

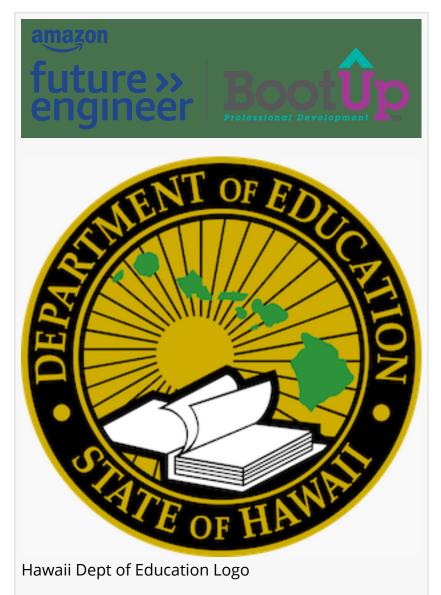
Amazon Now Funding Computer Science Education for 68 Elementary Schools in Hawaii, Impacting More than 43,000 Students

HAWAII, USA, March 8, 2023 /EINPresswire.com/ -- The Hawaii School District is now part of Amazon Future Engineer's expansion to more than 500,000 elementary students nationwide

Funding from Amazon Future Engineer delivers teacher professional development and curriculum from BootUp PD, a nonprofit professional development provider specializing in high-quality computer science concepts, practices, and standards for elementary teachers and students

Amazon Future Engineer aims to bring high-quality computer science access to students from underserved communities and groups currently underrepresented in tech - from childhood to career

Amazon and the Hawaii State Department of Education today announced that Amazon is funding computer science education and



teacher professional development for 68 elementary schools in the district, impacting more than 43,000 students from underserved communities and groups currently underrepresented in tech, as part of its Amazon Future Engineer program. The Hawaii School District is now part of Amazon Future Engineer's target to bring computer science to 500,000 elementary students by 2025.

Amazon is working with BootUp Professional Development , a nonprofit professional development provider, specializing in elementary school education, to bring computer science to each school. BootUp PD's typically in-person PD sessions adapt well to a virtual model and provide teachers with the tools they need to bring engaging coding lessons to their students both on-screen and in-person. High-quality computer science education for elementary school students during their school day is a critical piece of Amazon's "childhood to career" approach because it helps bridge equity skill gaps at an age when students are just beginning to formulate ideas about their futures.

"Amazon Future Engineer is thrilled to hear how teachers continue to go above and beyond to reach young students and pique their interest in computer science," said Victor Reinoso, Global Director of Amazon's philanthropic education initiatives. "We are committed to offering highquality curriculum, professional development, and benefits to support educators as they help their students build life-changing skills that leverage computer science and coding to bring their dreams to life, no matter what career they choose to pursue."

"This equity-driven opportunity will close digital learning gaps by ensuring computer science opportunities for students in under-served communities throughout the nation," said Lien Diaz BootUp PD's Interim Executive Director. "It is the first ongoing national sponsorship focused on implementing sustainable, district-wide computer science, exactly where it's needed most. We're extremely proud to be a part of something that will have a measurable, positive impact for decades to come."

Amazon's commitment to The Hawaii School District is part of the company's ongoing efforts to increase access to computer science/STEM education across the country, primarily through Amazon Future Engineer. In addition, Amazon has donated more than \$20 million to organizations that promote computer science/STEM education, and in Hawaii, there are more than 24 schools participating in the Amazon Future Engineer program.

## About The Hawaii State Department of Education

The Hawaii State Department of Education is the only statewide public school district in the country. It comprises 257 public schools and 37 charter schools, educating about 180,000 students. We have about 22,000 permanent full-time staff including about 13,000 teachers.

## About Amazon Future Engineer

Amazon Future Engineer is a childhood-to-career computer science education program intended to inspire and educate millions of students from historically underrepresented communities globally, including hundreds of thousands of students in the U.S. each year. Students explore computer science through school curriculum and project-based learning, using code to make music, program robots, and solve problems. Additionally, each year Amazon Future Engineer awards 250 students with four-year, \$40,000 scholarships and paid internships at Amazon, as well as names 10 Teacher of the Year winners, awarding \$30,000 prize packages for going above and beyond to inspire students in computer science and to promote diversity and inclusion in the field. The program is currently available in the U.S., UK, France, Canada, India, and Germany. For more information, visit amazonfutureengineer.com. About BootUp Professional Development

BootUp PD is a national 501(c)(3) nonprofit specializing in district-wide elementary computer science initiatives that focus on creativity and problem-solving. Since 2015, BootUp has worked with over 650 elementary schools in fifteen states, directly impacting over 230,000 students. BootUp prepares teachers to facilitate open-ended coding projects that are project-based and personally meaningful. Students are empowered with creative and interactive curricula that allow them to explore their personal interests through coding with design, music, animation, games, or stories.

Sponsorship applications are being accepted at: www.afebootup.smapply.org.

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