
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 program was established in 2003 to improve the
3 health status of older adults by empowering residents to make
4 healthy decisions and engage in healthier lifestyles. Since its
5 formation, the Hawaii healthy aging partnership 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 - disease self-management programs are evidence-based
11 programs in which individuals with chronic or ongoing medical
12 conditions can learn how to effectively manage their health to
13 improve their quality of life. The second intervention is
14 EnhanceFitness, which is an effective, research-driven exercise
15 program to improve the overall functional fitness and well-being
16 of older adults. Due to the many accomplishments of the Hawaii



1 healthy aging partnership 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 Hawaii healthy aging
7 partnership program received state funding for fiscal year
8 2017-2018 through Act 103, Session Laws of Hawaii 2017. The
9 program did not receive state funding for fiscal year 2018-2019
10 but received state funding for fiscal year 2019-2020 through Act
11 124, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019. The program did not receive
12 state funding for fiscal years 2020-2022.

13 When the coronavirus disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic broke
14 out in Hawaii, the Hawaii healthy aging partnership program was
15 forced to close all EnhanceFitness sites and cancel Better
16 Choices Better Health workshops and training due to the State's
17 prohibitions against in-person classes. A survey of
18 EnhanceFitness participants on the impacts of COVID-19 found
19 that nearly all active participants were negatively impacted by
20 the pandemic and felt their health status had declined. The
21 survey also showed that kupuna needed access to safe and



1 effective health promotion activities. To overcome these
2 challenges, the Hawaii healthy aging partnership program
3 developed activities in alternative formats. As of
4 October 2021, the program has served more than three hundred
5 ninety-two kupuna during the pandemic.

6 More than sixty-five participants in the county of Kauai
7 attended modified virtual exercise classes online, and more than
8 ninety participants in the county of Maui joined via a televised
9 airing. When pandemic restrictions were eased, the Hawaii
10 healthy aging partnership program started offering small-group,
11 in-person EnhanceFitness classes. These classes served ninety-
12 seven kupuna in the county of Kauai, and virtual EnhanceFitness
13 classes served sixty kupuna in the county of Maui.

14 Better Choices Better Health offered its disease self-
15 management program remotely by mailing toolkits to participants
16 and holding the class via telephone for those who were not tech-
17 savvy. These classes had fifty-seven participants in the city
18 and county of Honolulu and the counties of Kauai and Hawaii.
19 Virtual workshops served sixteen participants in the city and
20 county of Honolulu, and asynchronous online classes served seven



1 participants from the county of Kauai and city and county of
2 Honolulu.

3 Preliminary evaluation findings showed that, during the
4 pandemic, the EnhanceFitness and Better Choices Better Health
5 programs remained effective in all outcome measures.
6 Additionally, the Hawaii healthy aging partnership program
7 partners have gained skills and experience in offering the
8 programs in alternative formats. As the COVID-19 restrictions
9 ease, the Hawaii healthy aging partnership program is ready to
10 scale up the programs, in both remote and in-person formats, to
11 help more kupuna stay healthy. However, limited funding for the
12 Hawaii healthy aging partnership program inhibits these programs
13 from continuing and expanding to meet the needs of kupuna.
14 Currently, the program depends on stretching the state
15 appropriation made for fiscal year 2019-2020 to maintain some
16 program activities. It also receives a small amount of
17 supplemental funding from county appropriations and federal
18 funds through the Older Americans Act.

19 The legislature recognizes that, without continued funding,
20 the Hawaii healthy aging partnership program may have to close.
21 In that case, the executive office on aging would be unable to



1 meet the first goal of the Hawaii state plan on aging, which
2 strives to maximize opportunities for older adults to age well,
3 remain active, and enjoy life in their communities.

4 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate
5 moneys for the Hawaii healthy aging partnership program to
6 further the program's important role in improving the health and
7 well-being of Hawaii's kupuna.

8 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
10 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for the
11 Hawaii healthy aging partnership program to continue the
12 program's operations to improve the health and well-being of
13 Hawaii's kupuna.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the executive
15 office on aging of the department of health for the purposes of
16 this Act.

17 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on December 31,
18 2050.



Report Title:

HHAP; 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. (SD2)

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