

HOLOMUA

RETIREES & ACTIVE MEMBERS



Employees' Retirement System
of the State of Hawaii

ERS Investments Takes Path of Diversification

Christine Chang joined the ERS as an Investment Officer in March 2022 focusing on Liquid Defensive strategies, ESG (Environmental, Social, and Governance), and Operations. Prior to joining the ERS, Chang worked at General Motors Asset Management, a corporate pension, in both Public Markets (Fixed Income and Public Equity) and Private Markets (Private Equity and Real Estate), as well as in Operations.

'A'ohē pau ka 'ike i ka hālau ho'okahi.

All knowledge is not taught in the same school.

All returns don't come from the same type of investments, especially in different market environments. Whether it's making sure we have a variety of perspectives in the workplace, or protecting the biodiversity that remains, being diversified means we are adaptable and have options when it comes to meeting challenges or taking advantage of opportunities. The ERS has been on a path to become a leader in impactful diversification since at least 2009, and it is this diversification that has driven the portfolio to significantly outperform its peers in Q1 (January-March) 2022, a period when many other public pension systems saw their worst quarterly returns since the beginning of the pandemic.

For a long-term investor like ERS, exposure to Growth assets like Public Equity (stocks) will always be necessary, but that exposure needs to be balanced to manage the risk of losing money in a down market. In the past, a portfolio was considered diversified if it had both stocks and bonds in a 60%/40% ratio. This is because historically stocks and bonds have been negatively correlated, i.e., moved in opposite directions. However, correlations can change, and recently stocks and bonds have become more similar in their movements, decreasing this diversification benefit.

Fortunately, the ERS is well prepared. In 2009, the ERS began increasing the allocation to Real Assets and Private

Equity, which are more stable because the investments are illiquid, or locked up for a defined period, and are not easily accessible to the public – these investments are not exposed to daily trading and constant movements in price. In 2017, ERS added Systematic Trend Following strategies, a type of strategy that follows market momentum in multiple assets (equities, bonds, rates, currencies, commodities) and is protective in a slow, sustained drawdown. In 2020, ERS reclassified Trend and other protective strategies into the Diversifying Strategies asset class, adding strategies that do best in sharp, sudden drops in markets, as well as strategies that provide return regardless of how the equity markets are doing.

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Christine Chang

Legislative Session Ends

A bill to clarify definitions and requirements for ERS service-connected disability retirement and accidental death benefits was not heard in the state Senate after passage in the House of Representatives as the 2022 Hawaii State Legislature adjourned on May 5. Important to the ERS's fiscal sustainability, we expect to reintroduce a comparable proposal next session.

This clarification of definitions and requirements would have reinforced the legislative intent of these benefits and reduced future increases to the unfunded liability of the ERS incurred by the granting of unwarranted benefits. The bill was submitted to the Legislature as part of the Executive Branch's legislative package.

The State Budget (House Bill 1600), transmitted to the Governor, includes funding and badly needed staff positions for the ERS. The bill also includes more than \$164 million for salary increases for experienced educators and to fund shortage differentials. In testimony for hearings for Senate Bill 2819, relating to teacher compensation, the ERS requested

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Message from the Executive Director

Positioned for the Long Term

As we enter the first weeks of summer, this year's legislative session and the height of the COVID-19 pandemic are receding as seminal events in our immediate lives. In reality, both represent impacts that are likely to be with us for much longer than one might anticipate. The pandemic, though not yet a relic of our past, has been reduced as the primary influence in our day-to-day work and personal lives. Our relative budgetary success during the legislative session has positioned us to further strengthen the investment and operational efficiencies necessary to protect and sustain growth in our assets.

I have reported previously that we have been fortunate to have experienced one of the lowest COVID infection rates of any public entity, due in large measure to the diligence of our staff and strict adherence to all applicable health protocols. While mask mandates have been lifted, we continue to view our staff's and members' health and safety as our highest priority.

Our members' need for service has never been greater. We respond to ever increasing numbers of requests for information, counsel, estimates and retirement applications. We have been working intently with employers to improve the accuracy and timeliness of information submittal necessary to calculate and pay benefits.

As I reflect on the past six months and assess the present, I have an unwavering

sense that we are now as strongly positioned to achieve our long-term goals as we have been in many years. We have a strategic plan that guides our every activity—from customer service, cyber-security and business continuity, to legislation and investments.

Significantly, our near- and long-term investment performance ranks among the best of peer public pension plans. Coming off the best fiscal year investment performance in the plan's 96-year history, the defensive components of our investment strategy have added value during the market volatility and downturn dominating the first six months of the year. Preliminary reports from our consultants confirm that at the end of the first quarter of the year, we were ranked among the top 5% of public plans across the nation in terms of investment returns for the period.

