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David Miyashiro
Executive Director

May 18, 2020

Committee on Lower & Higher Education
Senator Michelle N. Kidani, Chair
Senator Donna Mercado Kim, Vice Chair

State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee,

HawaiiKidsCAN supports SR150, which requests the Hawaii Department of Education (DOE) to submit a report to the legislature on the status of achieving Act 51, Session laws of Hawaii 2018, mandates for computer science education.

As an organization that was proud to advocate in support of the legislation that was signed by Governor Ige as Act 51, HawaiiKidsCAN believes the information requested by SR150 would be incredibly valuable in our state's efforts to expand access and equity in computer science education and increase our high-tech workforce. We supported the initial legislation after our *State of Computer Science Education in Hawaii 2018* report (accessible at <https://tinyurl.com/CSHawaii2018>) found that less than half of Hawaii public schools offered computer science courses, only 14 high schools offered Advanced Placement Computer Science (AP CS) courses, and only 32 percent of the 290 AP CS test takers in 2017 were female and only 4 percent—just 12 students statewide—identified as Native Hawaiian/Pacific Islander.

The legislature and the public deserve to know how those numbers have improved since the investment of Act 51. HawaiiKidsCAN has been an active member of the DOE's Computer Science Stakeholder Group for the last few years, and we know how hard the DOE's team has been working to advance computer science education. We believe SR150 will help identify what additional supports this team needs in order to achieve the goals set in the DOE's Computer Science Action Plan and Act 51, which requires each public high school to offer at least one computer science course during each school year beginning in the 2021-2022 school year.

As recent disruptions by COVID-19 have demonstrated, Hawaii needs innovative learning experiences and a diversified economy, particularly where residents with computer science skills can earn high incomes while working remotely for local, national, and global companies. Research continues to overwhelmingly show that jobs in Hawaii requiring computer science skills will grow twice as fast and pay twice as much versus the state average over the next ten

years. Let's make sure we are on track to ensure our students and state not just survive, but thrive moving into the future.

Mahalo for your consideration,

David Miyashiro
Founding Executive Director
HawaiiKidsCAN

SR-150

Submitted on: 5/16/2020 5:55:39 AM

Testimony for EDU on 5/18/2020 4:05:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|------------------------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Yvonne Sun | Testifying for HawaiiKidsCan | Support | No |

Comments:

SR-150

Submitted on: 5/17/2020 1:42:33 PM

Testimony for EDU on 5/18/2020 4:05:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Aisha Heredia | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha,

I strongly support SR150. As a former educator I have seen how students can explore and have fun learning many concepts in math, algorithmic thinking, logic and creative skills such as writing narratives and visual art through computer science. I support SR150 because there should be accountability in how the Hawaii State Department of Education implements Act 51 of Hawaii Session Laws of Hawaii 2018.

Mahalo,

Aisha Heredia

SR-150

Submitted on: 5/17/2020 1:52:27 PM

Testimony for EDU on 5/18/2020 4:05:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Heath Williams | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

It makes sense that the Department update the Legislature on progress toward a specific goal for which funds were appropriated. Please support this resolution.

SR-150

Submitted on: 5/17/2020 2:32:55 PM

Testimony for EDU on 5/18/2020 4:05:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Lauren Ballesteros-Watanabe | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SR-150

Submitted on: 5/17/2020 3:36:27 PM

Testimony for EDU on 5/18/2020 4:05:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| KianaRose K Dulan | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

I support this bill.

SR-150

Submitted on: 5/17/2020 3:44:06 PM

Testimony for EDU on 5/18/2020 4:05:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|-----------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Aleta Hammerich | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

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Aloha Chair Kidani, Vice Chair Kim, and Members of the Committee,

I support SR150 as a 2019 graduate from a high school in Hawaii, and a current student at the University of Hawaii. Computer science education is becoming an increasingly important subject and is part of what makes a student in today's day and age successful. I support this bill because I believe it will allow students of Hawaii the opportunity to not only discover but also pursue this subject in the future.

Mahalo,

Aleta Hammerich

SR-150

Submitted on: 5/18/2020 10:46:56 AM

Testimony for EDU on 5/18/2020 4:05:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------------------|-------------------------------|-------------------------------|
| Dylan | Testifying for HawaiiKidsCAN | Support | Yes |

Comments: