

JAN 21 2022

A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO THE HAWAII HEALTHY AGING PARTNERSHIP PROGRAM.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Hawaii healthy
2 aging partnership (HHAP) program was established in 2003 to
3 improve the health status of older adults by empowering
4 residents to make healthy decisions and engage in healthier
5 lifestyles. Since its formation, the healthy aging partnership
6 program has successfully adapted evidence-based health promotion
7 programs and disease prevention programs for the multicultural
8 population in Hawaii. Participants may engage in two evidenced-
9 based interventions. First, the ke ola pono - Better Choices
10 Better Health (BCBH) - disease self-management programs are
11 evidence-based programs in which individuals with chronic or
12 ongoing medical conditions can learn how to effectively manage
13 their health to improve their quality of life. The second
14 intervention is EnhanceFitness, which is an effective, research-
15 driven exercise program to improve the overall functional
16 fitness and well-being of older adults. Due to the many



1 accomplishments of the HHAP program, it received the 2013
2 multicultural aging award from the American Society on Aging.
3 This accomplishment brought further recognition to the program's
4 role in improving the health of Hawaii's diverse aging
5 population.

6 The legislature also finds that the HHAP program received
7 state funding for fiscal year 2017-2018 through Act 103, Session
8 Laws of Hawaii 2017. The program did not receive state funding
9 for fiscal year 2018-2019 but received state funding for fiscal
10 year 2019-2020 through Act 124, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019.
11 For fiscal years 2020-2022, the program did not receive state
12 funding.

13 When the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) broke out in
14 Hawaii, the HHAP program was forced to close all EnhanceFitness
15 sites and cancel BCBH workshops and training due to prohibitions
16 against in-person classes. A survey of EnhanceFitness
17 participants on COVID-19's impacts found that nearly all of the
18 active participants were negatively impacted by the pandemic and
19 their health status had declined. It also showed that kupuna
20 need access to safe and effective health promotion activities.
21 To overcome the challenge, the HHAP program developed programs



1 in alternative formats. As of October 2021, the program has
2 served more than three hundred ninety-two kupuna during the
3 pandemic.

4 Modified virtual exercise classes were offered online to
5 participants in Kauai County (sixty-five attended) and via a
6 televised airing in Maui County (more than ninety joined). When
7 the pandemic restrictions were eased, the HHAP program started
8 to offer small-group in-person EnhanceFitness classes (serving
9 ninety-seven kupuna in Kauai County) and virtual EnhanceFitness
10 classes (serving sixty kupuna in Maui County).

11 BCBH offered its disease self-management program remotely
12 by mailing a toolkit to participants and having the class via
13 telephone for those who are not tech-savvy (fifty-seven
14 participants in the city and county of Honolulu and Kauai, and
15 Hawaii counties), virtual workshops (sixteen participants in the
16 city and county of Honolulu), and asynchronous online classes
17 (seven participants from Kauai and Honolulu counties).

18 Preliminary evaluation findings showed that, during the
19 pandemic, the EnhanceFitness and BCBH programs remained
20 effective in all outcome measures. Thus, the HHAP program
21 partners have gained skills and experience in offering the



1 programs in alternative formats. As the COVID-19 restrictions
2 ease, the HHAP program is ready to scale up the programs, in
3 both remote and in-person formats, to help more kupuna to stay
4 healthy. However, limited funding for the HHAP program inhibits
5 these programs from continuing and expanding to meet the needs
6 of kupuna. Currently, the program depends on stretching the
7 state appropriation made for the fiscal year 2019-2020 to
8 maintain some program activities, and it also receives a small
9 amount of supplemental funding from county appropriations and
10 federal funds through Title IIID.

11 Without continued funding, the HHAP program may have to
12 close and in that case, the executive office on aging would be
13 unable to meet the first goal of the Hawaii state plan on aging,
14 which strives to maximize opportunities for older adults to age
15 well, remain active, and enjoy life in their communities.

16 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the
17 healthy aging partnership program to further the program's
18 important role in improving the health and well-being of
19 Hawaii's kupuna.

20 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the
2 Hawaii healthy aging partnership program to continue the
3 program's operations to improve the health and well-being of
4 Hawaii's kupuna.

5 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the executive
6 office on aging of the department of health for the purposes of
7 this Act.

8 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2022.

9

INTRODUCED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'S' followed by several vertical strokes and a long horizontal line extending to the right.

S.B. NO. 2461

Report Title:

Hawaii Healthy Aging Partnership Program; Executive Office on Aging; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds for the Hawaii healthy aging partnership program to further the program's role in improving the health and well-being of Hawaii's kupuna.

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