While the announced departure of our CIO Elizabeth Burton causes us pause, awareness of the strength of the team we have assembled, which remains, gives us confidence that we will not miss a beat going forward. That said, we will undoubtedly miss Elizabeth as she has contributed enormously to our culture and success.

The legislature this year approved our hire of two additional investment staff as well as the establishment of an investment accounting position. Our request to

acquire a high-value analytic tool was also approved. Our reputation and track record, combined with our strategic investment policy and plan, will serve to recruit and retain the high-performing staff required to maintain our progress toward full funding.

The challenges ahead are numerous and investment environment to be experienced is uncertain. What we do know is that regardless of these uncertainties, we are positioning ourselves with the tools and talent necessary to mount an effective response and continue our progress.



Thomas Williams

... Legislative Session Ends, continued from page 1



that monies be allocated to offset the increase in the ERS plan's unfunded actuarial accrued liability due to the larger-than-anticipated salary increases for approximately 8,700 experienced teachers.

Senate Bill 514, although not directly addressing the proposed teachers' salary increases in the budget, provides for an appropriation of \$300 million for deposit into the pension accumulation fund. The pension accumulation fund includes all contributions made by the State and counties, all income from investments, transfers of retired members' contributions plus related interest income from the annuity

savings fund and is the source from which ERS benefits are paid.

Bills passed during this legislative session have been transmitted to the Governor. The Governor can sign a bill into law, veto a bill or not sign a bill, which would become law after a specified number of days. A two-thirds vote in each chamber of the Legislature can override a veto.

On the final day of the Legislature, ERS Trustee Lance Mizumoto, nominated by Gov. David Ige, was unanimously confirmed by the Senate in a 25-0 vote. Mizumoto's term ends on Jan. 1, 2026.

CIO Elizabeth Burton leaving ERS



Elizabeth Burton

Chief Investment Officer Elizabeth Burton is leaving the Employees' Retirement System, Executive Director Thomas Williams announced in May. Burton's last day is June 30, 2022.

"We on the Board of Trustees are very grateful for Elizabeth's significant contributions to the ERS," Chair Vince Barfield said. "She joined us at a critical juncture in our investment strategy development and her expertise has strengthened our portfolio's risk posture and performance and positioned the ERS for continued success. We will miss Elizabeth and wish her well."

Said Williams: "Elizabeth's decision to step down now from her CIO responsibilities is driven largely by personal and family considerations."

In nearly four years under Burton's leadership, investments helped Hawaii's largest public pension fund grow, from \$16.6 billion in 2018 to a record \$22.5 billion

in assets as of Dec. 31, 2021. This growth helped the ERS raise its actuarial funded ratio from 55.2% in 2018 to 58.3% in 2021. In the fiscal year that ended June 30, 2021, the ERS posted a 26.2% investment return, the highest one-year investment return in the fund's history.

The ERS also increased its commitment to the Hawaii Targeted Investment Program to \$75 million. The program is a venture and growth capital fund that focuses specifically on island opportunities.

"Elizabeth's investment expertise and leadership skills have proved enormously valuable in strengthening the performance of our investment team," Williams said. "We have a solid investment foundation on which we can continue to build. There is no question she will be dearly and deeply missed."

After 13 years in the investment industry, Burton joined the ERS as CIO in October 2018. She was named to Chief Investment Officer's Power 100 for asset owners in

2019. In 2021, Trusted Insight honored her as one of the institutional investment industry's most admired leaders in its list of 2020 All-Star Chief Investment Officers. At the fourth annual Allocators' Choice Awards in New York in 2021, she was named "Advocate of the Year" and one of 10 nominees for the "CIO of the Year" by Institutional Investor.

Burton is on the Board of Directors of the Chartered Alternative Investment Association and made several appearances on CNBC to address the state of the markets during COVID-19.

Williams said the ERS will consider all options in search of its next CIO and wishes Burton the best in her future endeavors.

