

# ERS Board of Trustees Teacher Employee Election 2021

Two University of Hawaii at Manoa faculty members are vying in the election for the teacher seat on the Employees' Retirement System's Board of Trustees. Ballots were mailed to the membership in early September and must be returned and postmarked by Oct. 22, 2021 to be considered valid.

The candidates are current board member Catherine K Chan and Lynne Wilkens.

The seat can be filled by an ERS member classified as a "teacher," which includes a teacher or an educational officer certified as a teacher by the Department of Education, or a dean, professor, instructor, or lecturer of the University of Hawaii and the community college system. Chan, whose term ends on Jan. 1, 2022, has served since 2016.

The election results will be reported at the Dec. 13 board meeting. The new trustee will serve a six-year term starting Jan. 2, 2022.

If you need a replacement ballot or have any questions, please email Rebecca Gleason at [ERSBallot@kmhllp.com](mailto:ERSBallot@kmhllp.com) or call (808) 543-3310.

Four of the eight board members are elected by the membership: two general employees, a teacher, and a retiree. Three members are non-employee citizens of the state, appointed by the Governor, one of whom is an officer of a bank authorized to do business in the state or a person of similar experience. The state Director of Finance is an ex-officio member by statute.

## The Candidates

### Catherine K Chan

*Professor, University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Nomination: by petition*

**Statement:** I am running for reelection as trustee for the Board of the Employee Retirement System (ERS). During my tenure on the Board over the past 6 years, the Retirement Fund has grown from \$14 to \$20 billion, a 43% increase. The investment decisions that the Board requires are extremely complex to ensure Fund targets are met, particularly in times of economic disruption. I am a trained economist, professor in applied economics, and former university administrator. On the ERS board, I have proved my leadership capacity serving as Vice-Chair of the Investment and Governance Committees and Chair of the Legislative Committee. In the Investment Committee, I contributed to key decisions regarding the direction of pension investments. Under the committee's guidance, the portfolio was resilient during the pandemic - from April 2020 to March 2021, one of the most volatile periods of the market, the portfolio gained \$4.3 billion. I have extensive experience, expertise, and familiarity with the complexities of institutional investment decisions. I am committed to improving the future of Employee retirement in the State of Hawai'i. Please vote for me to serve on the Board another term to help guide the pension fund to continued success.



### Lynne Wilkens

*Professor, University of Hawaii at Manoa  
Nomination: by University of Hawaii  
Professional Assembly*

**Statement:** Retirement benefits are essential to recruit and retain good employees and ensure all retirees can have a reasonable standard of living. Although retirement benefits are not negotiated in the collective bargaining process, I believe preserving these benefits must be a top priority. That is why I decided to run as a candidate for the teacher seat on the ERS Board of Trustees. I have the full support and endorsement of the Board of Directors of the University of Hawaii Professional Assembly (UHPA), which represents the interests of faculty on all 10 UH campuses statewide.



I served as an advocate for UH faculty through service on the UHPA Board of Directors from 2014 to 2019, UHPA treasurer from 2014 to 2016, UHPA president from 2016 to 2019, and as a member of the UHPA Negotiations Team from 2016 to present. This experience has provided me with the necessary background and skills to advocate on behalf of the ERS members.

In my role as a Biostatistician at the University of Hawai'i Cancer Center, I also know leadership and good public policies can make a tremendous difference in the quality of life for Hawai'i residents.