

Downtown,  
Honolulu

# HOLOMUA

RETIREES & ACTIVE MEMBERS

FALL 2020

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Employees' Retirement System  
of the State of Hawaii

## ERS office visitation changes implemented due to COVID-19

Due to continuing COVID-19 pandemic concerns, the Employees' Retirement System adjusted procedures for members and retirees who visit our offices on Oahu, Hawaii island, Maui and Kauai.

The ERS offices remain open, but we are limiting entry to our reception areas to protect visitors and staff. The ERS wants to continue to provide the customer service needed for our membership. Counseling services are currently being done by phone, including for members who filed a retirement application and received an estimate letter (pension projections).

Information and forms can be found on our website, <https://ers.ehawaii.gov>, for both

members and retirees. You may contact our offices at 808-586-1735 or email us at [dbf.ers.sss@hawaii.gov](mailto:dbf.ers.sss@hawaii.gov). When submitting forms (e.g. retirement application, death claim) be sure to complete all required information. Completed forms can be submitted to the ERS by mail. However, please note any filing deadlines as ERS does not consider postmark dates.

For retirees and beneficiaries, payments will continue to be processed as scheduled.

If visiting an ERS office, you must wear a face mask and adhere to the social distancing of six feet. Please limit your office visits to protect yourselves and our staff.

Below is information that you need to receive assistance from our offices.

OFFICES	CONTACTS AND PROCEDURES
Kauai	For assistance, call Taylor McCarthy (274-3010) or Michelle Hinazumi (274-3011).
Maui	Documents can be dropped off through the mail slot on the door. For assistance, call Emalu-Hina Cleveland (984-8282) or Paul George (984-8181).
Hilo	Forms can be submitted by calling Carlos Chavez Bugarin (974-4077), Kirsten Chong (974-4074), or Dayle Ishii (974-4076).
Oahu	Visitors will be asked to complete a questionnaire before entering the reception area and allowed in one at a time. Call 586-1735 prior to visiting. The parking lot at City Financial Tower opens at 8 a.m.

ERS's Karl Kaneshiro and Lori Kobayashi conduct an online information session with the University of Hawaii.



WORKING TO FULFILL YOUR RETIREMENT DREAMS



## Message from the Executive Director

# “Need Not Worry”

which the plan may be exposed increase and the pictured outcome is less sharp or clear. I say this not to cause angst but to introduce the possibility and even probability of factors arising tomorrow that one has neither acknowledged nor even contemplated today.

Retirement plan funding is built on a complex array of assumptions related to funding level, contribution rates, investment earnings, payroll and membership growth, inflation, mortality (death rates), longevity, plan design, federal tax and regulatory matters, to name but a few. Unanticipated or adverse developments in any of these areas can result in unforeseen and potentially negative consequences. Who, for example, could have forecast with any degree of certainty that our membership would enjoy the longest life expectancy of any population in the U.S. and that we would correspondingly have to pay benefits for an extended period? Likewise, who amongst us could have foreseen the emergence of COVID-19 around the globe and its impact on local revenues and global impact on healthcare and future economic growth? Increased plan funding levels improve its resistance to unwelcome exogenous shocks. Uncertainties abound and most certainly will continue.

How does all this translate into the question first asked? That is, “Do I need to worry about my ERS pension?” The answer, based on what we know today and reasonably assume about the future is current members and beneficiaries

“need not worry.” But we must in all candor acknowledge the uncertain nature of future long-term developments and the likelihood that matters will predictably evolve differently than we assume, either better or worse.

While we are ill-equipped to predict the future, we are capable of evaluating a range of expected and even unexpected outcomes and to develop the policy responses we would then propose. We routinely engage in “stress tests” and “what if” scenarios to test the resiliency of our plan.

We are keenly alert to, but not alarmed by, recent market volatility. Assuming our strategic investment program is implemented, our portfolio investments perform as forecast, and employer and employee contributions are continued, then we’re comfortable with the path ahead. While some level of risk and future uncertainty is an unavoidable component of both reality and our modeling, we want you to know that our goal is to mitigate such risks and to be the first to offer options and alternatives intended to preserve our plan’s ability to meet its commitments.

We can’t promise our plan won’t be faced with future adversities. We can promise we won’t be “asleep at the switch” and that we will always manage our plan in the best interest of its members and beneficiaries. We also commit to inform you of any meaningful change in our outlook.

