

HOLOMUA

RETIREES & ACTIVE MEMBERS

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Employees' Retirement System
of the State of Hawaii

ERS-Related 2018 Legislation

The second biennium of the 29th Legislature opened its 2018 session on Wednesday, January 17, 2018. Listed below are several administrative bills introduced on behalf of the Employees' Retirement System (ERS) related to the investments, financing and benefits of the System. The ERS Board of Trustees supports this legislation.

H.B. 2336 and S.B. 2763

Relating to Employer Contributions to the Employees' Retirement System

Allows the State and Counties to pay employer contributions to the ERS in advance of the fiscal year in which the contributions are required and to receive credit against future required payments. Currently, the ERS is not able to accept employer contributions in advance of the fiscal year in which the contributions are required. This bill would allow employers to remit cash in advance and to receive credit against future contribution obligations.

Effective: July 1, 2018

H.B. 2337 and S.B. 2764

Relating to the Employees' Retirement System

This bill would preserve

the ERS's use and control of unclaimed member contributions and benefit payments by suspending and forfeiting them to the ERS prior to the time that they would be required to be paid to the State's Unclaimed Property Program or escheated to another state. In addition, the bill preserves the ability of the member, former member, beneficiary, or other person or entity to recover the forfeited contributions or benefit payments by providing a means for those persons or entities to apply to the ERS for recovery of those forfeited contributions and benefit payments.

The bill would also ease the ERS's administrative burdens of complying with the Uniform Unclaimed Property Act, which can be complicated when long term monthly benefit payments are involved.

Effective: Upon approval

H.B. 2338 and S.B. 2765

Relating to Investment Personnel of the Employees' Retirement System

This bill would allow the Board of Trustees of the ERS to appoint one or more investment professionals, including investment specialists, who will be exempt from civil service limitations.

Although the members of the Board of Trustees, as fiduciaries, are responsible for the general management of the System's assets and implementation of the System's investment policy, the trustees themselves need not be investment experts. The role of assisting and advising the board with structuring the System's investment portfolio falls primarily with the System's investment staff, which would benefit from augmentation given the uncertainty and complexity of modern financial markets.

Effective: July 1, 2018

H.B. 2339 and S.B. 2766

Relating to the Employees' Retirement System

This bill would amend and clarify provisions of chapter 88, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to protect the interests of the beneficiaries of the ERS Trust.

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Message from the Executive Director **Stronger Yet**

As I pen my first Holomua communication of the New Year, I am drawn to characterize our organization as “stronger yet.” We’re stronger today than perhaps at any time in our recent history. We’re stronger in spite of the significant headwinds that we and virtually all public pension funds face.

Our actuarial evaluation for the year ending June 30, 2017 came in close to expectations with both our funding ratio (54.9 percent) and period to full funding (26 years) showing modest but welcome improvement.

The ERS’s investment results for the past fiscal year are largely responsible for the improvement in our funding period. Targeted to a baseline of 30 years, our better-than-forecast investment return of 13.9 percent lowered our time frame for full funding to 26 years. This funding period can move either up or down with demographic and investment experience. Our goal is to show a steady decline in our funding period over time, hastening the period after which the plan’s cost should decline sharply.

The new employer contribution levels for general employees and police and fire members which commenced last July, though fiscally painful, are vital to be maintained if we are to realize our longer-term goals of plan sustainability and decreased public expenditure.

The reorganization of the System’s largest service unit, Enrollment, Claims and Benefits (EC&B) has been approved by the Department of Budget & Finance, is supported by the unions and their employees, and is moving toward implementation. Upon completion, you should experience better, faster, and higher quality service. Our employees will correspondingly participate in the twin pillars of better opportunity and increased responsibility. Rather regrettably, we recently lost the services of our Chief

Investment Officer (CIO), Vijoy Chattergy. Vijoy has led our investment function through a vital period of resource building and portfolio restructuring. While Vijoy will undoubtedly be missed, we view the present as representing enormous opportunity.

