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Date: 02/03/2025

Time: 03:00 PM

Location: CR 229 & Videoconference

Committee: Senate Education

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Bill Title: SB 1390 RELATING TO COMPUTER SCIENCE LEGISLATIVE REPORT.

Purpose of Bill: Changes the due date of the Department of Education's computer science legislative report from June 30 to twenty days prior to the start of the legislative regular session.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) supports SB 1390 which is part of its administrative package. Stakeholders in Hawai'i's computer science education landscape recognize the importance of accurate and comprehensive data to guide policy decisions. Under the current deadline of June 30th, critical fourth-quarter data is often excluded, resulting in reports that fail to present a full picture of the state of computer science education in Hawaii's schools.

Changing the deadline to twenty days before the start of each legislative session will ensure that the report reflects the most complete and up-to-date information. This adjustment will enhance transparency and provide legislators, educators, and the public with the insights necessary to address disparities in access, enrollment, and instructional quality in computer science education.

Additionally, this change aligns with the broader goal of HRS 302A-323, promoting equitable computer science education opportunities for all grade levels statewide. With a more comprehensive dataset, policymakers will be better equipped to evaluate initiatives and make informed, data-driven decisions that empower Hawai'i's students with the skills they need to succeed in the globally competitive digital world.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony on SB 1390.