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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 COVID-19 pandemic has  
4 illustrated a need to diversify Hawaii's economy beyond tourism.  
5 The pandemic has also shown the importance of digital literacy,  
6 particularly as applied to distance learning, tele-health  
7 appointments, and working from home.

8 The legislature further finds that the economic disruption  
9 has increased the focus on computer science education as a key  
10 driver of both economic growth and digital literacy. A computer  
11 science pipeline can help to diversify Hawaii's economy away  
12 from tourism and into cybersecurity, green energy, robotics, and  
13 other technology-based fields. Previously, the legislature  
14 passed Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, which prioritized  
15 statewide computer science education by:

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



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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 one  
6           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 respectively, from the 2017-2018  
16          school year to the 2018-2019 school year. Further, the  
17          percentage of schools offering Advanced Placement Computer  
18          Science courses have 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.



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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. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
6 amended by adding a new section to part III, subpart C, to be  
7 appropriately designated and to read as follows:

8 "§302A- Computer science education special fund;  
9 established. (a) There is established the computer science  
10 special fund into which shall be deposited:

11 (1) Appropriations by the legislature to the special fund;  
12 and

13 (2) Gifts, donations, and grants from public agencies and  
14 private persons for computer science training and  
15 computer science pathways.

16 (b) The computer science special fund shall be  
17 administered by the department to provide grants to eligible  
18 entities to:

19 (1) Deliver professional development programs for teachers  
20 providing instruction in computer science courses and  
21 computer science content; and



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1           (2) Support computer science pathways in kindergarten  
 2           through twelfth grade, including work-based learning  
 3           partnerships.

4           (c) By December 1, 2022, and each December 1 thereafter,  
 5 the department shall submit to the board and the legislature a  
 6 report summarizing the grant program, including recipients of  
 7 grants, uses of grant funds, and the amounts of each grant  
 8 provided during the previous year."

9           SECTION 3. Section 302A-101, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
 10 amended by adding three new definitions to be appropriately  
 11 inserted and to read as follows:

12           "Computer science" means the study of computers and  
 13 computer algorithms, including principles, hardware and software  
 14 designs, implementation, and impact on society.

15           "Computer science content" means courses of instruction  
 16 that provide:

17           (1) Computer science instruction that is integrated with  
 18           another subject; and

19           (2) A final grade to each student.

20           "Computer science courses" means courses of instruction  
 21 that provide:



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1        (1) Computer science instruction in standalone  
2                    implementations; and

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

4        SECTION 4. Section 302A-323, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
5 amended to read as follows:

6        "[~~§~~302A-323] Computer science; curricula plan; public  
7 schools. (a) The department shall:

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

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

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

19        (c) Beginning with the 2023-2024 school year, not less  
20 than fifty per cent of the elementary schools and not less than  
21 fifty per cent of the middle and intermediate schools in each



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

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

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

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

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

16 (A) Gender;

17 (B) Race and ethnicity;

18 (C) Special education status, including students  
19 eligible for special education under the

20 Individuals with Disabilities Education Act, as



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







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

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

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

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

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

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

16 PART IV

17 SECTION 7. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
18 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

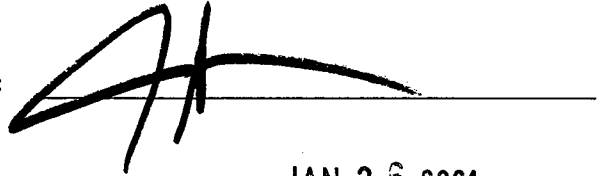


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1 SECTION 8. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 26 2021



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**Report Title:**

Education; Department of Education; Computer Science

**Description:**

Requires public and charter schools to offer education in computer science. Requires annual reports.

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