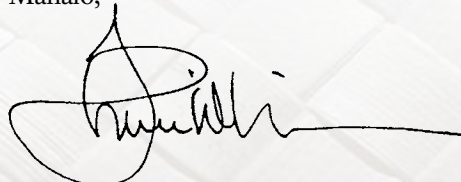
We are fortunate to have a core of long serving, experienced and professional senior investment officers who are fully capable of managing our investment operations with oversight from my office during this period of transition. As the System’s Executive Director, the ERS Chief Investment Officer reported directly to me as our Investment Officers and external consultants do today. I have significant professional experience managing the investment activities of public pension funds. Regardless, we have appointed Investment Officer Howard Hodel as acting CIO while we initiate the process to identify a permanent replacement. I, along with Howard, our Board and external consultants, will remain actively engaged in the oversight of our investment activities during this transition and search period.

Because long-term investment results are relatively more impactful than increased contribution levels, we wish to elicit legislative and public support for an even greater strengthening of our investment team and its capabilities, now and into the future.

So often, we are reminded of the formidable costs facing our numerous stakeholders, resulting from our commitment to provide income security in retirement to our State and County public servants. The benefits of doing so are tremendous to our culture and economy. The costs of our not doing so would be significantly greater and less transparent.

We appreciate your support and the opportunity to serve as we strive to become “stronger yet.”

Mahalo,



Thom Williams

ERS Board of Trustees Transitions

Genevieve Ley

On January 2, 2018, Genevieve S. Gines Ley, began her six-year term with the Board of Trustees of the Employees’ Retirement System (ERS) as one of its two general employee member-trustees. Dr. Ley received the highest number of votes and was declared by our Board as elected at its meeting on December 11, 2017.

“I am honored to have been elected to serve on the ERS Board of Trustees for the next six years,” Dr. Ley noted. “I plan to be a vocal guardian of the ERS and I hope my input contributes to its continued success. I am mindful that the ERS is a financial lifeline for our retired/disabled employees, who loyally served the State of Hawaii.”

A tuberculosis physician with the Communicable Disease and Public Health Nursing Division of the State Department of Health, Dr. Ley has been a member of the ERS since January of 2016.

Colbert Matsumoto

After 17 years as an ERS trustee, Colbert Matsumoto resigned from the Board on January 15, 2018. He was first appointed to serve on the ERS board by Governor Cayetano in April 2001, then reappointed by Governors Lingle in 2007 and Abercrombie in 2013.

During his tenure, Mr. Matsumoto brought tremendous credibility and public confidence in the management of the board as well as the System. As the President of Island Holdings, Inc., and the Chairperson of various Hawaii businesses, he has been committed to maintaining the highest vigilance in protecting the financial integrity of the ERS, strengthening its financial condition, improving its operations, and raising the level of service provided to its members and beneficiaries.

In his fiduciary role as ERS trustee, Mr. Matsumoto has supported pension reforms, the moratorium on benefit enhancements, the limitation of overtime in pension calculations as well as the development of the ERS investment program to ensure the long-term sustainability of the ERS and its commitments to its members.



ERS Energy-Based Investments

In 2015 Governor Ige signed Act 97 to update and extend Hawaii's clean energy initiative and renewable portfolio standards; the act ensures maximum long-term benefits to Hawaii's economy by setting a goal of generating electricity from 100 percent renewable energy by 2045. To support this vision and to preserve the delicate environment of Hawaii as well as to reinforce a more energy independent Hawaii economy, the ERS investment team and board routinely discuss with our consultants and investment managers our overall exposure to companies that are engaged in renewable and sustainable energy initiatives.

The Board's responsibility regarding the

ERS investment program is outlined in a robust and extensive Investment Policy Guidelines Procedures Manual which devotes a full chapter on Socially Responsible Investing (SRI). Falling within the realms of ERS SRI is the consideration of environmental, social and corporate governance in the selection of investment companies.

Features of the ERS SRI strategy include:

- **Avoiding companies whose records conflict with ERS investment values;**
- **Seeking out companies whose record is consistent with ERS values;**

- **Targeting investments directly into communities;**
- **Taking an active role as a shareholder in influencing corporate policies; and**
- **Evaluating environmental, social, and governance (ESG) issues.**

We have substantial investments in renewables, solar and wind energy companies and will add more as opportunities present themselves.

The ERS is proactively invested in renewable and clean energy companies in its existing investments. For example, one of the ERS's top performing fund managers is invested in Amplus Solar, China Cub Water, Cube District Energy, Cube Highways, Cube Hydro, Lincoln Clean Energy, Oregon Clean Energy, Viridian, and Whiptail. These investments were made through a vigorous investment process that satisfies strong investment returns and commitment to clean and renewable opportunities.

