

MAR - 6 2020

S.C.R. NO. 216

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO SUBMIT A REPORT TO THE
LEGISLATURE ON THE STATUS OF ACHIEVING ACT 51, SESSION LAWS
OF HAWAII 2018, MANDATES FOR COMPUTER SCIENCE EDUCATION.

1 WHEREAS, computer science is a dynamic, rapidly-growing
2 field that touches almost every aspect of modern life; and

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4 WHEREAS, computing-based occupations make up more than two-
5 thirds of all projected new jobs in the science, technology,
6 engineering, and mathematics fields; and

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8 WHEREAS, computer science jobs are becoming more lucrative
9 and in demand, offering a national median wage of \$82,860 versus
10 \$37,040 for all other jobs; and

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12 WHEREAS, in Hawai'i, there are nearly one thousand eight
13 hundred open computing jobs, but only one hundred fifty five
14 students who graduated with a computer science degree in school
15 year 2019-2020; and

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17 WHEREAS, starting computer science education early in
18 elementary school has been shown to be beneficial to students
19 for creativity, critical thinking, and problem solving and
20 maintains students' motivation to continue their interest in
21 computer science in future years; and

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23 WHEREAS, in 2017, recognizing the potential for computer
24 science in the State, the Hawai'i Department of Education (DOE)
25 formed a Computer Science Work Group charged with gathering
26 feedback from educators and stakeholders on proposed standards
27 and on developing a DOE Computer Science Action Plan; and

28
29 WHEREAS, the Computer Science Action Plan addresses six key
30 areas: (1) Current Landscape and Strategic Goals, (2) Equity,



1 (3) Teacher Pipeline, (4) Curriculum and Courses, (5) Outreach,
2 and (6) Funding; and

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4 WHEREAS, the Computer Science Action Plan also includes
5 start and end dates of completion for each goal and a progress
6 checklist; and

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8 WHEREAS, progress on the Computer Science Action Plan is
9 lacking, with many goals not completed after the target date of
10 completion has passed; and

11
12 WHEREAS, on June 21, 2018, in another effort to promote
13 computer science education, Governor David Ige signed Act 51,
14 Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, (Act 51) into law, which provided
15 the DOE with \$500,000 for fiscal year 2018-2019 to develop and
16 implement a statewide computer science curricula plan for public
17 school students in kindergarten through twelfth grade and
18 contract for teacher development programs; and

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20 WHEREAS, Act 51 also mandated the DOE to ensure that each
21 public high school offers at least one computer science course
22 during each school year beginning in the 2021-2022 school year;
23 and

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25 WHEREAS, the Office of Curriculum and Instructional Design
26 (OCID) within the DOE is tasked with carrying out the mandates
27 of Act 51; and

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29 WHEREAS, it is unclear if OCID is implementing the Computer
30 Science Action Plan or if they have another plan they created to
31 carry out Act 51's mandates; and

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33 WHEREAS, the manner in which the DOE expended the \$500,000
34 appropriation is unclear and this body has an interest in
35 whether the OCID spent the funds to develop a computer science
36 curricula plan, offer computer science classes, and contract for
37 teacher development programs as required pursuant to Act 51; and

38
39 WHEREAS, OCID does not have current statistics about how
40 many public high schools across the State are offering computer
41 science related course; and



1 WHEREAS, there are misconceptions about the definition of
2 what a computer science class is, which may skew the data about
3 how many schools are offering a computer science program; and
4

5 WHEREAS, the offering of an online course is not sufficient
6 to meet Act 51's mandate of at least one computer science course
7 being offered in each public high school during each school year
8 by 2021-2022 school year; now, therefore,
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
11 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of
12 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Education is
13 requested to submit a report to the Legislature on the status of
14 meeting Act 51's mandates regarding computer science education,
15 including any recommendations and proposed legislation; and
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DOE is requested to include
18 in its report:
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20 (1) Information on any plan the DOE is implementing to
21 carry out each of Act 51's mandates, including but not
22 limited to:
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24 (A) A draft or finalized copy of a statewide computer
25 science curricula plan for public school students
26 in kindergarten through twelfth grade;
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28 (B) A list of the 2021-2022 computer science courses
29 offered in each public high school, including a
30 description of each class, detailed copy of each
31 class syllabus, and outline of the curriculum for
32 each class;
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34 (C) A list of the names of the teachers that will be
35 teaching a computer science course at each public
36 high school in the 2021-2022 school year; and
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38 (D) A report on the contracts for computer science
39 teacher development programs, including the name
40 of the entity or entities that the DOE will
41 contract with to develop and implement computer
42 science courses;



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- 1 (2) Any barriers preventing the DOE from implementing a
- 2 plan to comply with Act 51;
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- 4 (3) Recommendations on ways to overcome any such barriers;
- 5 and
- 6
- 7 (4) An accounting of the \$500,000 appropriated under Act
- 8 51; and
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10 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DOE is requested to submit
 11 its report to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to
 12 the convening of the Regular Session of 2021; and

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 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 15 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor,
 16 Chairperson of the Board of Education, Superintendent of
 17 Education, Interim Assistant Superintendent of the Office of
 18 Curriculum and Instructional Design, and each public high school
 19 principal in the State.

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OFFERED BY:

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