
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the importance of
2 computer science cannot be overstated. For example, fifty per
3 cent of Americans rank computer science as one of the most
4 important subjects of study, after reading and writing, and
5 seventy-five per cent of Americans believe computer science is
6 cool.

7 The legislature further finds that computing-based
8 occupations make up more than two-thirds of all projected new
9 jobs in the science, technology, engineering, and mathematics
10 fields, commonly known as STEM fields. This means that college
11 graduates with computer science degrees are in high demand among
12 employers across the nation. Students who learn computer
13 science in high school are six times more likely to major in it
14 in college, and women who learn computer science in high school
15 are ten times more likely to major in it in college.

16 The legislature also finds that recent survey and research
17 results show a disparity between the demand for computer science
18 education and its availability. Although sixty-seven per cent



1 of parents and fifty-six per cent of teachers believe students
2 should be required to learn computer science, and ninety per
3 cent of parents want their children's schools to teach computer
4 science, only forty per cent of schools offer these courses.
5 Further, although seventy-one per cent of new STEM jobs are in
6 computing, only eight per cent of STEM graduates hold degrees in
7 computer science.

8 The legislature concludes that there are similar
9 disparities at the State level, where computer science has the
10 potential to drive job growth and innovation throughout the
11 economy. As of December 2016, there were 1,343 open computing
12 jobs in Hawaii, and the average salary for these computing jobs
13 was \$78,414, which is much higher than the state average salary
14 of \$47,740. However, only one hundred fifty-five Hawaii
15 students graduated with a computer science degree in 2014, and
16 only fourteen schools in Hawaii offered the advanced placement
17 computer science course in 2015-2016. The legislature finds
18 that promoting computer science education is a matter of
19 statewide concern.

20 The purpose of this Act is to promote computer science
21 education in the State by:



- 1 (1) Requiring the department of education to:
- 2 (A) Develop and implement a statewide computer
- 3 science curricula plan for public school students
- 4 in kindergarten through twelfth grade that may
- 5 include design thinking as part of the curricula;
- 6 and
- 7 (B) Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, ensure
- 8 that each public high school offers at least one
- 9 computer science course during each school year;
- 10 and
- 11 (2) Authorizing the department of education to enter into
- 12 a contract or agreement with other entities to develop
- 13 and implement computer science teacher development
- 14 programs.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
 16 amended by adding two new sections to be appropriately
 17 designated and to read as follows:

18 "§302A- Computer science; curricula plan; public
 19 schools. The department shall:

- 20 (1) Develop and implement a statewide computer science
- 21 curricula plan for public school students in



1 kindergarten through twelfth grade that may include
2 design thinking as part of the curricula; and

3 (2) Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, ensure that
4 each public high school offers at least one computer
5 science course during each school year.

6 §302A- Computer science teacher development programs.

7 (a) The department may enter into a contract or agreement with
8 one or more entities to develop and implement computer science
9 teacher development programs; provided that an entity shall be:

10 (1) An educational agency, including a charter educational
11 agency, or a consortia of educational agencies in the
12 State;

13 (2) An institution of higher education located in the
14 State; or

15 (3) A nationally recognized provider of effective computer
16 science professional development.

17 (b) An entity that intends to enter into a contract or
18 agreement with the department pursuant to this section shall
19 first submit a proposal to the department that, at minimum,
20 shall address how the entity plans to:



- 1 (1) Instruct teachers with varying levels of knowledge and
2 experience in computer science;
- 3 (2) Provide teachers with experience in hands-on, inquiry-
4 based practices;
- 5 (3) Utilize effective practices for professional
6 development;
- 7 (4) Emphasize the conceptual foundations of computer
8 science;
- 9 (5) Instruct teachers how to effectively teach students in
10 computer science, including students from demographic
11 groups that are historically underrepresented in
12 computer science careers;
- 13 (6) Adapt its instruction to accommodate the particular
14 needs of teachers in different schools and districts;
15 and
- 16 (7) Meet other requirements established by the
17 department."

18 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 to the
21 department of education to develop a computer science curricula



1 plan, offer computer science classes, and contract for teacher
2 development programs pursuant to section 2 of this Act.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 education for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 4. Any unexpended and unencumbered balance of the
6 appropriation made in this Act as of the close of business on
7 June 30, 2019, shall lapse.

8 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

9 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.



Report Title:

DOE; Computer Science; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Education to develop and implement a statewide computer science curricula plan for public school students in K-12 that may include design thinking as part of the curricula and ensure each public high school offers at least 1 computer science course each school year. Authorizes the Department of Education to contract for computer science teacher development programs. Appropriates funds. (HB2607 CD1)

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

