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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAII HEALTHY AGING PARTNERSHIP.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Hawaii healthy  
2 aging partnership was established in 2003 to improve the health  
3 status of older adults by empowering residents to make healthy  
4 decisions and engage in healthier lifestyles. Since the  
5 partnership's formation, the partnership has successfully  
6 adapted evidence-based health promotion programs and disease  
7 prevention programs for Hawaii's multicultural population.  
8 Participants may engage in two evidenced-based interventions:  
9 Better Choices Better Health (Ke Ola Pono, or "living well")  
10 empowers and teaches participants to manage chronic disease, and  
11 EnhanceFitness offers an effective research-driven exercise  
12 program to improve the overall functional fitness and well-being  
13 of older adults. Due to the many accomplishments of the Hawaii  
14 healthy aging partnership, the partnership received the 2013  
15 Award for Excellence in Multicultural Aging from the American  
16 Society on Aging. This accomplishment brought further



1 recognition to the partnership's role in improving the health of  
2 Hawaii's diverse aging population.

3       The legislature also finds that Act 103, Session Laws of  
4 Hawaii 2017, and Act 124, Session Laws of Hawaii 2019,  
5 appropriated state funds for the healthy aging partnership for  
6 fiscal years 2017-2018 and 2019-2020, respectively; however, the  
7 partnership did not receive state funding for fiscal years 2018-  
8 2019 and 2020-2022. The partnership also receives a small  
9 amount of supplemental funding from county appropriations and  
10 federal funds from the Older Americans Act.

11       The legislature further finds that when the coronavirus  
12 disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic broke out in Hawaii, the  
13 healthy aging partnership was forced to close all EnhanceFitness  
14 sites and cancel Better Choices Better Health workshops and  
15 trainings due to the State's prohibitions against in-person  
16 classes. A survey of EnhanceFitness participants on the impacts  
17 of COVID-19 found that nearly all active participants were  
18 negatively impacted by the pandemic and felt their health had  
19 declined. The survey also showed that kupuna needed access to  
20 safe and effective health promotion activities. To overcome  
21 these challenges, the healthy aging partnership developed



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

4 More than sixty-five participants in Kauai county attended  
5 modified exercise classes online, and more than ninety  
6 participants in Maui county joined via a televised airing. When  
7 pandemic restrictions eased, the healthy aging partnership  
8 started offering in-person small group EnhanceFitness classes.  
9 These classes served ninety-seven kupuna in Kauai county.  
10 Virtual EnhanceFitness classes continued to serve sixty kupuna  
11 in Maui county.

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



1 Preliminary evaluation findings show that during the  
2 pandemic the EnhanceFitness and Better Choices Better Health  
3 programs remained effective in all outcome measures.  
4 Additionally, healthy aging partnership partners have gained  
5 skills and experience in offering programming in alternative  
6 formats. As COVID-19 restrictions ease, the healthy aging  
7 partnership is ready to scale up programs in both remote and in-  
8 person formats to help more kupuna stay healthy. However,  
9 limited funding for the partnership inhibits programs from  
10 continuing and expanding to meet the needs of kupuna.  
11 Currently, the partnership depends on stretching the state  
12 appropriation for fiscal year 2019-2020 to maintain certain  
13 program activities.

14 The legislature recognizes that, without continued funding,  
15 the Hawaii healthy aging partnership may be forced to end. As a  
16 result, the executive office on aging will fail to meet the  
17 first goal of the Hawaii state plan on aging to maximize  
18 opportunities for older adults to age well, remain active, and  
19 enjoy life in their communities.



1           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate  
2 funds for the Hawaii healthy aging partnership to continue to  
3 improve the health and well-being of Hawaii's kupuna.

4           SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so  
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and  
7 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
8 year 2024-2025 to fund the Hawaii healthy aging partnership to  
9 improve the health and well-being of Hawaii's kupuna.

10           The sums appropriated shall be expended by the executive  
11 office on aging for the purposes of this Act.

12           SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.

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# H.B. NO. 872 H.D. 1

**Report Title:**

Hawaii Healthy Aging Partnership; Executive Office on Aging;  
Department of Health; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the executive office on aging for the  
Hawaii healthy aging partnership. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

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