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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:



- 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  
8                    one 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, from the 2017-2018 school year  
18   to the 2018-2019 school year, respectively.  Further, the  
19   percentage of schools offering Advanced Placement Computer  
20   Science courses has 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 special fund; established.**

11 (a) There is established the computer science special fund into  
12 which shall be deposited:

- 13 (1) Appropriations by the legislature; and  
14 (2) Gifts, donations, and grants from public agencies and  
15 private persons for computer science training and  
16 computer science pathways.

17 (b) The computer science special fund shall be  
18 administered by the department to provide grants to eligible  
19 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. "Computer science" includes principles,  
17       hardware and software designs, implementation, and impacts on  
18       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 stand-alone  
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 public elementary school and one public middle or intermediate



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

3 (c) Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, no less than  
4 fifty per cent of the public elementary schools and no less than  
5 fifty per cent of the public middle and intermediate schools in  
6 each complex area shall offer computer science courses or  
7 computer science content.

8 (d) Beginning with the 2024-2025 school year, all public  
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 to the board and legislature a  
13 report of the computer science courses and computer science  
14 content offered during the previous school year at the schools  
15 in each complex area. The report 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:



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



1        (4) The number of computer science instructors at each  
2        school, disaggregated by:

3        (A) Any applicable certification;

4        (B) Gender;

5        (C) Race and ethnicity; and

6        (D) Highest academic degree earned.

7        (f) For the purposes of this section, "offer" means to  
8        provide a computer science course or computer science content  
9        taught in the English or Hawaiian language by a teacher:

10       (1) Who is physically located at the school; or

11       (2) Who is not physically located at the school but  
12       provides instruction through virtual means with the  
13       assistance of a proctor who is physically located at  
14       the school."

15    PART III

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

19        "§302D- Computer science. (a) Beginning with the  
20        2024-2025 school year, each public charter school that serves  
21        elementary, middle, intermediate, or high school students shall





1 offer computer science courses or computer science content at a  
2 frequency that allows a student to enroll in a computer science  
3 course or receive computer science content at least once while  
4 the student is at each of the elementary school, middle or  
5 intermediate school, and high school levels.

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

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

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

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

15 "Computer science courses" shall have the same meaning as  
16 in section 302A-101."

17 PART IV

18 SECTION 7. The computer science special fund established  
19 by section 2 of this Act shall be abolished on June 30, 2026,  
20 and any unencumbered remaining balances shall lapse to the  
21 general fund.



1 PART V

2 SECTION 8. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
3 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

4 SECTION 9. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050;  
5 provided that section 2 shall be repealed on June 30, 2026.



**Report Title:**

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

**Description:**

Establishes the computer science special fund until 6/30/2026. Requires that public and charter schools offer education in computer science. Requires annual reports. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD2)

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

