
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 PART I

2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the economic
3 disruption caused by the global coronavirus disease 2019
4 (COVID-19) pandemic has illustrated a need to diversify Hawaii's
5 economy beyond tourism. The pandemic has also shown the
6 importance of digital literacy, particularly as applied to
7 distance learning, telehealth appointments, and working from
8 home.

9 The legislature further finds that the economic disruption
10 has increased the focus on computer science education as a key
11 driver of both economic growth and digital literacy. A computer
12 science pipeline can help to diversify Hawaii's economy away
13 from tourism and into cybersecurity, green energy, robotics, and
14 other technology-based fields. Previously, the legislature
15 passed Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, which prioritized
16 statewide computer science education by:



- 1 (1) Requiring the department of education to develop and
2 implement a statewide computer science curriculum plan
3 for public school students in kindergarten through
4 twelfth grade that may include design thinking as part
5 of the curriculum; and
- 6 (2) Beginning with the 2021-2022 school year, ensuring
7 that each public high school offers at least one
8 computer science course during each school year.

9 According to a June 2020 report from the University of
10 Hawaii at Manoa, Act 51 was one of several initiatives that led
11 to a rapid increase in computer science activities in education
12 between 2017 and 2020. These activities have resulted in
13 thirty-three public high schools and eleven combination schools
14 now offering computer science courses. The number of students
15 who took the Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles test
16 and the Advanced Placement Computer Science A test increased
17 89.6 per cent and 28.7 per cent respectively, from the 2017-2018
18 school year to the 2018-2019 school year. Further, the
19 percentage of schools offering Advanced Placement Computer
20 Science courses have increased from 6.8 per cent during the



1 2017-2018 school year to 22.7 per cent during the 2019-2020
2 school year.

3 The purpose of this Act is to improve digital literacy
4 throughout the State by further increasing computer science
5 education offerings at public schools.

6 PART II

7 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
8 amended by adding a new section to part III, subpart C, to be
9 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

10 "§302A- Computer science education special fund;
11 established. (a) There is established the computer science
12 special fund into which shall be deposited:

13 (1) Appropriations by the legislature to the special fund;
14 and

15 (2) Gifts, donations, and grants from public agencies and
16 private persons for computer science training and
17 computer science pathways.

18 (b) The computer science special fund shall be
19 administered by the department to provide grants to eligible
20 entities to:



1 (1) Deliver professional development programs for teachers
2 providing instruction in computer science courses and
3 computer science content; and

4 (2) Support computer science pathways in kindergarten
5 through twelfth grade, including work-based learning
6 partnerships.

7 (c) By December 1, 2022, and each December 1 thereafter,
8 the department shall submit to the board and the legislature a
9 report summarizing the grant program, including recipients of
10 grants, uses of grant funds, and the amounts of each grant
11 provided during the previous year."

12 SECTION 3. Section 302A-101, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
13 amended by adding three new definitions to be appropriately
14 inserted and to read as follows:

15 "Computer science" means the study of computers and
16 algorithmic processes, including their principles, their
17 hardware and software designs, their implementation, and their
18 impact on society.

19 "Computer science content" means courses of instruction
20 that provide:



1 (1) Computer science instruction that is integrated with
2 another subject; and

3 (2) A final grade to each student.

4 "Computer science courses" means courses of instruction
5 that provide:

6 (1) Computer science instruction in standalone
7 implementations; and

8 (2) A final grade to each student."

9 SECTION 4. Section 302A-323, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 " ~~[+]~~ §302A-323 ~~[+]~~ **Computer science; curricula plan; public**
12 **schools.** (a) The department shall:

13 (1) Develop and implement a statewide computer science
14 curricula plan for public school students in
15 kindergarten through twelfth grade that may include
16 design thinking as part of the curricula; and

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

20 (b) Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, at least one
21 elementary school and one middle or intermediate school in each



1 complex area shall offer computer science courses or computer
2 science content.

3 (c) Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, not less
4 than fifty per cent of the elementary schools and not less than
5 fifty per cent of the middle and intermediate schools in each
6 complex area shall offer computer science courses or computer
7 science content.

8 (d) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, all
9 elementary, middle, and intermediate schools shall offer
10 computer science courses or computer science content.

11 (e) By June 30, 2022, and by each June 30 thereafter, the
12 superintendent shall submit a report of the computer science
13 courses and computer science content offered during the previous
14 school year at the schools in each complex area. The report
15 shall include:

16 (1) The names and course codes of the computer science
17 courses offered at each school;

18 (2) The number and percentage of students enrolled in each
19 computer science course and computer science content,
20 disaggregated by:

21 (A) Gender;



- 1 (B) Race and ethnicity;
- 2 (C) Special education status, including students
- 3 eligible for special education under the
- 4 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, as
- 5 amended, or section 504 of the Rehabilitation Act
- 6 of 1973, as amended;
- 7 (D) English language learner status;
- 8 (E) Eligibility for the free and reduced price lunch
- 9 program; and
- 10 (F) Grade level;
- 11 provided that if a category contains one to five
- 12 students, or contains an amount that would allow the
- 13 amount of another category that contains one to five
- 14 students to be determined, the number of students
- 15 shall be replaced with a symbol indicating that one to
- 16 five students fulfilled that particular category;
- 17 (3) The names and course codes of the courses containing
- 18 computer science content and a description of the
- 19 computer science standards and content that are
- 20 covered by those courses; and



1 SECTION 5. Chapter 302D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§302D- Computer science. (a) Beginning with the 2024-
5 2025 school year, each public charter school that serves
6 elementary, middle, intermediate, or high school students shall
7 offer computer science courses or computer science content at a
8 frequency that allows a student to enroll in a computer science
9 course or receive computer science content at least once while
10 the student is at each of the elementary school, middle or
11 intermediate school, and high school levels.

12 (b) For the purpose of this section, "offer" shall have
13 the same meaning as in section 302A-323."

14 SECTION 6. Section 302D-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
15 amended by adding three new definitions to be appropriately
16 inserted and to read as follows:

17 "Computer science" shall have the same meaning as in
18 section 302A-101.

19 "Computer science content" shall have the same meaning as
20 in section 302A-101.



S.B. NO. 242
S.D. 1

Report Title:

Education; Department of Education; Computer Science

Description:

Requires public and charter schools to offer education in computer science. Requires annual reports. (SD1)

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

