



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

Date: 03/19/2019
Time: 02:20 PM
Location: 309
Committee: House Lower & Higher
Education

Department: Education

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

Title of Bill: SB 0971, SD1 RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

Purpose of Bill: Appropriates funds for a scholarship program to be directed and administered by the Department of Education to make awards to students pursuing teaching degrees at state accredited institutions of higher education who successfully complete one course in computer science. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

Department's Position:

The Department of Education (Department) supports the intent of SB 971, SD1 and respectfully offers comments.

The Department is committed to equitable and expanded access to computer science learning opportunities for all students. A critical element of this forward momentum is to advance innovation and engagement across instruction while embracing a shared response to the growing demand in Hawaii's computing jobs.

This proposal to award scholarships to aspiring teacher candidates serves to boost interest and heighten the importance of computer science skills, knowledge, and dispositions.

The Department is appreciative of the budgetary appropriation included in this measure to incentivize the advancement and access to computer science offerings beginning in the school year 2019-2020 provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our Board of Education approved the budget.

As this proposal includes the need for technical and operational considerations with institutions of higher education, we defer to the appropriate agency for additional comment.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 971, SD1.

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.

Late Testimony

LHE Committee 3/19/19 testimony- SB971

"One of the hardest things about being the computer science teacher at my school is that I'm the ONLY teacher at my school who teaches it. If I taught regular science, and I had a question about a lesson, I could go ask the other teachers who teach Science. Teachers are used to having other teachers to support them.

This bill would encourage other soon-to-be teachers to learn about computer science, meaning that more teachers will start teaching with some level of CS knowledge. This supports teachers and supports student learning. Therefore, I'm in favor of this bill."

Sarah Milianta-Laffin
7th Grade STEM Lab Teacher
Ilima Intermediate School
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