
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. Access to information and information
2 technology is critical, particularly for school children who
3 must be technologically literate when they leave school in order
4 to successfully compete within a skilled workforce. Students
5 who have acquired the tools and training necessary to use
6 information technology will undoubtedly have an edge over their
7 counterparts who are not technologically savvy. For an island
8 state like Hawaii, information technology can also help students
9 overcome the barriers of geography and limited resources.

10 Education systems in many states have taken measures to
11 provide students with tools such as laptop computers that can
12 significantly improve the learning environment. For instance,
13 the Maine Learning Technology Initiative provides a laptop
14 computer to every seventh- and eighth-grade student and teacher
15 in the State. Henrico County in Virginia has provided twenty-
16 seven thousand laptop computers to its high school teachers and
17 students, middle school teachers and students, and elementary
18 school teachers.



1 In 2002, the state of Michigan used state and federal funds
 2 to provide laptops for eight thousand six-graders in six school
 3 districts, with the intention of going statewide. In January
 4 2004, the state of New Hampshire began a four-year pilot program
 5 by giving laptops, wireless connectivity, and training to all
 6 seventh-graders and their teachers in six schools.

7 The purpose of this Act is to provide students with
 8 continual access to information and information technology by
 9 providing a laptop computer to every middle and high school
 10 student attending a public school within the department of
 11 education.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$50,000,000, or so
 14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, to
 15 provide a laptop computer for every middle and high school
 16 student attending a public school within the department of
 17 education.

18 SECTION 3. The sum appropriated shall be expended by the
 19 department of education for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

21

INTRODUCED BY:

J. All.

 JAN 25 2006

HB 2760

Report Title:

Education; Information Technology; Computers

Description:

Appropriates funds to provide laptop computers for all middle and high public school students.

