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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGING.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii has a high  
2 percentage of seniors aged 65 and over, and this population is  
3 growing as baby boomers age. Hawaii's kupuna and their  
4 caregivers need the best resources and support for healthy aging  
5 to improve quality of life and curb unnecessary costs.

6           The legislature further finds that the University of Hawaii  
7 System, through its UHealthy Hawaii initiative, seeks to  
8 leverage the University of Hawaii System to improve health and  
9 health care in Hawaii and the Pacific, including for seniors  
10 through innovation, ensuring a robust statewide health  
11 workforce, promoting healthier families and communities,  
12 advancing health policy, and translational research.

13           The University of Hawaii System has multiple units invested  
14 in improving health outcomes for Hawaii's kupuna, including the  
15 Myron B. Thompson school of social work and its Center on Aging  
16 and office of public health studies, school of nursing and



1 dental hygiene, John A. Burns school of medicine, Cancer Center,  
2 and the college of pharmacy.

3       The legislature further finds that many approaches to  
4 healthy aging warrant further exploration and investment  
5 regarding how to best improve the lives of our kupuna as they  
6 age. One important approach involves the efficient and  
7 thoughtful use of technology and digital health are key to the  
8 provision of accessible health care for our seniors and other  
9 community members across the State. Ensuring a robust statewide  
10 health workforce, including alignment of University of Hawaii  
11 programs with health industry needs, is also critical to provide  
12 our kupuna and their families with high-quality health care as  
13 they age.

14       The legislature further finds that the Charles Atherton  
15 House and property on University Avenue in Manoa need  
16 development, ideally in service to the community in a way that  
17 meets the needs of the many seniors in Manoa Valley in the area  
18 surrounding the University of Hawaii at Manoa. The legislature  
19 further finds that there are a number of intergenerational  
20 university-based senior living communities emerging across the



1 nation. These examples could serve as models for the University  
2 of Hawaii.

3 The development of the Charles Atherton House and property  
4 into an intergenerational University of Hawaii Kupuna Center  
5 leverages University of Hawaii resources to meet community  
6 needs. A University of Hawaii Kupuna Center would ideally  
7 include the following:

- 8 (1) An intergenerational lifelong learning, retirement,  
9 and assisted living community in the renovated Charles  
10 Atherton House, with opportunities for senior learning  
11 as well as mentorship of university students;
- 12 (2) A live-in interprofessional cohort of University of  
13 Hawaii health sciences students or trainees interested  
14 in caring for older adults, and associated programming  
15 to support interprofessional health education and  
16 training;
- 17 (3) A new University of Hawaii Institute for digital  
18 health and innovation, focusing on areas such as  
19 telehealth and new models for healthy aging in place,  
20 run by the University of Hawaii system office of the  
21 vice president for research and innovation; and



1           (4) A healthy aging community resource center for all  
2           community members and caregivers, run by the  
3           University of Hawaii center on aging in partnership  
4           with other University of Hawaii units.

5 The University of Hawaii kupuna center could also include retail  
6 and conference spaces to support the activities of the Center.

7           The purpose of this Act is to provide funding for the  
8 University of Hawaii to support the development of the Charles  
9 Atherton House and property into a University of Hawaii kupuna  
10 center and support the University of Hawaii system office of  
11 strategic health initiatives to staff and coordinate the  
12 activities of the UHealthy Hawaii initiative, particularly those  
13 that support the University of Hawaii kupuna center and improve  
14 the lives of seniors through increasing well-being and ability  
15 to age in place, as well as addressing Hawaii's health workforce  
16 needs.

17           SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$           or so  
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for  
20 the University of Hawaii to support the development of the  
21 Charles Atherton House and property into a University of Hawaii



1 kupuna center and support the University of Hawaii system office  
2 of strategic health initiatives in its UHealthy Hawaii  
3 initiative.

4 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
5 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

University of Hawaii; Aging; Senior Health; Kupuna Center;  
Appropriations

**Description:**

Appropriates funding to develop the Charles Atherton House and property into a University of Hawaii kupuna center and support the activities of the University of Hawaii UHealthy Hawaii initiative. (SD1)

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