
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO EDUCATION.

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

1 SECTION 1. Investing in education and providing Hawaii's
2 students with the proper resources to succeed and become
3 college- and career-ready is of paramount importance. With
4 increased globalization, twenty-first-century learning skills
5 and technologies are essential for Hawaii's students to advance
6 in their learning potential and growth. As technology continues
7 to evolve, it brings new opportunities and challenges for
8 teachers and students. Using a common platform to learn beyond
9 just the classroom will allow students to progress further in
10 their academic careers. Therefore, increasing equitable access
11 to technology for all public-school students greatly benefits
12 the public.

13 During the 2013-2014 school year, the legislature
14 appropriated \$8,200,000 to the department of education to
15 implement the access learning pilot program. In 2013, teachers
16 in eight schools were provided laptop computers and
17 professional-development opportunities to assist in integrating



1 technology into their classrooms. In 2014, laptop computers
2 were provided to students. A study of the pilot program by the
3 University of Hawaii West Oahu found that teachers, students,
4 and parents believed that classroom technology significantly
5 enhanced the quality of public education in Hawaii.

6 Computers have become vital in today's technology-driven
7 society, and computer proficiency is a skill that is necessary
8 to succeed in an ever-changing, globalized world. Act 51,
9 Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, required the department of
10 education to develop and implement a statewide computer science
11 curricula plan for public-school students in kindergarten
12 through grade twelve and also required that each public high
13 school offer at least one computer science course during each
14 school year. As computer science curricula grow throughout the
15 State, so does the need to provide Hawaii's students with
16 resources, such as laptop or tablet computers, so that they can
17 take full advantage of this new learning opportunity. With
18 nearly five hundred thousand computer jobs nationwide and
19 workplaces heavily dependent on technology and communications,
20 Hawaii was found to be lagging in student preparation. Fair



1 access to technology is crucial for furthering a student's
2 academic and career success.

3 Access to digital technologies allows for cost-effective
4 and environmentally-friendly measures through the use of digital
5 curricula. As schools across the nation shift toward systems of
6 project-based learning, it is imperative that the State provide
7 its students with resources that allow for research and ready
8 access to information. Furthermore, through the use of
9 technology, students have the ability to share their work with a
10 wider and more varied audience, increasing creativity and peer-
11 to-peer collaboration on a local, national, and global level.

12 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to increase
13 technology integration and digital-learning resources within
14 Hawaii's public schools to ensure that all students have
15 equitable access to technology and learning opportunities.

16 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2019-2020 and the
19 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
20 2020-2021 for laptop or tablet computers, as deemed necessary by



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1 the department of education, to be used by teachers and students
2 for digital teaching and learning.

3 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
4 of education for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2019.

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INTRODUCED BY:

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JAN 18 2019



H.B. NO. 251

Report Title:

Public Schools; Laptop and Tablet Computers; Appropriation

Description:

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

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