
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

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 per cent in 1985 to eighteen per
4 cent in 2015. Women currently comprise only twenty-four per
5 cent of the computing workforce. At the same time, computing
6 jobs in the United States are growing at three times the rate of
7 overall job creation. In 2015 there were more than a half
8 million open computing jobs in the nation, but only forty
9 thousand computer science graduates.

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

16 The legislature further 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, only thirty-three per cent of advanced placement
4 computer science exam takers were female.

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

13 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a
14 virtual center for women in technology at the University of
15 Hawaii.

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

19 " . CENTER FOR WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY

20 §304A- Center for women in technology; establishment. (a)

21 There is established at the University of Hawaii a virtual



1 center for women in technology. The virtual center for women in
2 technology shall:

3 (1) Advise and assist in the development of marketing and
4 outreach to build interest in the computer science
5 program among women;

6 (2) Review current curriculum and adopt teaching methods
7 that are female friendly and guard against gender-
8 based stereotypes;

9 (3) Set measurable goals to increase the number of women
10 enrolled in the department of information and computer
11 sciences and to build interest in the field among
12 current and future female students;

13 (4) Coordinate programs with middle and high schools such
14 as mentoring, summer workshops, after-school courses,
15 and similar programs in computer science; and

16 (5) Serve as the clearinghouse for matters involving women
17 in computer science in the State.

18 (b) The affairs and operations of the virtual center for
19 women in technology shall be administered by a director
20 appointed by, and responsible to, the chancellor of the
21 University of Hawaii. The virtual center for women in



1 technology shall draw on existing personnel within state
2 government as much as possible for necessary supplementation.
3 Where demand for programs and services exceeds the capabilities
4 of the permanent staff as supplemented, additional personnel
5 resources may be acquired on a contract basis without regard to
6 chapter 76. Permanent staff shall be subject to chapter 76 or
7 section 304A-1002 as may be appropriate.

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

12 (d) The director of the virtual center for women in
13 technology shall prepare an annual report to the legislature on
14 the status of the virtual center for women in technology
15 programs and overall achievement. The annual report shall be
16 submitted no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
17 each regular legislative session."

18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2112 and
19 shall be repealed on June 30, 2023.



Report Title:

Virtual Center for Women in Technology; University of Hawaii

Description:

Establishes a Virtual Center for Women in Technology at the University of Hawaii. Repeals on June 30, 2023. (HB2121 HD1)

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