

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 0 5 2021

RE: S.B. No. 242

S.D. 1

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi President of the Senate Thirty-First State Legislature Regular Session of 2021 State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Education, to which was referred S.B. No. 242 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO EDUCATION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Require public and charter schools to offer education in computer science; and
- (2) Require annual reports from the Department of Education.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the State Public Charter School Commission, HawaiiKidsCAN, Code.org, Hawaiii Society for Technology in Education, and sixteen individuals. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Department of Education.

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

Your Committee further finds that the economic disruption has increased the focus on computer science education as a key driver of both economic growth and digital literacy. A computer science pipeline can help to diversify Hawaii's economy away from tourism and into cybersecurity, green energy, robotics, and other technology-based fields. This measure will require schools to offer education in computer science, which will provide students with a knowledge in technology so that they may capitalize on growing opportunities in the computer science industry in the future.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

- (1) Specifying that the definition of "computer science" is to align with the national definition of "computer science" by Allen Tucker;
- (2) Clarifying that the annual report shall be submitted by the Department of Education and broken down by complex areas; and
- (3) Making technical, nonsubstantive amendments for the purposes of clarity and consistency.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Education that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 242, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as S.B. No. 242, S.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on behalf of the members of the Committee on Education,

MICHELLE N. KIDANI, Chair

The Senate Thirty-First Legislature State of Hawai'i

Record of Votes Committee on Education EDU

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral: Date:					
5B 242	EDU	· , WAM	1	02/01/	21	
The Committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure.						
If so, then the previous decision was to:						
The Recommendation is:						
Pass, unamended Pass, with amendments Hold Recommit 2312 2311 2310 2313						
Members		Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused	
KIDANI, Michelle N. (C)						
KIM, Donna Mercado (VC)		V/		<u> </u>		
DELA CRUZ, Donovan M.		V				
KANUHA, Dru Mamo				<u> </u>		
FEVELLA, Kurt						
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TOTAL		5				
Recommendation: Adopted Not Adopted						
Chair's or Designee's Signature:						
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*Only one measure per Record of Votes