
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; allow for multiple measures of
21 assessment to determine eligibility; and appropriate funds for



1 the instruction, courses, and administration of college credits,
2 thus allowing broader participation by various types of
3 students.

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

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

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

10 (b) For the purposes of this section:

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

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

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

19 (3) Has other qualifications deemed appropriate by the
20 department of education or the University of Hawaii;
21 provided that subsequent qualifications do not



1 restrict any student from taking the [~~standardized~~
2 ~~test.~~] assessment. Qualifications shall be uniform
3 across all campuses that offer qualified courses.

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 courses~~] University of Hawaii entry level
15 credit bearing courses that fulfill an undergraduate or graduate
16 degree course requirement and that are successfully completed
17 under this section shall also satisfy the department's
18 graduation requirements as determined by the department pursuant
19 to rule.

20 (e) This section shall not preclude the department and the
21 University of Hawaii from establishing programs by mutual



1 agreement that permit high school students to enroll in college
2 courses.

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

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

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

13 "[~~{~~§304A-803~~}~~] ~~Running start~~ Dual credit program. (a)

14 There is established within the department of education the
15 ~~[running start]~~ dual credit program, to allow eligible students
16 to enroll in any qualified course offered by the University of
17 Hawaii system.

18 (b) For the purposes of this section:

19 "Eligible student" means a public high school student in
20 the ninth, tenth, eleventh, or twelfth grade 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. Qualifications shall be uniform across
12 all campuses that offer qualified courses.

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

18 (c) All course credits successfully completed pursuant to
19 this section that would otherwise be transferable but for a
20 student's grade level, shall be transferable to any University
21 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]~~ University of Hawaii entry level
4 credit bearing courses that fulfill an undergraduate or graduate
5 degree course requirement and that are successfully completed
6 under this section shall also satisfy the department of
7 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. There is appropriated out of the general
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
18 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and
19 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
20 year 2016-2017 to provide the department of education with
21 staffing, including two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE)



1 positions, and resources to administer the dual credit program
2 established under this Act.

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

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

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

15 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
16 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

17 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 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. (SD2)

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