Mahalo,

Thom Williams

A major question often asked these days is, “Do I need to worry about my ERS pension?” It has been highlighted in the local press that my response has consistently been “absolutely not.” I remain extremely confident in our ability to manage the plan such that we can optimize investment returns and efficiently administer benefit accrual during our members’ working years and benefit payments during retirement. Sounds rather simple, but it’s not.

We have little risk that the plan’s assets will prove insufficient to pay all benefits accrued to date by either current workers or existing retirees. Retirement plans like the ERS are expected to exist into perpetuity. So, not only is the plan expected to deliver a guaranteed lifetime income for today’s beneficiaries, it is anticipated that we will do so for future generations of state and county workers and retirees as well. And the further out on the time horizon this responsibility extends the variables to

## Why the ERS diversifies its investments By the ERS Investments Staff

The first half of calendar year 2020 is a good example of why we diversify.

In the first quarter of 2020, the U.S. stock market (equities) fell over 20 percent in 22 days and over 30 percent in 30 days – both the fastest declines in history. It was the worst first quarter in history. In contrast, the second quarter was one of the best second quarters. Many of you, our active members and retirees, have voiced concerns over whether your retirement benefits are secure during this period of severe economic swings and volatility.

To answer your primary concern: Yes, your ERS benefits are secure and your promised benefits are safe.

Despite a challenging market in the short term, our portfolio has maintained its value and, in fact, post-

ed positive results for fiscal year-end 2020. We structured the portfolio specifically to weather adverse shocks and are pleased that this strategy – remaining conservative – has paid off. We lost less than half of what peers lost in the first quarter. This is important because also unlike peers we were: (1) Not in a position of forced liquidation of assets; and (2) We did not have to take on as much risk as peers to recoup losses in the second quarter. ERS’s diversified investment portfolio is focused on the long term and designed to navigate smoothly through some rough economic waters by keeping a steady eye on the horizon.

The following are responses to some frequently asked questions:

1. **Should we be concerned about the current economic outlook?** (see next page)

# Trustee Yap combines experience with service

Many people say public service is a calling. For Bennett T. Yap, the Employees' Retirement System's newest trustee, public service is simply embedded in his DNA. Yap's father Titus retired from the state's Department of Human Resources Development after more than 35 years of service. His brother retired from the Hawaii State Public Library System after a lengthy career as well, and his sister is currently employed with the Department of Education.

"I was working for a private computer consulting firm for five years before starting at the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations," said Yap, manager of the department's Information Technology Office. "I've been there 26 years.

"So yes, you could say I was inspired by my dad. It's really rewarding for me to be a public servant and help people. I also liked the idea of having a pension when I retire. As a trustee, I want to ensure the retirement benefits that were promised to all of us when we signed up are there for us when we retire."

Yap began his term on the ERS Board of Trustees in January. He previously served four years as treasurer with the Hawaii Government Employees Association and oversaw the employee retirement trust fund.

"Not as large as the ERS fund, but it applied the same concepts, including analysis by actuaries and federal regula-

tions," said Yap. "The ERS is much more complicated. I've learned so much in the last eight months. Our responsibility as a board is to make sure the trust fund is stable and can continue to have sustainability.

"Walking alongside the other board members is incredible. They're very knowledgeable. Everyone is committed. The staff shares that commitment and is accountable from the top on down.

"Because there's so much to know and learn, Board Chair Emmet Kane established additional committees. I'm on the Investment, Legislative, and Administrative & Audit committees. One of the initiatives the Administrative Committee is looking at is upgrading the IT system."

Yap has firsthand experience that underscores its importance. Hawaii was not the only state hampered by antiquated computer equipment and outdated IT systems after COVID-19 stay-at-home closures caused massive numbers of workers to simultaneously file unemployment claims. Yap and his DLIR team worked feverishly to facilitate claims intake and processing as the number of Hawaii filers exploded to 200,000.

"Imagine a two-lane highway with everyone trying to get on at the same time," said Yap. "We did our best, knowing each claim represented a person whose



Trustee Bennett T. Yap

family would soon be in great need."

Fortunately, the spirit of public service prevailed. After filing issues were resolved, a small army of state employees set up temporary workstations at the Hawaii Convention Center and an even larger group of state employees volunteered to process claims.

