



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

**Date:** 03/22/2019  
**Time:** 02:45 PM  
**Location:** 229  
**Committee:** Senate Education

**Department:** Education

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

**Title of Resolution:** SCR 215 REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO CONVENE A WORKING GROUP TO IDENTIFY THE MOST RELEVANT FACTORS THAT HINDER PUBLIC SCHOOLS IN THEIR DEVELOPMENT OF ROBOTICS PROGRAMS.

**Department's Position:**

The Department of Education (Department) appreciates the overall concept of SCR 215, and respectfully offers comments.

The Department recognizes and embraces robotics programs as a path to engage students in interdisciplinary, relevant and rigorous science, engineering and computer science education opportunities. Exemplary teamwork is showcased among our schools as they participate in a range of competitions and events including FIRST, VEX, Robofest, Botball, MATE ROV and Seaperch.

Each school is empowered to design and prioritize decisions based on priorities informed by their data and comprehensive needs assessment through rich conversations with key stakeholders in their school and local community.

The Department's goal is to sustain a flexible and adaptive approach to enable school to create a wide range of hands-on, inquiry based and STEM centered-learning experiences and extracurricular choices based on the interests, aspirations and needs of their students. Further, strategic planning and implementation is ongoing related to identifying incentives to increase participation and ways to mitigate challenges and limited resources for robotics as well as for the array of computer science options.

Across grades K-12, robotics is one of many value-added programs integrated within computer science and STEM education. At the high school level, partnerships with the University of Hawaii, community colleges and Hawaii P-20 for Partnerships continue to thrive as we expand upon Career and Technical Education pathways and academies that integrate the diverse field and elements of technology.

A strong and concerted effort to grow the sciences, technology and engineering knowledge, skills and interests is evident across our tri-level system.

Given the immediate and high priority to advance computer science initiatives across all Hawaii public schools, the Department respectfully suggests that legislation specific to a robotics working group is not needed at this time.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SCR 215.

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](http://www.hawaiipublicschools.org).

**SCR-215**

Submitted on: 3/19/2019 2:58:56 PM

Testimony for EDU on 3/22/2019 2:45:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
cheryl	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

This does not need a committee. Any person working in a school should be able to give you the reasons. As a retired educator, I can tell you what hinders robotics in the DOE schools.

1) Finding people to stay after school, take students to competitions on their own time. (some are paid).

2) Robotics is an activity that does not usually allow for large numbers of students. In many schools there is an application to be on the "team". Often times, the criteria does not lend itself to ALL students. It can be very subjective and prejudicial.

3) Often robotics is an after school activity to which many students can not participate. Some parents can not drive the students.

4) \$\$ donated is often attached to an expectation of receiving something in return. It might not be from the students but from the community. ie Think Fund

5) Only students designated as science/engineer ready are included.

6) Perception that students with special needs or with a first language other than English can not be in robotics.

No need for committee.. the DOE has too many other things to work on.