In a separate fund, the ERS is invested in renewable energy companies such as Renvico, T Solar, SunTap Energy I, Coriance, SSM, SunTap Energy II, Acciona, and Gestamp Solar.

Locally, the ERS was an early investor in Hu Honua and Volta through its Hawaii Targeted Investment Program ("HiTIP") I Fund.

Finally, the ERS owns and maintains the City Financial Tower (CFT), which is the first office building in the Downtown Honolulu Business District to achieve LEED EB (Leadership in Energy and Environmental Design - Existing Buildings) Gold Certification. CFT uses 40 percent less energy than comparable office buildings nationwide. We continue to make improvements such as running a more energy efficient elevator system, installing bicycle storage, and ensuring cleaning operations are environmentally friendly. Decisions to run a clean and energy efficient building reflect the social values and responsibilities of the ERS and sound investment judgment.

The ERS and its Board of Trustees has been nationally recognized for good governance. In addition to safe-guarding the Fund's assets and sustainability, good governance involves the balancing of the Fund's investment returns with good citizenship through environmental awareness, ethical behavior, internal controls, performance measurement and sound corporate governance practices. The ERS commits to perpetuating this balance for the future of its membership and the State of Hawaii.



ERS Board Honors Colbert Matsumoto

From left to right: Laurel Johnston, Wesley Machida, Jackie Ferguson-Miyamoto, Colbert Matsumoto, Genevieve Ley, Catherine Chan, Jerry Rauckhorst, Emmitt Kane and Vince Barfield.

Online Information Update

The ERS has updated its website with member information as of February 2018.

The updated online information is for active members in the Contributory, Noncontributory and Hybrid plans.

Retirement information and account balances may vary between members due to payroll lags and adjustments. Help us ensure that we have the most accurate information possible by logging on to the website at <http://ers.>

ers.hawaii.gov and click on "Member Information (Active Members Only)."

To report any discrepancies with your account information, click on the link to the Correction Form and print and mail the completed form to ERS with a copy of your "My Retirement Account" screen print.

Once we have completed our research, corrections will be applied and you will be notified of any changes.

ERS Brown Bag Session

As a reminder, there is one remaining Brown Bag session for the first half of 2018:

DATE	RETIREMENT PLAN	TIME	LOCATION
April 12	Hybrid - Tier 2	11:30 am to 12:30 pm	City Financial Tower-ERS 201 Merchant Street, Suite 1400

To register, please call our office at 586-1735 at least one week prior to the scheduled session. Each session is limited to thirty-five (35) members. On the day of the session, please report to the 14th floor in our building and staff will accompany you to the conference room. Feel free to bring your lunch, too. Limited validated parking is available in our building.

For our upcoming fall Brown Bag sessions schedule, check out our next issue of *Holomua*.

Continued from Cover

As there are numerous persons working in governmental functions paid by the State or county who are not members of the ERS, this proposal amends ERS benefit provisions, to clarify that claims for benefits related to service-connected disability and accidental death benefits should be limited to members who are beneficiaries of the Trust. For members of the ERS who are in positions for which all contributions required to the System by the employee, employer, or both, are made, claims for service-connected disability and accidental death benefits will apply. These service-connected disability and accidental death benefits would not apply to persons who are excluded from membership in the ERS.

Effective: Upon approval

H.B. 2340 and S.B. 2767

Relating to the Employees' Retirement System

Act 86, Session Laws of Hawaii 2015, prospectively changed the cost to purchase membership service to be based on an actuarially neutral cost calculation. This delayed implementation to July 1, 2020, was to allow the ERS to obtain confirmation from the Internal Revenue Service ("IRS") that the change in the calculation of purchase cost amount would not be considered a change to the employer pick up plan previously approved by the IRS. However, the IRS no longer provides guidance in the form of private letter rulings for public plan provision approvals. As the 2015 change in purchase cost allows for greater pre-tax retirement contributions than previously approved by the IRS, this amendment is

required to correct the employer pick up plan provisions for Class A and B (Contributory) and Class H (Hybrid) members and deletes payroll deductions for purchases after June 30, 2020.