"We called different departments to help us, and they did so without hesitation," said Yap. "We also had department directors and legislators volunteering. Everyone just left their 'hat' at the door, and we were all on the same page." That spirit echoed the one he's found at the ERS.

"Working with the ERS carries a lot of responsibility, but you see how everyone is dedicated to doing their part," he said. "As a public servant, you always want to do good."

## Continued from Page 2

While near-term movements in the markets are unpredictable, our long-term outlook remains positive. Our goal is to achieve a 7.0 percent return over the long-term. Through June 2020 we are still above our 7.0 percent return target (7.6 percent). As illustrated through this recent turmoil, our portfolio has maintained value.

### 2. **What is the ERS doing to keep my benefits safe?**

Our investment staff is effectively managing market volatility, limiting our downside and identifying new opportunities. Market dislocations, while painful, represent tremendous buying opportunities. The ERS's diversified investment portfolio preserves our capital in a crisis. We maintain the assets of the System by having a balanced, thoughtful allocation of assets and superior manager selection.

### 3. **Is the pension fund going to run out of money to pay benefits?**

No, the ERS will not run out of funds to pay retirement benefits to its current retirees and active members. The ERS investment fund is constructed to modify and adjust over time. Last year, the ERS paid out \$1.4 billion in retirement benefits. Those benefits assist in stabilizing our state economy by providing our state and county pensioners and beneficiaries with a reliable source of income. Recent market declines have not impacted our ability to pay benefits.

### 4. **Will the ERS update us on the status of our pension fund as this economic crisis develops?**

Yes, there will be updates in our quarterly Holomua newsletter (publications are on our website at <https://ers.ehawaii.gov/resources/all-publications#Newsletter>), news articles in the Honolulu Star-Advertiser, and updated information on our ERS website [ers.ehawaii.gov](https://ers.ehawaii.gov) under "Investments." Please refer to the following: <https://ers.ehawaii.gov/investments/performance>.

# ERS investment portfolio: Real Estate/Real Assets

*Holomua invited Ian Wetzel, CFA, CALA, an ERS investment officer, to answer questions about the System's portfolio covering real estate/real assets. (In future issues we will introduce our other asset classes – credit, equities, fixed income, diversifiers – and introduce our risk management team.) We chose to start with Real Assets given its important role as a diversifier and return generator during times when traditional asset classes are experiencing volatility – such as in 2020. Mr. Wetzel was born and raised in Honolulu, attended university on the mainland and worked in various investment roles at a local financial institution prior to joining ERS in 2013.*

## What are 'real assets' and their characteristics?

Real assets are physical assets that have an intrinsic worth due to their substance and properties. They are a type of alternative investments (as opposed to traditional stocks and bonds) and include asset classes such as real estate, infrastructure, agriculture/farmland, and timberland (among others). Real assets typically include some of the following characteristics: inflation hedge (positively correlated with price inflation), intrinsic value (expected to preserve value in financial market contagion), scarce input (often benefit from increasing scarcity of production inputs), economic infrastructure (are essential components to economic infrastructure/built environment), and long term (offer long-term risk and return properties suitable for investors seeking to fund long-term liabilities).

## Why do we have real assets in the ERS's portfolio?

Real assets can provide several benefits when included in a multi-asset portfolio (combined with traditional investments).

Potential benefits for investing

in the real asset opportunity set include: diversification, capital preservation, current income, long-term growth, lower volatility and inflation protection. Over the long-term, real assets have provided: enhanced risk-adjusted returns (stable income return with potential for capital appreciation), attractive returns (generated attractive returns vs. equities), lower volatility (exhibited lower volatility vs. equities), diversification benefits (exhibited low correlation vs. equities), and higher income return (generated stronger cash yields vs. equities). Real assets also have some disadvantages, such as lower liquidity, complexity and higher costs.

## ERS's Real Asset Portfolio

Real assets currently comprise \$1.5 billion, or 8.5 percent, of the ERS's total portfolio. The long-term target allocation recently increased to 15.5 percent, so real assets will be a considerable area of growth in the portfolio going forward. Real estate is the largest component of the ERS's real asset portfolio, and the ERS has been investing in real estate since the early 1990s. The ERS's real

estate portfolio is well diversified among style, manager, time period, geography, property type and structure (equity vs. debt). The ERS has been investing in timberland since 1999 and infrastructure since 2014 and plans to build investments in agriculture and other real assets, consistent with long-term strategic allocation targets and plan.

