



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/14/2019

Time: 02:35 PM

Location: 309

Committee: House Lower & Higher
Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Dr. Christina M. Kishimoto, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB 0251 RELATING TO EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds for laptop or tablet computers to be used by teachers and students for digital teaching and learning.

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of HB 251 that recognizes the importance of computer proficiency and college- and career-readiness for technology careers across the nation. The Department also offers the following comments:

Rather than focusing funding on laptop and tablet computers, the Department recommends allocating the proposed funding to schools for the purpose of building and enhancing computer science initiatives and curricula. This would enable school administrators and educators to identify their individual school's needs in advancing computer science - whether it be for laptops/tablets, digital curriculum, machine learning, makerspaces, or other tools.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.

The Hawaii State Department of Education seeks to advance the goals of the Strategic Plan which is focused on student success, staff success, and successful systems of support. This is achieved through targeted work around three impact strategies: school design, student voice, and teacher collaboration. Detailed information is available at www.hawaiipublicschools.org.



February 13, 2019

The Honorable Justin Woodson, Chair
House Committee on Lower and Higher Education
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 405
Honolulu, HI 96813

SUBJECT: HB 251 (Woodson) – Public Schools Access to Technology - Support

To Representative Woodson,

On behalf of the Computing Technology Industry Association (CompTIA) - the nation's leading advocacy voice for the technology industry - I am writing in support of HB 251 which would appropriate funds to integrate technology into public schools.

CompTIA is a non-profit trade association serving as the leading voice of the information technology industry – the driving force behind productivity growth and job creation, representing premier technology companies of all sizes. With approximately 2,000 member companies, 3,000 academic and training partners and more than two million IT certifications issued, CompTIA is dedicated to advancing industry growth through educational programs, market research, networking events, professional certifications and public policy advocacy.

HB 251 is an important measure to prepare students for a globally competitive workforce. In 2013-2014 the Hawaii Legislature funded a pilot program that integrated laptop computers into eight schools. A study of the pilot program by the University of Hawaii at West Oahu found that teachers, students, and parents believed that classroom technology significantly enhanced the quality of public education in Hawaii.

Hawaii lags the nation in providing a 21st Century education that prepares students for work in a world dominated by technology and new media communication. Hawaii's future economy is largely predicated on the ability of its students to gain the necessary skills to compete in this increasingly innovative and technology-driven world. Today's education laws in Hawaii are geared toward a 20th Century economy and create significant barriers for schools looking to provide a more innovative education for their students. Hawaii must adapt quickly and break down barriers to fostering a 21st Century education.

For these reasons, CompTIA is pleased to support HB 251. Should you have any questions, please contact me at (916) 505-9053 or KHitt@comptia.org

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Kelly Hitt". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Kelly Hitt
Director, State Government Affairs - California and Hawaii
CompTIA (Computing Technology Industry Association)

Cc: House Committee on Lower and Higher Education, Members



TECHNET
THE VOICE OF THE
INNOVATION ECONOMY

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February 13, 2019

Chairman Justin H. Woodson
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 405

RE: HB 251 – SUPPORT

Thank you Chairman Woodson and members of the Committee for the opportunity to weigh-in, in support of House Bill 251. My name is Courtney Jensen and I am Executive Director of TechNet. TechNet is the bipartisan policy and political network of CEOs and senior executives that promotes the innovation economy. Our membership includes dynamic start-ups to the most iconic companies on the planet. I am pleased to have this opportunity to submit written testimony in support of HB 251.

With global economic leadership at stake, computer science and STEM education are more critical than ever. TechNet's member companies rely on a strong pipeline of talent with the problem-solving, communication, collaboration, and computer literacy skills required in our global, interconnected and technology-driven economy.

Our companies have long collaborated with educators, policymakers and other stakeholders to promote the adoption of digital learning resources and technology integration in Hawaii because we believe it can fundamentally transform education, improve student outcomes and enable college and career readiness. ***It is for that reason that we believe HB 251 is an important and critical investment for the State of Hawaii to make.***

HB 251, if the bill were to pass, would provide additional, specific funding to increase technology integration and digital-learning resources within Hawaii's public schools to ensure that all students have equitable access to technology and learning opportunities.