Effective: Upon approval

H.B. 2341 and S.B. 2768

Relating to Qualified Domestic Relations Orders

This bill amends Act 263/2016 which provides the authority and requirement of the ERS to make direct payment to the spouse or former spouse of an ERS member or retirant to include the spouse or former spouse of former members with vested benefit status when the spouse or former spouse has been awarded all or a portion of ERS retirement benefits as ordered or decreed by a court in a domestic relations proceeding. In addition, this bill makes consistent the benefits payable to an alternate payee whether the qualified domestic relations order is certified prior to, or after, the member, former member with vested benefit status or retirant, retires.

Further, as ERS expense funding was not approved for Act 263/2016, this bill amends the effective date to July 1, 2020 in order that the ERS may incur expenses to program and upgrade its computer system, develop policies and procedures to educate members and other affected parties and to review domestic relations orders and perform or obtain actuarial and other calculations to allocate retirement benefits pursuant to a qualified domestic relations order.

Effective: July 1, 2020

The above bills and other legislation may be reviewed on the Hawaii State Legislature website at www.capitol.hawaii.gov.

2018 Spring Filing Sessions

For Oahu members, we would like to remind you that appointments are filling up quickly for our Spring Filing Sessions. **If you plan to retire on June 1, July 1, or August 1 of 2018, you must file your application by the deadline indicated below in the "notable dates" section.**

If you have not already done so, contact our office at (808) 586-1735 to schedule your appointment. Below are the dates for the remaining filing sessions.

For Neighbor Island members, please contact our staff on your island directly for an appointment.

FILING SESSION DATES	NOTABLE DATES
April: 4, 6, 11, 13, 18, 20, 25, 27	
May: 2, 4, 9, 11, 16, 18, 23, 25, 30	May 2 = Last day to file for June 1
June: 1, 6, 8, 13, 15, 20, 22, 27	June 1 = Last day to file for July 1
July: 2	July 2 = Last day to file for August 1

Contact us at (808) 586-1735 or visit our website for more information on the appointment schedule at <http://ers.hawaii.gov>. under Members> Retirement Planning.

ERS by the Numbers

The June 30, 2017 Actuarial Valuation Report of the ERS was prepared by Gabriel, Roeder, Smith and Co., ERS's actuarial consultants, and presented to the Board of Trustees in January. Included with the current report of the funded status of the ERS are statistical tables on which the actuarial analysis is based.

The actuaries review our active, terminated and retired membership in order to determine where we are now and to anticipate funding for the longevity and sustainability of the pension fund. This report may be viewed on our website under the links: Resources > Financials.

Tax information follow-up

If you received benefits from the ERS during 2017, your 2017 Form 1099-R (or 2017 Form 1042-S for foreign persons) was mailed to your home address prior to January 31, 2018. If you haven't received your form, please call our office to request a reprint. Please allow at least one week for mail delivery to a U.S. address and two weeks for delivery to a foreign address. If your address has changed, please provide us with your new address when requesting a duplicate form.

RETIRED MEMBERS

For those who received benefits from ERS during 2017 due to either a service-connected (work related) disability or death, an Annual Nonreportable Benefit Notice was mailed to your home address prior to January 31, 2018 for the portion of your pension benefits that are considered payments in the nature of workers' compensation and, therefore, excludable from gross income under Internal Revenue Code (IRC) Section 104(a)(1). If a portion of your benefits are taxable, you should have received a 2017 Form 1099-R by January 31, 2018.

More information for your review:

- **The Retiree FAQ section of the ERS website** <http://ers.ehawaii.gov> (Retirees/Retirees FAQs) or
- **Information on the IRS website** (<http://www.irs.gov>) such as IRS Publication 575, Pension and Annuity Income, the instructions for IRS Form 1040 U.S. Individual Income Tax Return

To change the amount of federal taxes withheld in 2018, please complete Form W-4P, Withholding Certificate for Pension or Annuity Payments. This form is available under the Retirees >> Pension Forms section of our website or you may call our office to have the form mailed to you. Form W-4P may also be obtained from the IRS or downloaded from the IRS website. For Form W-4P to be valid, enter your name, address, full social security number, withholding election, sign and date the form. Please also include your phone number and retirement date on the bottom of the form. Allow 4-6 weeks for the change to be effective and refer to the tax withholding tables for the approximate federal income taxes to be withheld.