Overall, including real assets in the ERS' portfolio helps optimize the risk-return trade-off of the overall portfolio and provides growth, income, diversification and inflation protection benefits to help meet long-term objectives. These long-term assets are an appropriate match with the ERS's long-term (perpetual) time horizon and the continuing need to fund long-term liabilities.

It's truly been a pleasure working on the ERS investment team with such a talented and experienced group of investment professionals. I'm honored and grateful for the responsibility you place in us, and we do not take that responsibility lightly. I'd also like to thank each of you for your service and contributions to the state, community and the ERS.



Investment officer Ian Wetzel has been with the ERS since 2013.

# Be Alert. Beware. Be Safe From Scams.



Con artists are always on the lookout for trusting and vulnerable consumers, and our Aloha spirit makes Hawaii an enticing place to set up shop. Add a global pandemic and it's the perfect opportunity to capitalize on the fear and uncertainty.

Although seniors are the preferred targets in scams because of their accumulated assets and more trusting nature, in truth anyone can become a victim. Each year local families lose millions of dollars from their savings, retirement accounts and investments after being victimized. The following are some recently reported scams.

### Federal Stimulus Payment Scam

Communication that seeks your bank account information, social security number, or credit card information; or offers to assist you in applying for stimulus money. Do not respond. For information regarding your federal stimulus payment, visit <https://www.irs.gov/coronavirus>.

### Phishing Emails

Asks to verify personal data, including Medicare or Medicaid information, in exchange for receiving economic stimulus funds or other benefits from the government. Government agencies are NOT sending out emails asking for personal information. Never open attachments or links in any emails claiming to be from the government.

### Counterfeit Product Offers

Applies to offers online, in stores, by electronic message, or over the phone. Currently there are no vaccines, prescriptions or over-the-counter products to treat or cure COVID-19. The U.S. Food

and Drug Administration (FDA) has not authorized any home test kits for COVID-19.

### Cyber Scams

Claims to be from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), World Health Organization (WHO) and other healthcare organizations offering to share information about the virus. Clicking on a link online or in an email could take you to a phony website used to gather personal and account information.

### Telephone Robocalls

Don't press any numbers. Hang up. Scammers are offering everything from phony COVID-19 treatments and cures to work-from-home schemes. A recent ruse even threatens arrest for alleged illegal Social Security activity! Pressing a number might lead to more robocalls or connect you to someone who will try to get your personal information.

### Phony Charities

Search the Attorney General's website for charitable organizations at <https://ag.hawaii.gov/charity/search.html> or visit <https://www.consumerresources.org/consumer-topics/charities/> for guidance

on charitable giving. Donate by credit card or other secure payment processor. Never give by gift card, wire transfer or anonymous electronic payment processor.

Be proactive to avoid scams

- Never provide personal information or money to anyone you don't know.
- Stop, check and verify the person or organization contacting you.
- Don't let high-pressure tactics coerce you into a purchase.
- Get written copies of anything you sign.
- Shred mail with personal information before throwing it away.
- Review your monthly financial statements for suspicious activity.

If you become a victim of a scam

- Call the Police Department, 9-1-1
- Call the Department of Commerce and Consumer Affairs' Office of Consumer Protection, 586-2630
- Call the Federal Trade Commission, 1-877-438-4338

For more information, refer to the State of Hawaii's "Hawaii's Fraud Prevention and Resource Guide" available at state libraries or downloadable at [ag.hawaii.gov/cpja/ccp/idtheft/publications/](http://ag.hawaii.gov/cpja/ccp/idtheft/publications/).