Technology can help make classroom learning more student-centered and personalized, putting the right resources in a teacher's hands, tailored to students' individual needs. It allows teachers to uniquely connect with each learner and provides quick feedback to teachers on where students are struggling, allowing them to provide additional instruction, and dynamically guide and accelerate learning. It also helps students better master material, pace their learning, review material, and be assessed and provided feedback before moving to another lesson.

HB 251 ensures that Hawaii's school children are not missing out on the jobs of today and tomorrow. The bill continues Hawaii's leadership in technology in the classroom and supports educators and students. TechNet respectfully requests your support on the measure and I am happy to respond to any questions or comments raised by this letter. I can be reached at cjensen@technet.org or (916) 600-3551.

Thank you,

Courtney Jensen
Executive Director, Southwest
TechNet

HB-251

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 1:26:12 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/14/2019 2:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeanelle Miller	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Jeanelle Miller. I am a law student and mother of two. I am writing in support of HB 251.

As a student in higher education I have seen a growing reliance on computers and technology and an increasing need for students to be fluent in multiple technology platforms, software packages, and even coding.

This year, my daughter started an online school program as we transitioned from Montessori to a new school district. In both my own schooling and hers, each teacher has had a preference for a different class platform that functions differently depending on your browser and hardware. If I hadn't been provided the opportunity to play and explore with computers at a young age, troubleshooting these tasks would have been a lot more difficult.

As the reliance on technology increases and more education is offered through remote programs, our keiki will need to be fluent in how to navigate these systems.

Providing computers and technology early in life will greatly advance our children's chances of success because adapting to the systems while their brains are still developing and playing will make the process feel natural to them. If we wait to give these kids the opportunity when they are older, they will struggle and already be at a disadvantage creating further disparities. Just like learning a second language, the pathways in the brain will be retained if it is introduced at an early age, even if they don't continue to actively use the skill.

I therefore encourage the approval of this bill and the expansion of technology, computers, and online learning resources in our public schools.

HB-251

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 1:39:41 PM

Testimony for LHE on 2/14/2019 2:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Tokita	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

My name is Steve Tokita and I am a life-long resident of Pearl City and small business owner. I am also the parent of a public high school student. I strongly support funding for classroom technology and programs that advance the education of students in our community consistent with their ability to succeed in the future workforce. HB 251 is an important measure to prepare Hawaii students for the future.

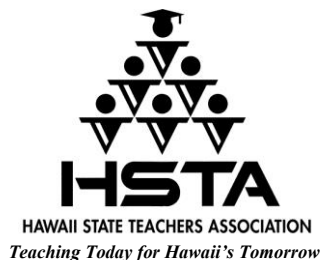
HB-251

Submitted on: 2/13/2019 11:35:53 AM

Testimony for LHE on 2/14/2019 2:35:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:



Corey Rosenlee
President
Osa Tui Jr.
Vice President
Logan Okita
Secretary-Treasurer
Wilbert Holck
Executive Director

TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
LOWER & HIGHER EDUCATION



RE: HB 251 - RELATING TO EDUCATION

THURSDAY, FEBRUARY 14, 2019

COREY ROSENLEE, PRESIDENT
HAWAII STATE TEACHERS ASSOCIATION

Chair Woodson, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii State Teachers Association **strongly supports HB 251** relating to education. This measure would appropriate funds to increase technology integration and digital-learning resources within Hawaii's public schools to ensure that all students have equitable access to technology and learning opportunities.

It is crucial that Hawaii's public school graduates be competitive in the 21st century labor market. As technology continues to rapidly evolve, it has become more and more evident that our students must be prepared for this new frontier. In order for our schools to provide learning opportunities to meet this demand, classrooms must have access to technology and this access must be provided equitably.

It has been well-researched that there is a great "digital divide" based on socioeconomic status. Because students of low socioeconomic status likely do not have a computer at home nor access to the internet, their use of technology is significantly limited compared to that of a student with higher family income. By providing all students with access to technology, our public schools can help shrink the socioeconomic digital divide by allowing students equal access to these resources. Many of our own teachers also do not have their own personal laptops due to the expense. Because the success rate of low-income students in STEM disciplines is much lower than that of students who do not come from underrepresented backgrounds, it is especially crucial that our public schools provide equitable access to technology for students, and their teachers.

As Hawaii seeks to expand its computer science curriculum, we must also ensure that we have a robust supply of laptops to support this initiative and that we supply access to these resources equitably. For this reason, the Hawaii State Teachers Association asks your committee to **support HB 251**