



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Education and
Senate Committee on Higher Education
Friday, February 11, 2022 at 3:15 p.m.

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SB 2142 – RELATING TO COMPUTER SCIENCE

Chairs Kidani and Kim and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the intent of SB 2142, relating to computer science, provided that its passage does not replace priorities in our BOR approved budget.

The University of Hawai'i, College of Education (COE) offers comments to the following:

§302A Computer Science; diploma substitution.

The COE defers comments to the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) regarding computer science (CS) for diploma substitution and any other graduation requirements.

§304A Admission Requirements; Computer Science; substitution.

The COE defers comments to the Hawaii Department of Education (HIDOE) regarding computer science (CS) for admission requirements to complete a high school course.

The COE requests clarification to the language to specify to whom the admission requirements pertain, whether to high school programs or UH programs.

§304A Admission Requirements; Computer Science in teaching scholarship program.

- (a) The COE supports the establishment of the computer science in teaching scholarship program to be administered by the University of Hawaii. The COE will work with the HIDOE, and University of Hawaii's Outreach College to promote a pathway for a scholarship program.
- (b) The COE requests clarification to the language that specifies the scholarship is awarded to students "working towards a degree to become a teacher within the department of education."
- (c) The COE requests clarification to the language in this section. The section prioritizes students "from underrepresented groups and students who agree to teach computer science in schools having higher percentages of students from underrepresented groups."

If the intent in section (b) is for scholarship students to be working toward a degree and licensed teacher in computer science, then the COE supports prioritizing those students from underrepresented groups or who will teach computer science in schools having higher percentages of students from underrepresented groups. Clarification is requested whether a student pursuing any other teaching degree would be eligible for the scholarship if teaching computer science (not a CS licensed teacher), even if from an underrepresented group or who will teach in schools having higher percentages of students from underrepresented groups.

§304A Pathways in Computer Science

- (a) The COE is supportive of developing and implementing pathways in computer science for students studying to obtain a degree in education.
- (b) The COE requests a change in language to: the pathways shall prepare a student **to be eligible for a HTSB computer science license** to teach computer science at the elementary and/or secondary level.
- (c) The COE requests a change in language to: The University of Hawaii shall submit pathway programs to the HTSB for computer science licensure approval, thereby providing opportunity for all students completing the pathway under this section to be eligible to add a computer science license to an elementary or secondary teaching license, or to acquire an initial teaching license in computer science.

The College of Education is currently working on a pathway for Computer Science and will submit an “add a field” program proposal(s) to the Hawai'i Teacher Standard Board (HTSB) for approval in Computer Science licensing. The College of Education has and will continue to collaborate with other UH programs including Information Technology Services (ITS) and the Information & Computer Science department (ICS).

§304A-802 Licensing and certification standards; policies

- (d) The COE is supportive of any program of teacher preparation leading to a license or certification to include, as part of the curriculum, instruction in computer science and computational thinking as applied to student learning and classroom instruction that are grade-level and subject-area appropriate.

At present the COE meets the current HTSB requirement for educator preparation programs to provide evidence that their candidates are prepared to integrate “..technology effectively into curricula and instruction, including activities consistent with the principles of universal design for learning and the use of technology to effectively collect, manage and analyze data to improve teaching and learning for the purpose of increasing student academic achievement” [HTSB HAR §8-54-19, (3) (F)]. Therefore, the COE requests clarification of language in section (d) to indicate if this is a different or additional curriculum requirement as that stated in HAR §8-54-19.

Thank you for opportunity to provide testimony on SB 2142.