## No ERS endorsement

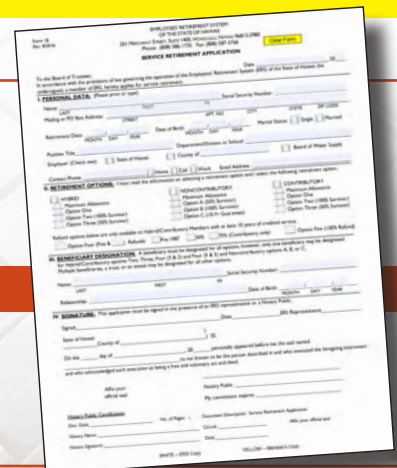
**Q: Does the ERS contract or endorse any third-party financial consultant to assist active members and retirees on their retirement pension?**

**A: No. The ERS does not contract any financial consultant to contact our membership on their retirement benefit. In our times of increasing scams, we must be vigilant when providing personal information. If contacted, please gather as much information and notify ERS immediately.**

## Upcoming retirement application deadlines

The ERS must receive an application on the last days listed (not postmarked, if mailed). Applications must be signed in front of a notary or an ERS representative.

Retirement Date	First day to file	Last day to file
November 1, 2020	June 4, 2020	October 2, 2020
December 1, 2020	July 6, 2020	October 30, 2020
December 31, 2020	August 3, 2020	December 1, 2020



## Retiree Open Enrollment

Are you looking to add or drop a dependent? Or change, add or drop health benefit plans? Now is your opportunity during the Retiree Open Enrollment (OE) period being held October 15- 30, 2020. Changes made during OE will be effective January 1, 2021. Retirees already enrolled in an EUTF plan will be mailed a “EUTF Retiree Benefits Highlights

### FOR RETIREES

Guide” during the last week of September. If you do not receive your Guide by October 15, 2020, please call EUTF at 808-586-7390 or toll free at 1-800-295-0089. The

Guide is also available on the EUTF website at [eutf.hawaii.gov](http://eutf.hawaii.gov). The Guide provides information on your benefits, health plan premiums and helpful tips.

## What’s New for January 1, 2021

### Humana Medicare Advantage PPO Plan

EUTF Medicare retirees will have an additional medical plan option – the Humana Medicare Advantage PPO plan. EUTF retirees and their eligible dependents must be enrolled in Medicare Part A and B. This is a PPO plan, which means you have access to Humana’s nationwide (Hawaii and mainland) network of Medicare doctors and hospitals. You can also use doctors and hospitals not in Humana’s network as long as they participate in Medicare and agree to bill Humana. The Humana Medicare Advantage PPO plan was designed specifically for EUTF retirees as a strict 90/10 benefit, meaning most in- and out-of-network services are provided at a 10% member coinsurance, and includes 100% coverage for certain preventive screenings.\* The Humana Medicare Advantage PPO offers all the benefits of Original Medicare, plus extra benefits that include maximum out-of-pocket limits, worldwide emergency coverage and programs to help improve health and well-being, such as the SilverSneakers fitness program.

For more information about the Humana Medicare Advantage PPO plan, please refer to the Guide posted on the EUTF website ([eutf.hawaii.gov](http://eutf.hawaii.gov)), visit the Humana website ([our.humana.com/eutf](http://our.humana.com/eutf)), or contact Humana at 1-888-908-6518 (toll free), Monday-Friday, 7 a.m.-7 p.m., HST. When calling Humana, please identify yourself as a retiree of EUTF/ State of Hawaii Employer Group Medicare plan.

The EUTF Humana plan members are eligible for COVID-19 coverage

- A respiratory care kit, 1 per member per year
- COVID-19 testing covered at 100% at both in-network and out-of-network providers
- \$0 member cost share for telehealth visits for in-network primary care provider, urgent care and behavioral health (outpatient) services

Additionally, members with a COVID-19 diagnosis are eligible for:

- \$0 member cost share for COVID-19 treatment at both in-network and out-of-network providers
- 14 days of home delivered meals (28 meals)

\* Some services are subject to the \$100 annual deductible. There is also no coordination of benefits with Original Medicare.

### HMSA Medical Plan

The in-network non-cutting surgery member coinsurance has been changed from 20% to 10% (not subject to the deductible) for EUTF retirees.

