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# 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, seventy per cent  
3 of jobs in Hawaii will require that employees have some level of  
4 postsecondary education. However, according to the United  
5 States Census Bureau, currently, just forty-two per cent of  
6 Hawaii's adults hold a two- or four-year college degree.  
7 Several national and local studies have shown the effectiveness  
8 of dual credit programs (programs in which students earn both  
9 high school and college credit simultaneously) on students'  
10 rates of going to college, staying in college, and graduating  
11 from college with a 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, and the District of Columbia, that have statewide  
18 policies governing at least one dual credit program, Hawaii is



1 one of only nine states that requires the student and the  
2 student's parent or guardian to pay for participation in a dual  
3 credit program.

4       Increasing numbers of students in Hawaii are taking dual  
5 credit courses through programs that include, but are not  
6 limited to, the running start, jump start, or early college high  
7 school programs. However, for more students to gain more  
8 credits and the opportunity to earn both a college associate's  
9 degree and a high school diploma, they need to be able to start  
10 in ninth grade, if they are academically prepared. In more than  
11 twenty-eight other states, college-ready high school students  
12 can begin taking dual credit courses in the ninth grade.

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

18       The purposes of this Act are to: broaden current law to  
19 include all dual credit programs, broaden eligibility to  
20 participate in the program, and allow for multiple measures of  
21 assessment to determine eligibility.



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

3 "§302A-401 [~~Running-start~~] Dual credit program. (a)

4 There is created in the department the [~~running-start~~] dual  
5 credit program to permit eligible students to enroll in any  
6 qualified course offered by the University of Hawaii system.

7 (b) For the purposes of this section:

8 "Eligible student" means a public high school student in  
9 the ninth, tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade who:

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

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

16 (3) Has other qualifications deemed appropriate by the  
17 department of education or the University of Hawaii;  
18 provided that subsequent qualifications do not  
19 restrict any student from taking the [~~standardized~~  
20 ~~test.~~] assessment.



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

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

11 (d) [~~College courses~~] One hundred level or above  
12 University of Hawaii courses that fulfill an undergraduate or  
13 graduate degree course requirement and that are successfully  
14 completed under this section shall also satisfy the department's  
15 graduation requirements as determined by the department pursuant  
16 to rule.

17 (e) This section shall not preclude the department and the  
18 University of Hawaii from establishing programs by mutual  
19 agreement that permit high school students to enroll in college  
20 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~~ Dual credit program. (a)  
12 There is established within the department of education the  
13 ~~[running start]~~ dual credit program, to allow eligible students  
14 to enroll in any qualified course offered by the University of  
15 Hawaii system.

16       (b) For the purposes of this section:

17       "Eligible student" means a public or home-schooled high  
18 school student in the ninth, tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade  
19 who:



- 1 (1) Has passed [~~a standardized test administered~~] an  
2 assessment approved by the college that demonstrates  
3 the student's ability to succeed at the college level;
- 4 (2) Is under the age of twenty-one as of September 1 of  
5 the school year in which the college course is taken;  
6 and
- 7 (3) Has other qualifications deemed appropriate by the  
8 department of education or the university; provided  
9 that subsequent qualifications do not restrict any  
10 student from taking the [~~standardized test.~~]  
11 assessment.

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

17 (c) All course credits successfully completed pursuant to  
18 this section that would otherwise be transferable but for a  
19 student's grade level, shall be transferable to any University  
20 of Hawaii system degree granting institution; provided that the

1 student is admitted to the campus where the credit is  
2 transferred.

3 (d) [~~College courses~~] One hundred level or above  
4 University of Hawaii courses that fulfill an undergraduate or  
5 graduate degree course requirement and that are successfully  
6 completed under this section shall also satisfy the department  
7 of education's graduation requirements as determined by the  
8 department of education pursuant to rule.

9 (e) This section shall not preclude the department of  
10 education and the university from establishing programs by  
11 mutual agreement that permit high school students to enroll in  
12 college courses.

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

16 SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
17 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

19



**Report Title:**

UH; DOE; Dual Credit Program

**Description:**

Renames the "running start program" as the "dual credit program". Broadens participation to include ninth and tenth graders. Broadens participation to include home-schooled students for courses offered on University of Hawaii campuses. Replaces a standardized test with an assessment. Repeals tuition and fees requirement. (CD1)

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