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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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



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

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

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

20 Preliminary evaluation findings show that during the  
21 pandemic, the EnhanceFitness and Better Choices Better Health



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

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

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



1 SECTION 2. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
2 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,  
3 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the  
4 appropriations contained in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023,  
5 and this Act will cause the state general fund expenditure  
6 ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by  
7 \$ or per cent. This current declaration takes  
8 into account general fund appropriations authorized for fiscal  
9 year 2024-2025 in Act 164, Regular Session of 2023, and this Act  
10 only. The reasons for exceeding the general fund expenditure  
11 ceiling are that:

- 12 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to  
13 serve the public interest; and  
14 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs  
15 addressed by this Act.

16 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$600,000 or so much  
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to fund  
19 the Hawaii healthy aging partnership to improve the health and  
20 well-being of Hawaii's kupuna.



1           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the executive  
2 office on aging of the department of health for the purposes of  
3 this Act.

4           SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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INTRODUCED BY: \_\_\_\_\_

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JAN 18 2024



# H.B. NO. 1771

**Report Title:**

Kupuna Caucus; Hawaii Healthy Aging Partnership; Executive Office on Aging; Department of Health; Expenditure Ceiling; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the Executive Office on Aging of the Department of Health for the Hawaii Healthy Aging Partnership. Declares that the general fund expenditure ceiling is exceeded.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