### Kaiser Permanente Medical and Prescription Drug Plan

There is no copayment for the following preventive screening and lab tests for members diagnosed with specific chronic conditions, for EUTF and HSTA VB retirees (also applies to active employees):

- A1c testing and retinopathy screening for individuals diagnosed with diabetes
- LDL (Low-Density Lipoprotein) testing for individuals diagnosed with heart disease
- INR (International Normalized Ratio) testing for individuals diagnosed with liver disease and/or bleeding disorders

### VSP Vision Plan

#### For EUTF and HSTA VB Retirees

- Increased the retail frame allowance from \$120 to \$150; frame covered every other year. When shopping for a new frame at a VSP provider (other than Costco, Sam’s Club or Walmart), your frame may be 100% covered even if the retail price is greater than the frame allowance. Check with your VSP provider on the frame’s cost after the allowance is applied when selecting a new frame.
- Increased the allowance from \$120 to \$130 for contact lens supply and added a \$60 maximum member copay for contact lens fitting and evaluation; contact lenses covered every year in lieu of glasses.

For questions, please contact HMSA (Oahu 948-6499 or toll free 1-800-776-4672), Kaiser Permanente (Oahu 432-5955 or toll free 1-800-966-5955), or VSP (toll free 1-866-240-8420).

### EUTF Retiree Open Enrollment Virtual Fair

The EUTF will be hosting a virtual open enrollment fair in place of in-person informational sessions. You can attend from the safety of your home, virtually from your laptop, tablet or PC!

At the virtual fair, you will be able to:

- Attend a live webinar presentation by an EUTF representative
- Watch on-demand video presentations from HMSA, Kaiser Permanente, Humana, CVS Caremark/SilverScript, VSP, HDS, and Securian
- Learn about benefit and premium changes

On the day of the fair, go to [eutf.hawaii.gov/learning-center](http://eutf.hawaii.gov/learning-center) and click on “Retiree Open Enrollment Fair.” You’ll be able to view on-demand video presentations from the EUTF and the insurance carriers and attend an EUTF live webinar. Please see the schedule for a list of live webinars.

Participants will need a computer and internet access to attend. For the best experience, use an up-to-date version of Google Chrome (preferred), Safari or Firefox from a desktop/laptop.

## 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](mailto:eutf@hawaii.gov)

**Webinar Schedule**

Date	Time
Thursday, October 15, 2020	
Friday, October 16, 2020	
Monday, October 19, 2020	
Tuesday, October 20, 2020	
Wednesday, October 21, 2020	
Thursday, October 22, 2020	9:00–9:30 am
Friday, October 23, 2020	11:00–11:30 am
Monday, October 26, 2020	
Tuesday, October 27, 2020	
Wednesday, October 28, 2020	
Thursday, October 29, 2020	
Friday, October 30, 2020	

**FOR ACTIVE & RETIREES**

**COVID-19 Coverage**

To help active employees and retirees during the COVID-19 pandemic, the EUTF Board of Trustees and the insurance carriers have enhanced COVID-19 related benefits.

**HMSA Medical Plans**

- All COVID-19 diagnostic testing services are 100% covered effective March 1, 2020 through the end of the national public health emergency as required by law. Physician referral is required.
- COVID-19 testing for asymptomatic patients prior to elective surgery when rendered by a participating provider are 100% covered effective April 1-December 31, 2020.
- All COVID-19 treatment services are 100% covered effective March 1-December 31, 2020.
- Telehealth services, including services not related to COVID-19 are 100% covered effective March 1-December 31, 2020.

For questions, please contact HMSA at 948-6499 on Oahu or 1-800-776-4672 (toll free on the neighbor islands). Or visit [hmsa.com/eutf](http://hmsa.com/eutf).

**HMSA's Online Care**

Given the current COVID climate, telehealth services have never been more essential. If you have not already registered, download the free HMSA's Online Care app from the Apple or Android store or visit [hmsa.com/onlinecare](http://hmsa.com/onlinecare) to register. Even if you do not see a doctor regularly, we encourage you to register before you become sick or injured. For questions, call Online Care customer support at 1-866-939-6013 (toll free).

Amwell® is an independent company providing hosting and software services for HMSA's Online Care platform.

**Kaiser Permanente Medical and Prescription Drug Plans**

- All COVID-19 diagnostic testing services are 100% covered effective March 5, 2020 through the end of the national public health emergency.
- COVID-19 testing prior to surgery or hospital admission is 100% covered effective June 1, 2020 through the end of the national public health emergency.
- All COVID-19 treatment services are 100% covered effective April 1-December 31, 2020.

