 importance of robust computer science curricula, and the
9 disparity between the demand for computer science education and
10 its availability, for example:
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12 (1) Ninety percent of parents want their child's school to
13 teach computer science, but only forty percent of
14 schools teach it;
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16 (2) Fifty percent of Americans rank computer science as
17 one of the two most important subjects of study after
18 reading and writing;
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20 (3) Seventy-five percent of Americans believe computer
21 science is cool in a way that it wasn't ten years ago;
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23 (4) Students who learn computer science in high school are
24 six times more likely to major in it, and women are
25 ten times more likely; and
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27 (5) Sixty-seven percent of parents and fifty-six percent
28 of teachers believe students should be required to
29 learn computer science; and
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31 WHEREAS, as of December 2016, there were 1,343 open
32 computing jobs in Hawaii, and that the average salary for a
33 computing occupation in Hawaii is \$78,414, compared to the
34 average salary in the State, which is \$47,740; and
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1 WHEREAS, only fourteen schools in Hawaii offered the
2 advance placement computer science course in 2015-2016, and
3 while ninety percent of parents want their children to learn
4 computer science, only forty percent of schools teach computer
5 programming; now, therefore,
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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
8 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2017,
9 that the Department of Education is requested to develop and
10 implement a computer science curricula plan statewide for all
11 students from kindergarten through twelfth grade, which
12 includes:
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- 14 (1) The goals of the computer science curricula;
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16 (2) Strategies for accomplishing the Department's goals;
17 and
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19 (3) Timelines for carrying out the strategies described in
20 the plan; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
23 requested to establish, and make publicly available, computer
24 science standards across all grade levels from kindergarten
25 through twelfth grade, which focus on the creation and use of
26 software and computing technologies at all grade levels; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
29 requested to provide dedicated funding for rigorous computer
30 science and professional development and course support in the
31 Department's budget; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department is requested to
34 establish dedicated computer science administrative and
35 leadership positions; and
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37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Education is
38 requested to require that every public intermediate, middle, and
39 high school offer computer science courses based on rigorous
40 standards for each grade level, which may include remote and in-
41 person courses; and
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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any student who completes a
2 computer science course receive credit for that course toward
3 core graduation requirements at the school that the student
4 attends; and
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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is
7 requested, as part of its admission process, to allow students
8 to substitute computer science courses for other required course
9 credits; and
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11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
12 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
13 Education, Superintendent of Education, and Chairperson of the
14 Board of Regents of the University of Hawaii.
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OFFERED BY:





