



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Written Testimony for the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
April 4, 2017 at 9:45 a.m.

By

Risa E. Dickson, Vice President for Academic Planning and Policy  
University of Hawai'i System

SCR 168/SR 82 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TO DEVELOP  
AND IMPLEMENT A STATEWIDE PLAN FOR COMPUTER  
SCIENCE EDUCATION IN ALL PUBLIC SCHOOLS.

Chair Tokuda, Vice Chair Dela Cruz, and members of the committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on SCR 168/SR 82 that requests the Hawai'i Department of Education to develop and implement a state plan for computer science education in all public schools and requests the University of Hawai'i, as part of its admissions process, to allow students to substitute computer science courses for other required course credits.

The University of Hawai'i (UH) does not support, as part of UH admissions, substituting computer science courses for the foundational science courses such as biology, chemistry, and physics, or math. Instead, UH encourages high school students to supplement the existing science foundation with computer science courses, particularly students intending to go into the STEM fields such as information and communications technology (ICT). Toward this end, UH will continue to work with the Department of Education on planning computer science education. At UH four-year campuses, students who have earned college level credits in a computer science course may use these credits toward one or more of their electives, or towards their degree requirements as appropriate.

Thank you very much for the opportunity to provide comments on SCR 168/SR 82.