H.B. NO. 767

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE RUNNING START PROGRAM FOR COLLEGE PREPARATION.

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

SECTION 1. Students and families of underrepresented
 populations in higher education are often discouraged by the
 perceived costs of college attendance. Scholarships embedded in
 a program of college preparation and support can be an effective
 motivating factor for these students to pursue and attend
 college.

Students often want to enroll in classes other than those 7 8 on the currently approved department of education list. They 9 should be allowed and, in fact, encouraged to take university 10 courses at the one-hundred level and above and have those 11 classes qualify as credit toward high school graduation. 12 Running start, a joint program of the department of education 13 and the University of Hawaii, created in section 302A-401, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is helpful in preparing students of 14 15 underrepresented populations prepare for college entry. Earning 16 dual credit for both high school and college can provide

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1 motivation and preparation that enhance these students' 2 opportunities to attend college. 3 Experience with the running start program has shown that 4 students in underrepresented populations may not be participating in the program because of financial difficulty. 5 6 It has also shown that there has been some confusion in 7 obtaining dual credit for courses completed at the University of 8 Hawaii. 9 The purpose of this Act is to increase the financial 10 support to families of underrepresented college student 11 populations who participate in the running start program and 12 ensure those students earn credit toward their high school and 13 college degrees for the successful completion of University of 14 Hawaii courses at the one-hundred level and above. 15 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is 16 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated 17 and to read as follows: 18 "<u>§302A-</u> Running start credits. The department of 19 education shall provide students participating in the running 20 start program guidance to earn credit toward high school

21 graduation for satisfactory completion of University of Hawaii



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1 courses at the one-hundred level and above in compliance with
2 section 302A-401."

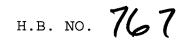
3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general 4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$50,000, or so much 5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and the 6 same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 7 2008-2009, to the GEAR UP Hawaii scholarship trust fund.

8 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the GEAR UP Hawaii 9 scholarship trust fund the sum of \$50,000, or so much thereof as 10 may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and the same sum, or 11 so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009, 12 to the department of education to grant scholarships to students who are members of underrepresented populations in higher 13 education, as determined by the department of education, to 14 participate in the running start program. 15

16 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.

SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval,
provided that sections 3 and 4 shall take effect on July 1,
2007.

20 I.doc JAN 19 2007



Report Title:

Education; Running Start Program; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates \$50,000 for each year of the fiscal biennium to the GEAR UP Hawaii scholarship fund for the scholarships to students in underrepresented populations in higher education for tuition at the University of Hawaii to participate in the running start college preparatory program and ensures credit for both high school and college degrees is granted for courses taken while in the program.