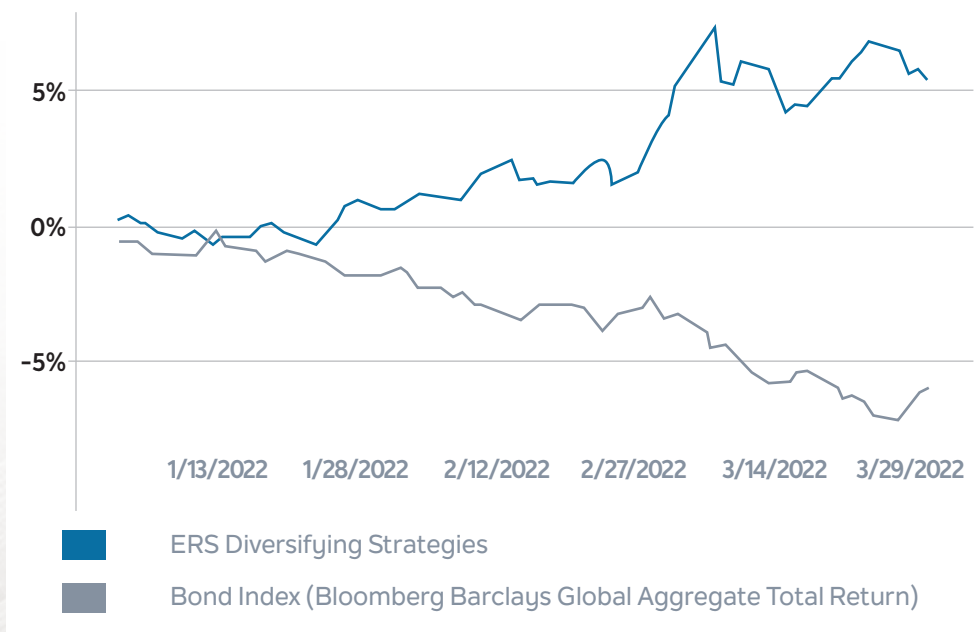
...ERS Investments Takes Path of Diversification, continued from page 1

In Q1 2022, stocks and bonds moved in sync, and a 60/40 portfolio would have returned -5.59%. The median for our peer group, public pensions with over \$1 billion in assets, was -3.55%. ERS performance was in the top 5th percentile of our peer group, and was barely down

at all, a mere 6/100 of a percent or -0.06%. This was primarily due to the Diversifying Strategies portion of the portfolio, which saw a positive return of 5.02%, producing profits equivalent to \$2,600 for each ERS beneficiary. Since the market is currently moving downward in a steady way, Trend

has been the driving force behind this positive performance. Trend strategies follow extending market patterns, buying as prices go up, anticipating further price increases, and selling as markets go down, anticipating further drawdowns. Putting money to Trend strategies helped the portfolio and selecting the best managers within Trend amplified this effect. Elsewhere in Diversifying Strategies, astute selection of the best managers contributed positively despite challenges faced in those areas more generally.

The strong performance of Diversifying Strategies during periods of market stress not only gives the ERS a better, more balanced overall performance, but it also means that we can use some of those profits to take advantage of the market drawdown and buy Growth assets at lower prices. At the end of Q1, Diversifying Strategies rebalanced and funded about \$700 million of new Growth assets. Having a diverse range of strategies within the portfolio means the ERS is able to avoid losses, take advantage of buying opportunities through a wide range of market scenarios, and continue to build up assets for the benefit of our kūpuna.



This chart illustrates the divergent path our Diversifying Strategies portfolio took during the recent quarter as compared to a broad bond market index.

Who You Gonna Call? ERS Myth Busters

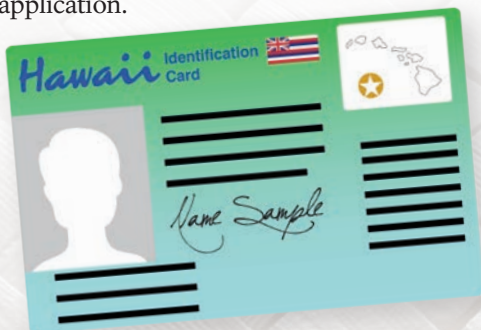
The ERS receives more than 25,000 calls annually with questions and statements directly or indirectly related to ERS activities. Here are some of the myths.

Myths	Myth Busters
1. The close of business (COB) is the same day as the retirement date.	No. The COB is your last day worked and the retirement date is when you start to receive your pension as a retiree. ERS cannot pay your pension if you are still working.
2. Out-of-state teaching service can be credited for ERS service.	The ERS does not allow any out-of-state service for ERS membership service.
3. Noncontributory plan members do not have to designate a beneficiary.	It is true for active Noncontributory members as death benefits are paid to the surviving spouse and dependent children under age 18 as set by law. When you file a retirement application, you must designate a beneficiary for your retirement option.
4. ERS processes your vacation payout when you retire.	No. Your employer is responsible for the vacation payment when you terminate service.
5. A Power of Attorney (POA) can be used to take care of my parent's retirement affairs.	It depends. The POA must be specific to the action the Agent can take. ERS reviews all POAs to ensure the Agent's request is authorized.
6. ERS needs to change my Medicare Part B deductions as the reimbursement is not the same amount.	The Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF), an agency separate from the ERS, handles the Medicare reimbursements and medical coverage
7. Please increase my retirement contributions to my retirement account.	The ERS does not allow retirement contributions in addition to the mandatory contribution deduction for Hybrid and Contributory members.
8. I am requesting another Island Savings (Prudential) Statement of my account on my retirement contributions.	Island Savings is a third-party administrator of a voluntary retirement savings plan. The ERS is separate from the deferred compensation plan. Contact your human resources office for more information.
9. I understand that being on leave without pay (LWOP) is considered a break in service.	No. You are still employed if you are on LWOP, therefore, there is no break in service.
10. The ERS should be able to accept a Trust account for my pension direct deposit.	No. By law, the ERS must pay an individual instead of an entity.

