

MAR 06 2020

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# SENATE 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

7  
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

11  
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

16  
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

22  
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,  
31 (3) Teacher Pipeline, (4) Curriculum and Courses, (5) Outreach,  
32 and (6) Funding; and



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1           WHEREAS, the Computer Science Action Plan also includes  
2 start and end dates of completion for each goal and a progress  
3 checklist; and  
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5           WHEREAS, progress on the Computer Science Action Plan is  
6 lacking, with many goals not completed after the target date of  
7 completion has passed; and  
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9           WHEREAS, on June 21, 2018, in another effort to promote  
10 computer science education, Governor David Ige signed Act 51,  
11 Session Laws of Hawaii 2018, (Act 51) into law, which provided  
12 the DOE with \$500,000 for fiscal year 2018-2019 to develop and  
13 implement a statewide computer science curricula plan for public  
14 school students in kindergarten through twelfth grade and  
15 contract for teacher development programs; and  
16

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

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

26           WHEREAS, it is unclear if OCID is implementing the Computer  
27 Science Action Plan or if they have another plan they created to  
28 carry out Act 51's mandates; and  
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30           WHEREAS, the manner in which the DOE expended the \$500,000  
31 appropriation is unclear and this body has an interest in  
32 whether the OCID spent the funds to develop a computer science  
33 curricula plan, offer computer science classes, and contract for  
34 teacher development programs as required pursuant to Act 51; and  
35

36           WHEREAS, OCID does not have current statistics about how  
37 many public high schools across the State are offering computer  
38 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,  
9

10 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature  
11 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the  
12 Department of Education is requested to submit a report to the  
13 Legislature on the status of meeting Act 51's mandates regarding  
14 computer science education, including any recommendations and  
15 proposed legislation; and  
16

17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the DOE is requested to include  
18 in its report:  
19

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:  
23

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;  
27

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;



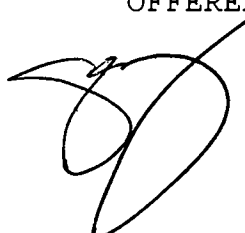
- 1 (2) Any barriers preventing the DOE from implementing a
- 2 plan to comply with Act 51;
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- 4 (3) Recommendations on ways to overcome any such barriers;
- 5 and
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- 7 (4) An accounting of the \$500,000 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 Resolution be transmitted to the Governor, Chairperson of the  
 16 Board of Education, Superintendent of Education, Interim  
 17 Assistant Superintendent of the Office of Curriculum and  
 18 Instructional Design, and each public high school principal in  
 19 the State.

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OFFERED BY:

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