



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committees on Education and Higher Education  
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By  
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### SB 299 – RELATING TO EDUCATION

Chairs Kidani and Kahele, and members of the committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SB 299 that requires the Hawai'i Department of Education to develop and implement a state plan for computer science education in all public schools and allows applicants to the University of Hawai'i to substitute computer science courses for other admission requirements.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) lauds the intent of the legislature to boost job growth and innovation in our state through the development of robust computer science education in Hawai'i. UH offers these comments, pertaining only to Section 3 of SB 299 which would amend Chapter 304A of the Hawai'i Revised Statutes by adding language on admission requirements to the University:

*As part of its admission process, the University of Hawai'i shall allow students to substitute computer science courses for other required course credits.*

While UH generally recognizes the need for strong science curricula, it is unclear that any change is needed to the admissions requirements at UH, as stated in SB 299, to support computer science. The admissions eligibility at the UH community colleges are to be 18 years of age or older and to have earned a high school diploma, GED, or equivalent. At UH four-year campuses, students seeking admissions could use a computer science course as one or more electives.

The UH does not support substituting computer science courses for the foundational science courses such as biology, chemistry, and physics, or math courses. Instead, UH encourages high school students to supplement this foundation with computer science courses, particularly students intending to go into the STEM fields, including information and communications technology (ICT).

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide comments on SB 299.