The actuarial view of ERS's funding as of June 30, 2017

ERS ASSETS

Actuarial (smoothed*) Value	\$15,720.6 million
Market Value	\$15,698.3 million
Return on Actuarial Value	6.9%
Return on Market Value	13.9%

ACTUARIAL INFORMATION

Unfunded Actuarial Accrued Liability	\$12,928.0 million
Funded Ratio (Smoothed Assets Based)	54.9%
Funded Ratio (Based on Market Assets)	54.8%
Funding Period (Years)	26.0

CONTRIBUTIONS**

Employees	\$250,704,067
Employers	\$781,244,218
Total	\$1,031,948,285

ERS PAYMENTS

Refunds	\$16,340,290
Benefit Payments	\$1,306,788,954
Total	\$1,323,129,244

*Adjusted over a 4-year period to "smooth out" significant market fluctuations.
** Does not include investment return

The actuarial view of ERS's membership as of June 30, 2017

MEMBERSHIP

Active Members	65,911
Retirees and Beneficiaries	46,927
Inactive, Vested	9,241
Total	122,079

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP

Contributory	5,859
Noncontributory	13,743
Hybrid	46,309
Active Members' Average Annual Income	\$62,723

ACTIVE MEMBERSHIP SERVICE CREDIT

Less than 5 Years	27%
5 Years to 19 Years	47%
20 Years and more	26%

RETIREES (AGE 80+)

Ages 80 to 89	8,129
Ages 90 to 99	2,158
Ages 100 and above	68
Retirees' (All) Average Monthly Pension	\$2,318

For the ERS to be able to provide benefits for all of our retired and active members into the future, the actuaries must look at the pension fund's experience and—based on certain assumptions relative to such factors as the rate of retirement, mortality and longevity, employee turnover, disability, salary increases and inflation—anticipate our fund's future.

Open Enrollment

The Open Enrollment period for all EUTF Active Employee Health and Life Insurance plans, including HSTA VB

plans, will be from **April 2-30, 2018.**

Now is the time when you should stop and think

about health coverage for yourself and your family and determine which plan will best meet your needs for the new plan year (July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019).

Open Enrollment is your only opportunity to make changes without a qualifying event during the plan year (such as enrolling a new dependent due to marriage or birth). EC-1/EC-1H forms must be submitted to your employer's open enrollment designee by **April 30, 2018.**

Active employees should review the Open Enrollment Informational Session Schedule and premium rates for Active Employees which can be found at eutf.hawaii.gov. At these Informational Sessions, the EUTF and the insurance carriers will provide information on the plans as well as tips on what to consider in selecting the right plan for you and your family, and how to better utilize your EUTF health benefits.

The following are some of the changes to the **medical and prescription drug plans effective July 1, 2018:**

EUTF HMSA Medical Plans

• **EUTF PPO and HSTA VB 90/10 PPO Plans:** Tuberculin (TB) screenings provided by a participating provider will be covered at no charge to the member.

Medical Plan Benefit Changes

Effective January 1, 2018

EUTF HMSA Plans

A supportive care benefit has been added at no charge to the member.

FOR RETIREES

EUTF and HSTA VB Kaiser Senior Advantage Plan

The member cost share for out-of-area

IMPORTANT MEDICAL PLAN ENROLLMENT DATES	
Open Enrollment Election Period	April 2-30, 2018
Rate Changes Effective	July 1, 2018
New premiums deducted from paycheck	July 15, 2018 through June 30, 2019 (County Employees)
	July 20, 2018 through July 5, 2019 (State Employees)
Plan Period	July 1, 2018 through June 30, 2019

• **EUTF 80/20 PPO Plan:** Member coinsurance for maternity services provided by a participating provider will increase from 10 percent to 20 percent.

• **EUTF 75/25 PPO Plan:** The calendar year deductible will no longer apply to outpatient laboratory and pathology services provided by a participating provider.

• **EUTF HMO Plan:** The member copayments for emergency room services will increase from \$25 to \$100 per visit and for routine annual physical examinations will decrease from \$15 to no charge.

EUTF CVS Prescription Drug Plan

For the prescription drug plan bundled with the EUTF HMSA 75/25 PPO plan, the calendar year maximum out-of-pocket limit will increase from \$1,850 per person or \$3,700 per family to \$2,350 per person or \$4,700 per family.

EUTF Supplemental Medical and Prescription Drug Plan

• The EUTF Supplemental Medical

and Prescription Drug Plan will now be administered by Hawaii-Mainland Administrators (HMA).

• The plan year maximum benefit will decrease from \$3,500 per person to \$2,750.

