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# 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 pandemic has illustrated a need to diversify Hawaii's economy  
5 beyond tourism. The pandemic has also shown the importance of  
6 digital literacy, particularly as applied to distance learning,  
7 telehealth, and working from home.

8 The legislature further finds that the economic disruption  
9 caused by the pandemic has increased the focus on computer  
10 science education as a key driver of economic growth and digital  
11 literacy. A computer science pipeline can help to diversify  
12 Hawaii's economy beyond tourism to include cybersecurity, green  
13 energy, robotics, and other technology-based fields.

14 Previously, the legislature passed Act 51, Session Laws of  
15 Hawaii 2018 (Act 51), which prioritized statewide computer  
16 science education by:

17 (1) Requiring the department of education to develop and  
18 implement a statewide computer science curriculum plan



1 for public school students in kindergarten through  
2 twelfth grade that may include design thinking as part  
3 of the curriculum; and

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

7 According to a June 2020 report from the University of  
8 Hawaii at Manoa, Act 51 was one of several initiatives that led  
9 to a rapid increase in computer science activities in education  
10 between 2017 and 2020. These activities have resulted in  
11 thirty-three public high schools and eleven combination schools  
12 now offering computer science courses. The number of students  
13 who took the Advanced Placement Computer Science Principles test  
14 and the Advanced Placement Computer Science A test increased  
15 89.6 per cent and 28.7 per cent, from the 2017-2018 school year  
16 to the 2018-2019 school year, respectively. Further, the  
17 percentage of schools offering Advanced Placement Computer  
18 Science courses has increased from 6.8 per cent during the  
19 2017-2018 school year to 22.7 per cent during the 2019-2020  
20 school year.



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

4 PART II

5 SECTION 2. Section 302A-101, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
6 amended by adding three new definitions to be appropriately  
7 inserted and to read as follows:

8 "Computer science" means the study of computers and  
9 algorithmic processes. "Computer science" includes principles,  
10 hardware and software designs, implementation, and impacts on  
11 society.

12 "Computer science content" means courses of instruction  
13 that provide:

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

16 (2) A final grade to each student.

17 "Computer science courses" means courses of instruction  
18 that provide:

19 (1) Computer science instruction in stand-alone  
20 implementations; and

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



1 SECTION 3. Section 302A-323, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended to read as follows:

3 " ~~[§302A-323]~~ Computer science; curricula plan; public  
4 schools. (a) The department shall:

5 (1) Develop and implement a statewide computer science  
6 curricula plan for public school students in  
7 kindergarten through twelfth grade that may include  
8 design thinking as part of the curricula; and

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

12 (b) Beginning with the 2022-2023 school year, at least one  
13 public elementary school and one public middle or intermediate  
14 school in each complex area shall offer computer science courses  
15 or computer science content.

16 (c) Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, no less than  
17 fifty per cent of the public elementary schools and no less than  
18 fifty per cent of the public middle and intermediate schools in  
19 each complex area shall offer computer science courses or  
20 computer science content.



1        (d) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, all public  
2 elementary, middle, and intermediate schools shall offer  
3 computer science courses or computer science content.

4        (e) By June 30, 2022, and by each June 30 thereafter, the  
5 superintendent shall submit to the board and legislature a  
6 report of the computer science courses and computer science  
7 content offered during the previous school year at the schools  
8 in each complex area. The report shall include:

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

11        (2) The number and percentage of students enrolled in each  
12 computer science course and computer science content,  
13 disaggregated by:

14        (A) Gender;

15        (B) Race and ethnicity;

16        (C) Special education status, including students  
17 eligible for special education under the federal  
18 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, as  
19 amended, or section 504 of the federal

20        Rehabilitation Act of 1973, as amended;

21        (D) English language learner status;



- 1           (E) Eligibility for the free and reduced price lunch
- 2                   program; and
- 3           (F) Grade level;
- 4           provided that if a category contains one to five
- 5           students, or contains an amount that would allow the
- 6           amount of another category that contains one to
- 7           five students to be determined, the number of students
- 8           shall be replaced with a symbol indicating that one to
- 9           five students fulfilled that particular category;
- 10          (3) The names and course codes of the courses containing
- 11           computer science content and a description of the
- 12           computer science standards and content that are
- 13           covered by those courses; and
- 14          (4) The number of computer science instructors at each
- 15           school, disaggregated by:
- 16           (A) Any applicable certification;
- 17           (B) Gender;
- 18           (C) Race and ethnicity; and
- 19           (D) Highest academic degree earned.









S.B. NO. 242  
S.D. 2  
H.D. 2  
C.D. 1

**Report Title:**

Education; Department of Education; Computer Science; Public Schools; Charter Schools

**Description:**

Requires that public and charter schools offer education in computer science. Requires annual reports. (CD1)

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

