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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 attending 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



1 policies governing at least one dual credit program, Hawaii is  
2 one of only nine states that requires the student and the  
3 student's parent or guardian to pay for participation in a dual  
4 credit program.

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

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

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



1 assessment to determine eligibility; and appropriate funds for  
2 the instruction, courses, and administration of college credits,  
3 thus allowing broader participation by various types of  
4 students.

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

7 "§302A-401 [~~Running start~~] Dual credit program. (a)

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

11 (b) For the purposes of this section:

12 "Eligible student" means a public or home-schooled high  
13 school student in the ninth, tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade  
14 who:

- 15 (1) Has passed [~~a standardized test administered~~] an  
16 assessment approved by the college that demonstrates  
17 the student's ability to succeed at the college level;
- 18 (2) Is under the age of twenty-one as of September 1 of  
19 the school year in which the college course is taken;  
20 and



1 (3) Has other qualifications deemed appropriate by the  
2 department of education or the University of Hawaii;  
3 provided that subsequent qualifications do not  
4 restrict any student from taking the [~~standardized~~  
5 ~~test.~~] assessment. Qualifications shall be uniform  
6 across all campuses that offer qualified courses.

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

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

17 (d) [~~College courses~~] One hundred level or above  
18 University of Hawaii courses that fulfill an undergraduate or  
19 graduate degree course requirement and that are successfully  
20 completed under this section shall also satisfy the department's



1 graduation requirements as determined by the department pursuant  
2 to rule.

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

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

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

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

17 "[+] §304A-803 [~~]- Running start~~] Dual credit program. (a)  
18 There is established within the department of education the  
19 [~~running start~~] dual credit program, to allow eligible students  
20 to enroll in any qualified course offered by the University of  
21 Hawaii system.



1 (b) For the purposes of this section:

2 "Eligible student" means a public or home-schooled high  
3 school student in the ninth, tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade  
4 who:

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

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

11 (3) Has other qualifications deemed appropriate by the  
12 department of education or the university; provided  
13 that subsequent qualifications do not restrict any  
14 student from taking the [~~standardized test.~~]  
15 assessment. Qualifications shall be uniform across  
16 all campuses that offer qualified courses.

17 "Qualified course" means any career and technical education  
18 or academic course offered by the University of Hawaii system  
19 that also applies to the department of education's graduation  
20 requirements or is otherwise permitted by department of  
21 education rule or policy.



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

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

13 (e) This section shall not preclude the department of  
14 education and the university from establishing programs by  
15 mutual agreement that permit high school students to enroll in  
16 college courses.

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

20 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so



1 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and  
2 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
3 year 2016-2017 to provide the department of education with  
4 staffing, including two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE)  
5 positions, and resources to administer the dual credit program  
6 established under this Act.

7 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
8 of education for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the  
12 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
13 2016-2017 to provide the University of Hawaii with staffing,  
14 including one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) position, and  
15 resources to administer the dual credit program established  
16 under this Act.

17 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the University  
18 of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
20 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

21 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.





**Report Title:**

UH; DOE; Dual Credit Program; Appropriations

**Description:**

Renames the "Running Start Program" as the "Dual Credit Program". Broadens participation to include public and home-schooled ninth and tenth graders. Replaces a standardized test with an assessment. Repeals tuition and fees requirement. Requires that all additional qualifications be uniform across all campuses. Appropriates moneys to the Department of Education and the University of Hawaii for positions. (SB374 HD1)

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