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# 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 HHAP program has  
6 successfully adapted evidence-based health promotion programs  
7 and disease prevention programs for the multicultural population  
8 in Hawaii. Participants may engage in two evidenced-based  
9 interventions. First, the ke ola pono - Better Choices Better  
10 Health (BCBH) - disease self-management programs are evidence-  
11 based programs in which individuals with chronic or ongoing  
12 medical conditions can learn how to effectively manage their  
13 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 holding 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 HHAP program to further the program's important role in  
18 improving the health and well-being of Hawaii's kupuna.

19 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$500,000 or so much  
21 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the



1 Hawaii healthy aging partnership program to continue the  
2 program's operations to improve the health and well-being of  
3 Hawaii's kupuna.

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

7 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on December 31,  
8 2050.



**Report Title:**

Hawaii Healthy Aging Partnership Program; Department of Health  
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. Effective 12/31/2050. (SD1)

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