• The plan year prescription drug sublimit will change from \$350-self, \$700-two-party, and \$1,000-family to \$250 per person.

• Chiropractic benefits will no longer be covered.

EUTF and HSTA VB Chiropractic Benefit

The EUTF and HSTA VB chiropractic benefit that is included with the HMSA and Kaiser medical plans will no longer be provided by Royal State National/ChiroPlan Hawaii, but will be provided under your medical plan (through American Specialty Health Group, Inc.) with no change to the benefit.

If you have any questions regarding these benefit changes, please contact HMSA (948-6499 on Oahu or toll free at 1-800-776-4672), Kaiser (432-5955 on Oahu or toll free at 1-800-966-5955), CVS (toll free at 1-855-801-8263), or HMA (1-866-377-3977).

If you have any questions regarding these benefit changes, please contact HMSA (948-6499 on Oahu or toll free at 1-800-776-4672) or Kaiser (432-5955 on Oahu or toll free at 1-800-966-5955).

urgent care services changed from 20 percent coinsurance to a \$20 copayment.

HSTA VB Retiree Plans

The HSTA VB chiropractic benefit that is included with the HMSA and Kaiser medical plans is no longer provided by Royal State National/ChiroPlan Hawaii, but is provided under your medical plan (through American Specialty Health Group, Inc.) with no change to the benefit.

Medicare Part B Reimbursements for New Retirees or Retirees Who are Medicare Eligible

All retirees and spouses enrolled in Medicare Part B are eligible for reimbursement of your Medicare Part B pre-

miums (excluding penalties), provided you are paying for your Medicare Part B premium and it is not being paid by the Medicare Savings Program or Medicaid. In order to receive your Medicare Part B reimbursement you must provide the EUTF with the following:

- Copy of your and/or your dependent's Medicare card (indicating enrollment in Medicare Part B)
 - Medicare Part B Reimbursement Direct Deposit Agreement Form
 - Social Security Administration letter for you and/or your dependent indicating the Medicare Part B premium amount
- Reimbursement begins the latter of the

effective date of your Medicare Part B effective date or the first day of the month that you provide EUTF with all three (3) aforementioned documents listed above.

New Medicare Cards

Beginning in **April 2018 through April 2019**, new Medicare cards will be mailed to retirees. A new Medicare Beneficiary Identifier (MBI) will replace the Social Security Number (SSN) on all Medicare cards by April 2019. **PLEASE DO NOT MAIL THE EUTF A COPY OF YOUR NEW REPLACEMENT MEDICARE CARD.** The EUTF will obtain the MBI by other means.



HMSA MEMBERS

Are you making time to exercise, eat well, and get enough sleep? Research shows that about 70 percent of your health depends on how well you take care of yourself. To get a better picture of how you're doing, register for Sharecare and complete the RealAge® Test. The test asks you questions about your health habits and history to give you a RealAge, or your body's age according to science.

Register on hmsa.com/sharecare, link your HMSA subscriber ID, and take the RealAge Test. **Complete the test by June 30 for a chance to win one of ten \$500 Visa gift cards*.**

RealAge® is a registered mark of Sharecare, Inc. Sharecare, Inc., is an independent company that provides health and well-being programs to engage members on behalf of HMSA.

KAISER MEMBERS

Earn a Free Gym Membership!

We make it easy for you to be fit year-round – that's why we launched Kaiser Permanente Fit Rewards, exclusively for Kaiser Permanente Hawaii members.

Start now and earn a free gym membership at a participating gym.

How does it work? Visit kp.org/fitrewards for more information and kp.org/activeandfit to register.

Silver&Fit Exercise and Healthy Aging Program

Exclusively for Kaiser Permanente Medicare Retirees in the Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage plan.

Visit silverandfit.com to learn more about our programs and to get started.

Please refer to your Benefits Summary and kp.org/fitrewards for details, including conditions, limitations, and exclusions.

Money Saving Tips

Medical Care Options

In today's world of medicine, we have many options for medical treatment... But how do we know which doctor or

what setting suits our needs the best considering both cost and

convenience? Hopefully, the following will help you navigate through the complexity of medical treatment:

• Primary care providers or PCPs should be your starting point for healthcare in non-emergency situations such as regular checkups, tests and screenings, cold or flu, earaches, and mild sprains. HMSA's online care, Kaiser's telephonic care, and CVS Minute Clinics are also options if you cannot see your PCP for your immediate needs.

