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# 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:**

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

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



1 college can provide motivation and preparation that enhances  
2 these students' opportunities to attend college.

3 Experience with the running start program has shown that  
4 students in underrepresented populations may not be  
5 participating in the program because of financial difficulty.  
6 Experience has also shown that there has been some confusion  
7 about obtaining dual credit for courses completed at the  
8 University of Hawaii.

9 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 10 (1) Require the department of education to provide  
11 students who participate in the running start program  
12 with guidance and credit toward high school graduation  
13 for successful completion of one-hundred level and  
14 above University of Hawaii courses; and  
15 (2) Increase financial support for the families of low-  
16 income and underrepresented students.

17 SECTION 2. Chapter 302A, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
18 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
19 and to read as follows:

20 "§302A- Running start credits. The department of  
21 education shall provide students who participate in the running  
22 start program with guidance in earning credit toward high school



1 graduation upon the satisfactory completion of University of  
2 Hawaii courses at the one-hundred level and above pursuant to  
3 section 302A-401."

4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof  
6 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 and the same sum  
7 or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2008-2009  
8 to be deposited into the University of Hawaii scholarship and  
9 assistance special fund.

10 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the University of  
11 Hawaii scholarship and assistance special fund the sum of \$1 or  
12 so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008  
13 and the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for  
14 fiscal year 2008-2009 to provide scholarships to students who  
15 are members of underrepresented populations in higher education,  
16 as determined by the University of Hawaii, to participate in the  
17 running start program.

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

20 SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020;  
2 provided that sections 3 and 4 shall take effect on July 1,  
3 2020.



**Report Title:**

UH; Running Start Program; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the department of education to provide students who participate in the running start program with guidance and provide credit toward high school graduation for successful completion of certain University of Hawaii courses. Increases financial support for families of low-income and underrepresented students by appropriating funds. (SD2)

