
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY AT THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the number of women
2 graduating with degrees in computer science has decreased
3 nationwide from 37 percent in 1985 to 18 percent in 2015. Women
4 currently comprise only 24 percent of the computing workforce.

5 At the same time, computing jobs in the United States are
6 growing at three times the rate of overall job creation. In
7 2015 there were more than a half million open computing jobs in
8 the nation, but only forty thousand computer science graduates.

9 The legislature further finds that Hawaii has the goal of
10 increasing the number of technology jobs in the state. Hawaii
11 will require a well-trained and competent workforce to fill
12 these positions. Increasing the number of women earning degrees
13 in computer science will allow women to enter this growing job
14 market and increase their quality of life.

15 The legislature further finds that while progress has been
16 made in certain subjects through successful implementation of
17 the STEM initiatives, there are fewer advanced placement exams



1 taken in computer science than in any other STEM subject area.
2 In Hawaii, only 33 percent of advanced placement computer
3 science exam takers were female.

4 The legislature further finds that other higher learning
5 institutions have taken measures that have successfully
6 increased the number of women majoring in computer science.
7 Chief among these measures is providing a learning environment
8 that is supportive of women. Higher learning institutions that
9 have made the effort to market and tailor courses in computer
10 science to women have seen an increase in women enrolled in
11 these degree programs.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to establish a
13 center for women in technology within the University of Hawaii
14 department of information and computer sciences.

15 SECTION 2. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
16 amended by adding a new subpart to part IV to be appropriately
17 designated and to read as follows:

18 " . CENTER FOR WOMEN IN TECHNOLOGY

19 §304A- Center for women in technology; establishment. (a)

20 There is established at the University of Hawaii, within the



1 department of information and computer sciences, the center for
2 women in technology. The center for women in technology shall:

3 (1) Advise and assist to develop marketing and outreach to
4 build interest in the computer science program among
5 women;

6 (2) Review current curriculum and adopt teaching methods
7 that are female friendly and guard against gender-
8 based stereotypes;

9 (3) Set measurable goals to increase the number of women
10 enrolled in the department of information and computer
11 sciences and to build interest in the field among
12 current and future female students;

13 (4) Coordinate programs with middle and high schools such
14 as mentoring, summer workshops, after-school courses,
15 and similar programs in computer science; and

16 (5) The center shall serve as the clearinghouse for
17 matters involving women in computer science in the
18 state.

19 (b) The affairs and operations of the center for women in
20 technology shall be administered by a director appointed by and
21 responsible to the chancellor of the University of Hawaii. The



1 center for women in technology shall draw on existing personnel
2 within the state government as much as possible for necessary
3 supplementation. Where demand for programs and services exceeds
4 the capabilities of the permanent staff as supplemented,
5 additional personnel resources may be acquired on a contract
6 basis without regard to chapter 76. Permanent staff shall be
7 covered by chapter 76 or section 304A-1002 as may be
8 appropriate.

9 (c) The center for women in technology shall receive the
10 full cooperation of all state agencies in the use of staff
11 members, facilities, and other resources necessary to accomplish
12 the purposes of this subpart.

13 (d) The director shall prepare an annual report to the
14 legislature on the status of the program and overall
15 achievement. The annual report shall be submitted no later than
16 twenty days prior to the convening of each regular legislative
17 session."

18 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.
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INTRODUCED BY: J. M. Martin

A. J. Jopole

Jahoon

David D.

Carl J.

Massyoni

Brock L.

Chen C.

Nicole E. L.

Nadine K. N.

JAN 19 2018



H.B. NO. 2121

Report Title:

Center for Women in Technology; University of Hawaii

Description:

Establishes a Center for Women in Technology within the University of Hawaii, Department of Information and Computer Sciences.

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