For HMSA's online care, please visit hmsaonlinecare.com. For Kaiser's telephonic care, call (432-2000 on Oahu, 243-6000 on Maui/Molokai/Lanai, 334-4400 on Hawaii Island, 246-5600 on Kauai, or after hours: 432-7700 on Oahu or toll free 1-800-467-3011 on neighbor islands).

• Urgent care clinics are another option for non-emergency situations such as cold or flu; earaches; sprains;

vomiting, diarrhea, or stomach pain; cuts that aren't deep but may need stitches; urinary tract infections; animal or insect bites; and x-rays and lab tests. Urgent care clinics are located statewide. To find an urgent care clinic near you, visit hmsa.com, click on "Find a Doctor", and type in "urgent care" in the search box. If you are a Kaiser member looking for after hours care, visit kp.org and in the "Find Care" section at the bottom of the screen, click on "Urgent Care".

• Emergency rooms should be reserved for true medical emergencies such as allergic reactions to food, chest pains, signs of stroke, sudden changes in vision, vomiting or bleeding that won't stop, severe shortness of breath, deep cuts or wounds, severe head injuries, vaginal bleeding during pregnancy, seizures, drug overdose, unconsciousness, etc.

Emergency room visits will almost always be your most expensive option. The use of the emergency room facility (excluding the physician charges, labs, x-rays, etc.) typically costs \$1,000 while the cost of a physician or urgent care clinic visit typically costs about \$100. Of these costs, you are responsible for the member coinsurance or copayment.

Please visit www.eutf.hawaii.org for more information.

FOR ACTIVE & RETIREES

IMPORTANT

The EUTF is a separate organization from the ERS. If you have any questions about information in these articles, please contact the EUTF directly. Contact information: (808) 586-7390, 1 (800) 295-0089 toll free; email: eutf@hawaii.gov



Employees' Retirement System
of the State of Hawaii

201 Merchant Street, Suite 1400
Honolulu, HI 96813-2980

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Executive Director

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Contact ERS-Pension

Monday-Friday 7:45am-4:30pm
(Except State Holidays)

For pension related questions,
please contact ERS at:

O'ahu: (808) 586-1735

Kaua'i: (808) 274-3010

Hawai'i: (808) 974-4077

Maui: (808) 984-8181

Moloka'i & Lana'i

toll-free to Maui:

1 (800) 468-4644, ext. 48181

Continental U.S.

toll-free to O'ahu:

1 (888) 659-0708

<http://ers.ehawaii.gov>

Contact EUTF

Medical Coverage

Monday-Friday: 7:45am-4:30pm
(Except State Holidays)

For medical coverage and
medicare reimbursements,
please contact EUTF at:
(808) 586-7390

Toll-free: 1 (800) 295-0089
or email at eutf@hawaii.gov

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RETIREES & ACTIVE MEMBERS

Ask ERS

Answers to some frequently asked questions:

Q: I am in the Noncontributory plan and want to select Option C (Ten Year Guarantee); when I retire, will my pension stop after ten (10) years?

A: No. Under Option C, as with all retirement pension options, the retiree receives a lifetime pension. However, in the event of the retiree's death within the 10-year period after the date of retirement, the one (1) designated beneficiary or the retiree's Trust would receive the retiree's pension for the balance of the 10-year period. For example, if the retiree passes away 6 years after retirement, the designated beneficiary would receive the retiree's pension for the remaining 4 years; thereafter, the beneficiary benefit will cease. Option C is a lifetime benefit for the retiree, however, it's only a short-term, temporary financial benefit for the survivor-beneficiary during the first 10 years of retirement.

Q: My federal taxes decreased due to the new 2018 tax withholding tables. I would like to withhold a specific dollar amount rather than have my federal taxes determined by the number of allowances and marital status I claim for withholding. How should I indicate this on Form W-4P?

A: Unfortunately, under current federal law, you cannot designate that a specific dollar amount be withheld from your pension payments. On Form W-4P, you must designate the number of allowances and marital status you are claiming for withholding on line 2. You can, however, designate an additional dollar amount to be withheld on line 3. You may also choose to make estimated tax payments directly to the IRS. Please refer to the ERS website at ers.ehawaii.gov for more information on the 2018 Federal Income Tax Withholding Tables and to access fillable W-4Ps to update your tax withholding.