
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE HAWAI'I HEALTH AGING PARTNERSHIP.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i'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 Hawai'i
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 Hawai'i'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 Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i 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 Hawai'i healthy aging partnership to continue to
20 improve the health and well-being of Hawai'i'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 \$ or so
18 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 to
19 fund the Hawaii healthy aging partnership to improve the health
20 and 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.



Report Title:

DOH; Kupuna Caucus; Hawaii Healthy Aging Partnership; Executive Office on Aging; Expenditure Ceiling; Appropriation

Description:

Makes an appropriation 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. (SD1)

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