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GOVERNOR

KATHRYN S. MATAYOSHI
SUPERINTENDENT

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

Date: 02/08/2017
Time: 03:15 PM
Location: 229
Committee: Senate Education
Senate Higher Education

Department:	Education
Person Testifying:	Kathryn S. Matayoshi, Superintendent of Education
Title of Bill:	SB 0299 RELATING TO EDUCATION.
Purpose of Bill:	Requires the department of education to develop and implement a state plan for computer science education in all public schools. Requires public intermediate, middle, and high schools to offer computer science courses for grades six through twelve. Allows applicants to the University of Hawaii to substitute computer science courses for other admission requirements.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education supports the intent of SB 299 related to the development and implementation of a state plan for computer science education in grades K-12 in all public schools.

An internal stakeholder group has been formalized to create a multi-year plan for computer science in Hawaii public schools. This effort will expand to coordinate and nurture partnerships with multiple stakeholders, which currently include the University of Hawaii - Honolulu Community College.

Further, as suggested by SB 299, the Department will also explore K-12 curricula options leading to graduation and college and career pathways for students, professional development needs, and post-secondary opportunities with the University of Hawaii system.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony for SB 299.

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education
February 8, 2017 at 3:15 p.m.
By
Risa E. Dickson, Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy
University of Hawai'i System

SB 299 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chairs Kidani and Kahele, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 299 that requires the Hawai'i Department of Education to develop and implement a state plan for computer science education in all public schools and allows applicants to the University of Hawai'i to substitute computer science courses for other admission requirements.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) lauds the intent of the legislature to boost job growth and innovation in our state through the development of robust computer science education in Hawai'i. UH offers these comments, pertaining only to Section 3 of SB 299 which would amend Chapter 304A of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes by adding language on admission requirements to the University:

> *As part of its admission process, the University of Hawai'i shall allow students to substitute computer science courses for other required course credits.*

While UH generally recognizes the need for strong science curricula, it is unclear that any change is needed to the admissions requirements at UH, as stated in SB 299, to support computer science. The admissions eligibility at the UH community colleges are to be 18 years of age or older and to have earned a high school diploma, GED, or equivalent. At UH four-year campuses, students seeking admissions could use a computer science course as one or more electives.

The UH does not support substituting computer science courses for the foundational science courses such as biology, chemistry, and physics, or math courses. Instead, UH encourages high school students to supplement this foundation with computer science courses, particularly students intending to go into the STEM fields, including information and communications technology (ICT).

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 299.

Microsoft

February 3, 2017

RE: Support for SB 299 Relating to Computer Science Education

Dear Chairs Kidani and Kahele, and the Members of the Senate Education and Higher Education Committees,

Microsoft strongly supports SB 299, which requires that the department of education adopt a broad framework to provide all students with access to computer science, including best practices that support and expand computer science education. We believe the changes proposed are commendable, forward-thinking, practical, and will increase the number of students engaged with Computer Science Hawaii.

Computer Science classes are not technical nor vocational; studying the discipline prepares students for a variety of career paths. In fact, two-thirds of computing jobs are in sectors other than information technology, including manufacturing, health care, finance, defense, and government. Studying Computer Science develops computational and critical thinking skills, allowing students to not just use technology but to create it, shaping the future of Hawaii's economy.

We also believe that encouraging more schools to adopt computer science courses effectively increase student enrollment across the State. In the thirty-two states that currently count Computer Science towards a math or science credit, the average class size is 53 percent higher than in states where Computer Science is only an elective. Research shows that when students are exposed to computer science in high school, they are far more likely to pursue it as a career. While only 12 schools in Hawaii currently offer an AP computer science course, this bill will help schools prioritize computer science.

The importance of Computer Science to the economy of Hawaii and the United States cannot be overstated. There are currently over 1450 open computing jobs in Hawaii (nearly five times the State average demand rate), but only 155 qualified college graduates to fill them. The average salary of these jobs is $78,500, significantly higher than the state's average salary. Making computer science count toward core high school graduation requirements will further secure the State's growth and economic prosperity for years to come. Microsoft encourages the Senate Education Committee to pass SB 299.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Noble
Director, State and Local Government Affairs (HI & CA)
US Government Affairs
Microsoft Corporation

SB299

Submitted on: 2/3/2017
Testimony for EDU/HRE on Feb 8, 2017 15:15PM in Conference Room 229

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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