
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO DUAL CREDIT PROGRAMS.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The Georgetown University Center on Education
2 and the Workforce has projected that, by 2020, 70 per cent of
3 jobs in Hawaii will require that employees have some
4 postsecondary education. However, according to the United
5 States Census, currently, just forty-two per cent of Hawaii's
6 adults hold a two- or four-year college degree. Several
7 national and local studies have shown the effectiveness of dual
8 credit programs (programs in which students earn both high
9 school and college credit simultaneously) on rates at which
10 students go to, stay in, and graduate from college with a
11 postsecondary degree or certificate.

12 A study recently conducted by Hawaii P-20 Partnerships for
13 Education on current dual credit programs, such as running
14 start, show similar gains for students taking college level
15 courses while still in high school, despite the high financial
16 cost to students and their families. Nationally, of the forty-
17 seven states (plus the District of Columbia) that have statewide



1 policies governing at least one dual credit program, Hawaii is
2 one of only nine states that requires payment for participation
3 in a dual credit program.

4 Increasing numbers of students in Hawaii are taking dual
5 credit courses through programs that include the running start,
6 jump start, or early college high school programs. However,
7 maximizing the available credits and the opportunity for
8 students to earn both an associate degree and a high school
9 diploma, requires that academically prepared students be allowed
10 to start during their first year of high school. This will
11 bring Hawaii in line with over twenty-eight states that
12 currently allow college-ready high school students to begin
13 taking dual credit courses in ninth grade.

14 Finally, there is a growing trend for student assessment of
15 college-readiness, not by a single standardized test, but by
16 multiple measurements such as grades, overall grade point
17 average, teacher recommendations, and various assessments and
18 tests.

19 The purpose of this Act is to broaden current law to
20 include all dual credit programs, to broaden eligibility of
21 students, to allow for multiple measures of eligibility



1 assessment, and to appropriate funds for the instruction,
2 courses, and administration of college credits, thus allowing
3 broader student participation in dual credit programs.

4 SECTION 2. Section 302A-401, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
5 amended to read as follows:

6 "§302A-401 [~~Running start program.~~] Dual credit programs.

7 (a) There [~~is~~] are created in the department [~~the running start~~
8 ~~program~~] dual credit programs to permit eligible students to
9 enroll in any qualified course offered by the University of
10 Hawaii system.

11 (b) For the purposes of this section:

12 "Eligible student" means a high school student [~~in the~~
13 ~~eleventh or twelfth grade~~] who:

14 (1) Has passed [~~a standardized test administered~~] an
15 assessment approved by the college that demonstrates
16 the student's ability to succeed at the college level;

17 (2) Is under the age of twenty-one as of September 1 of
18 the school year in which the college course is taken;
19 and

20 (3) Has other qualifications deemed appropriate by the
21 department of education or the University of Hawaii;



1 provided that subsequent qualifications do not
2 restrict any student from taking the [~~standardized~~
3 ~~test.~~] assessment.

4 "Qualified course" means any vocational or academic course
5 offered by the University of Hawaii system that also applies to
6 the department's graduation requirements or is otherwise
7 permitted by department rule or policy.

8 (c) All course credits successfully completed pursuant to
9 this section that would otherwise be transferable but for a
10 student's grade level, shall be transferable to any University
11 of Hawaii system degree granting institution; provided that the
12 student is admitted to the campus where the credit is
13 transferred.

14 (d) [~~College~~] One hundred level and above University of
15 Hawaii courses successfully completed under this section shall
16 also satisfy the department's graduation requirements as
17 determined by the department pursuant to rule.

18 (e) This section shall not preclude the department and the
19 University of Hawaii from establishing programs by mutual
20 agreement that permit high school students to enroll in college
21 courses.



1 ~~[(f) Every student enrolled in a college course pursuant~~
2 ~~to this section shall remit appropriate tuition and fees to the~~
3 ~~college for every college course.~~

4 ~~(g) The department shall provide students who participate~~
5 ~~in the running start program with guidance in earning credit~~
6 ~~toward high school graduation upon the satisfactory completion~~
7 ~~of University of Hawaii courses at the one hundred level and~~
8 ~~above [pursuant to this section].]"~~

9 SECTION 3. Section 304A-803, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
10 amended to read as follows:

11 "[+] §304A-803 [+] ~~[Running start program.]~~ Dual credit
12 programs. (a) There ~~[is]~~ are established within the department
13 of education ~~[the running start program,]~~ dual credit programs,
14 to allow eligible students to enroll in any qualified course
15 offered by the University of Hawaii system.

16 (b) For the purposes of this section:

17 "Eligible student" means a high school student ~~[in the~~
18 ~~eleventh or twelfth grade]~~ who:

- 19 (1) Has passed ~~[a standardized test administered]~~ an
20 assessment approved by the college that demonstrates
21 the student's ability to succeed at the college level;



1 (2) Is under the age of twenty-one as of September 1 of
2 the school year in which the college course is taken;
3 and

4 (3) Has other qualifications deemed appropriate by the
5 department of education or the university; provided
6 that subsequent qualifications do not restrict any
7 student from taking the [~~standardized test.~~]
8 assessment.

9 "Qualified course" means any career and technical education
10 or academic course offered by the University of Hawaii system
11 that also applies to the department of education's graduation
12 requirements or is otherwise permitted by department of
13 education rule or policy.

14 (c) All course credits successfully completed pursuant to
15 this section that would otherwise be transferable but for a
16 student's grade level, shall be transferable to any University
17 of Hawaii system degree granting institution; provided that the
18 student is admitted to the campus where the credit is
19 transferred.

20 (d) [~~College~~] One hundred level or above University of
21 Hawaii courses successfully completed under this section shall



1 also satisfy the department of education's graduation
2 requirements as determined by the department of education
3 [~~pursuant to rule~~].

4 (e) This section shall not preclude the department of
5 education and the university from establishing programs by
6 mutual agreement that permit high school students to enroll in
7 college courses.

8 [~~(f) Every student enrolled in a college course pursuant
9 to this section shall remit appropriate tuition and fees to the
10 university.] "~~

11 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
14 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
15 2016-2017 to provide the department of education with two full-
16 time equivalent (2.0 FTE) positions, and resources to carry out
17 the purposes of this Act.

18 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
19 of education.

20 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
2 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
3 2016-2017 to provide the University of Hawaii with one full-time
4 equivalent (1.0 FTE) position, and resources to carry out the
5 purposes of this Act.

6 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University
7 of Hawaii.

8 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
9 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

10 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2030.



Report Title:

Running Start Program; University of Hawaii; Department of Education; Appropriation

Description:

Replaces the running start program and jump start program with dual credit program; amends definition of "eligible student" to include all high school students; replaces standardized test to determine college readiness with an assessment approved by the college. Appropriates funds. (HB95 HD1)

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