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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that providing students  
2 with access to computer science education is a critical step  
3 toward ensuring that Hawaii remains competitive in the global  
4 economy. Computing occupations comprise up to two-thirds of all  
5 projected new jobs in STEM fields. Computer science is one of  
6 the most in-demand college degrees, and offers higher paying  
7 entry-level jobs than other degrees. Computer science drives  
8 job creation and innovation throughout the nation's economy.

9           The legislature further finds that basic technological  
10 skills are increasingly necessary in day-to-day life, regardless  
11 of students' ultimate career choices. Information technology  
12 skills are needed at all levels of training and education, and  
13 across all sectors of Hawaii's economy. Providing students with  
14 a basic understanding of computer science is likely to  
15 contribute positively to the well-being of students, their  
16 families, and their communities. It is the intent of the



1 legislature that all students should obtain a basic  
2 understanding of computer science.

3 Despite the potential future rewards for students, there  
4 are fewer advanced placement examinations taken in computer  
5 science than in any other STEM subject area. National studies  
6 of K-12 computer science education indicate that many students  
7 may not perceive advanced computer science as relevant to their  
8 education in part because computer science is not treated as a  
9 core academic subject under existing policy.

10 The legislature finds that Hawaii must do more to encourage  
11 the study of computer science. Additional steps must be taken  
12 to improve and expand access to computer science education,  
13 particularly in advanced courses that could prepare students for  
14 careers in the field.

15 The purpose of this Act is to encourage the study of  
16 advanced computer science in high school by providing that an  
17 Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate computer  
18 science course may substitute for one math or science course at  
19 the high school level to satisfy basic freshman admission  
20 requirements in the University of Hawaii system.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 304A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to part II to be appropriately  
3 designated and to read as follows:

4 "§304A- Making computer science count in higher  
5 education program. (a) There is established the making  
6 computer science count in higher education program to be  
7 administered by the university. The purpose of this program is  
8 to encourage computer science education in high school by  
9 providing that advanced computer science courses will be  
10 equivalent to certain core curriculum courses for the purpose of  
11 satisfying freshman admission requirements.

12 (b) For the purposes of this section, "advanced computer  
13 science course" means an academic course that:

14 (1) Is sponsored or approved by either:

15 (a) the College Board as an Advanced Placement  
16 course; or

17 (b) the International Baccalaureate organization as  
18 an International Baccalaureate course;

19 (2) Meets or exceeds the curriculum standards and  
20 requirements established by the board of education;  
21 and



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1        (3) Is an eligible course for which college credit may be  
 2        earned pursuant to section 304A-802 and the policies  
 3        and procedures established by the university  
 4        thereunder.

5        (c) Beginning with the graduating class of 2022, an  
 6        advanced computer science course successfully completed under  
 7        this section shall be equivalent to either:

8        (1) One mathematics course; or

9        (2) One science course;

10       for the purpose of satisfying the university's freshman  
 11       admission requirements as determined by the university."

12       SECTION 3. New statutory material is underscored.

13       SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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# H.B. NO. 2252

**Report Title:**

Computer Science; University of Hawaii; Freshman Admission Requirements; Advanced Placement; International Baccalaureate

**Description:**

Allows an Advanced Placement or International Baccalaureate computer science course to substitute for one math or one science course at the high school level to satisfy the University of Hawaii's freshman admission requirements.

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