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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MENTAL HEALTH.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that according to a 2021  
2 Center for Disease Control and Prevention analysis, nearly forty  
3 per cent of high school students reported experiencing poor  
4 mental health during the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic and  
5 forty-four per cent reported persistent feelings of sadness or  
6 hopelessness in the last year. Significant investments in  
7 mental health are required to reverse these trends and to  
8 address the eroding mental wellbeing of adolescents.

9           The YMCA offers a number of services that promote health  
10 and well-being. The YMCA of Honolulu Youth Wellness Program for  
11 Mental Health proposes to engage four thousand five hundred  
12 youth between the ages of twelve and eighteen in therapeutic  
13 activities to help develop self-awareness, self-esteem,  
14 appropriate coping mechanisms, and stress management tools to  
15 address their mental health and wellness needs, and program  
16 activities would be conducted at YMCA locations and venues where  
17 services are easily accessible to the community and would take



1 place outside normal school hours. Furthermore, this program  
2 proposes to:

- 3 (1) Enable the YMCA to build and strengthen its  
4 organizational capacity and expand its outreach  
5 services;
- 6 (2) Assist the YMCA in increasing the skills and knowledge  
7 required to provide wellness programs for mental  
8 health to all communities, especially those with the  
9 greatest needs, as well as collect the necessary data  
10 to demonstrate the impact of its programs; and
- 11 (3) Enable the YMCA to maximize resources through  
12 collaborative partnerships with businesses and  
13 agencies in the fields of mental health and substance  
14 abuse on a statewide basis.

15 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to appropriate  
16 funds to the YMCA of Honolulu as a grant-in-aid for the  
17 development and statewide implementation of the Youth Wellness  
18 Program for Mental Health.

19 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,7000,000 or so  
21 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and



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1 the same sum so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
2 2024-2025 as a grant-in-aid to the YMCA of Honolulu for the YMCA  
3 Youth Wellness Program for Mental Health to improve mental  
4 health and wellness needs of Youths in the State.

5 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the YMCA of  
6 Honolulu for the purposes of this Act.

7 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 25 2023



# H.B. NO. 1342

**Report Title:**

YMCA of Honolulu; Youth Wellness Program for Mental Health;  
Grant-in-aid; Mental Health and Wellness; Youths

**Description:**

Appropriates grant funding to the YMCA of Honolulu for its Youth Wellness Program for Mental Health to address the statewide declining mental health outcomes of youths related to the coronavirus disease 2019 pandemic.

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