**Kaiser Permanente Telehealth Coverage**

You have many ways to get care without leaving the comfort and safety of your home. There is no cost for virtual care, including COVID-19 e-visits, through [kp.org](http://kp.org). In addition, you also have access to video visits, phone appointments, 24/7 advice and messaging your doctor with nonurgent questions anytime. Visit [kp.org/getcare](http://kp.org/getcare) to learn more and for questions, please contact Kaiser Permanente at 432-5250 (Oahu) or 1-844-276-6628 (toll free from the neighbor islands).

**EUTF Operations**

EUTF operations continue during the COVID-19 pandemic. Our team is working both in-office and remotely and has been doing so since the pandemic began in March. Telephone wait times may be longer than normal. We thank you for your patience and understanding as we try to keep our employees safe while still serving our members.

**ACTIVE MEMBERS**

**CVS Prescription Drug Plan (Change Effective January 1, 2021)**

The EUTF 75/25 PPO drug plan calendar year maximum out-of-pocket (MOOP) will increase from \$2,900/\$5,800 (individual/family) to \$3,150/\$6,300.

**Pre-Retirement Health Benefits Webinars**

Attend a Pre-Retirement Health Benefits Webinar and learn about EUTF retiree health insurance benefits. It's never too early to start planning for your future. Whether you plan to retire in a few months or a few years, join us for a 60-minute presentation. Topics covered will include:

- Dependent eligibility
- Health plan options
- Medicare
- Differences between active employee and retiree plan
- Completing the EC-2 enrollment form
- Premiums and contributions
- Making changes to your plans

**Webinar Schedule**

Date	Time
Monday, October 5, 2020	
Wednesday, October 14, 2020	
Tuesday, November 10, 2020	11:00–12:00 pm
Thursday, November 19, 2020	12:30–1:30 pm
Tuesday, December 8, 2020	
Thursday, December 10, 2020	

To access the webinar, go to [eutf.hawaii.gov](http://eutf.hawaii.gov) on the day of the event and select "Learning Center" in the menu bar. Click the "Webinar" tab and select the desired webinar. Registration is not required.



Employees' Retirement System  
of the State of Hawaii

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### ERS Board of Trustees

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Wesley Machida  
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**Thomas Williams**  
Executive Director

**Kanoe Margol**  
Deputy Executive Director

**Elizabeth T. Burton**  
Chief Investment Officer

**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 & Lāna'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/Medicare**  
**reimbursements**  
Monday-Friday: 7:45am-4:30pm  
(Except State Holidays)  
(808) 586-7390;  
Toll-free: 1 (800) 295-0089  
email at [eutf@hawaii.gov](mailto:eutf@hawaii.gov),  
or mail: 201 Merchant Street,  
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FALL 2020

# HOLOMUA

RETIREES & ACTIVE MEMBERS

## Ask ERS

### Answers to some frequently asked questions

**Q: Will the ERS make allowances for deadlines related to filing for retirement due to COVID-19?**

*A: As of this writing, no changes have been made to the law or policies that govern the deadlines for filing for retirement. A retirement application can be filed as early as 150 days prior and not fewer than 30 days prior to the retirement date. Contact the ERS if you are considering filing for retirement.*

**Q: I am an ERS retiree who is considering returning to work for the State or County, what do I need to know before I make a decision?**

*A: There are requirements for returning to work that may impact your pension, including suspension of payments while employed in the new job. In some cases, there is also a required break period before a retiree can return to state or county*

*employment. A retiree who is considering returning to work in a state or county position should contact the department under consideration to see if it is a position that would require becoming an ERS member. Contact the ERS before making a decision. More information is available at the ERS website, [ers.ehawaii.gov](http://ers.ehawaii.gov). Under the Retirees tab at the top of the page, select "Retirees Return to Work."*

### Initial retirement payments

First-time payments to ERS members who retired from June-August remained steady.

	2020	2019
June	292	294
July	208	213
August	209	204

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*During Gov. David Ige's emergency declaration for the COVID-19 pandemic, the ERS will accept copies of proof-of-age documents of members and beneficiaries. Previously only original documents were accepted. Mailed documentation is*

*the preferred method of submittal and delivery. The ERS also added "Real ID" credentials (e.g. Driver's Licenses with "Gold Star" emblems or State Identification certificates) to verify birth dates of the member or beneficiary, and the birth registration card and passport card as acceptable proof documents.*