Our Myth Busters is only a summary of the explanation. Please contact our offices (phone numbers on the back cover of Holomua) for further clarification or visit our website at ers.ehawaii.gov.

List of Proof of Date-of-Birth Documents Updated

The Employees' Retirement System (ERS) is no longer accepting non-"Real ID" Hawaii state identification or Hawaii driver's license as evidence of date of birth in compliance with recent changes to ERS' Hawaii Administrative Rules. Evidence of date of birth for the retiree and beneficiary is required when filing a retirement application.



Evidence can include copies of **one** of the following:

1. A certified birth certificate
2. Valid "Real ID" credentials (e.g. driver's licenses with "Gold Star" emblems or equivalent state identification certificates)
3. A baptismal certificate that shows the date of birth and was recorded before the age of 5
4. A written statement from the Social Security Administration establishing the member's date of birth

If one of the above cannot be obtained, copies of **two** other acceptable documents as proof of date of birth can be submitted.

- Birth Registration Card
- Voter Registration Record
- Passport (U.S. or Foreign)

- Hospital Treatment or Birth Record
- Passport Card
- Insurance Policy
- Marriage Certificate
- Elementary School Record
- Naturalization Record
- Child's Birth Certificate (with member's age)
- Military Record
- Census Record
- Baptismal Certificate/Religious Record (Recorded after age 5)

A list of these documents also can be found in the "Instructions for Completing Service Retirement Application," which is included with the application (Form 18) and in the Retirement Application Packet. The packet can be found at ers.ehawaii.gov/resources/all-forms#Forms.

Are Your Affairs in Order Should You Pass Away Suddenly?

Death is not easy to think about, and you just never know when the time will come. As an ERS member, former member or retiree, it would be helpful to have the vital information available for your beneficiary and family.

To notify ERS on any deaths, please call (808) 586-1735 or email dbf.ers.sss@hawaii.gov

Here is our death claims process to prepare your beneficiary:

1. Notification

Retiree and/or Beneficiary Deaths

Your beneficiary or family must notify the ERS immediately of the death to avoid any pension overpayments. You should also notify the ERS if your beneficiary predeceases you.

Keep the bank account open for the full month in which the death occurs, as the retiree is entitled to that pension payment.

It is also important that someone report the death of others receiving payments from the ERS, such as your beneficiary (survivor) or alternate payee (AP) named in a Hawaii Domestic Relations Order (HiDRO). A death that is not reported timely could result in overpayment to the deceased's estate.

Active (in-service) or Inactive Member Deaths

Again, the ERS must be immediately notified of your death to reduce any delays to the death benefits payable to the designated beneficiary(ies). For Hybrid and Contributory plan members, be sure to keep your benefi-

ciary designation current by submitting the ERS Form 1-A (Contributory/Hybrid Plan Designation of Beneficiary), which is located on our website at ers.ehawaii.gov.

Here's some tips for designating or changing your beneficiary:

- Provide complete beneficiary information. For example, beneficiary's full legal name, relationship, date of birth, address and Social Security number.
- Review and update your beneficiary designation periodically, particularly when you experience a major life event, such as marriage, divorce or death in your family.

For Noncontributory plan members, members must have a minimum of 10 years of service credit to have death benefits be payable to the surviving spouse and/or dependent children under age 18 as required by law. No beneficiary designation is required.

For members in-service, your employer also provides the death notification.

On a side note, your beneficiary designations with your employer are for different purposes. For example, if you recently updated your beneficiary with your employer, it's probably for your vacation payout. You will still need to update your beneficiary with the ERS (death benefits) and EUTF (medical coverage), if applicable.

2. Payments

The ERS will send a letter to your designated beneficiary informing them of any death benefits available. If death benefits

are available, the death claim and other forms (e.g. tax form, direct deposit), which your beneficiary must complete to claim for the death benefits, will be enclosed with the letter. Payments are handled within four to six weeks after all required death forms have been received. Your beneficiary has three years to file a claim for death benefits.

For all death notifications, the original death certificate is still required.

3. Other Possible Entitlements

Besides the ERS possibly providing death benefits, other related organizations may have benefits for your beneficiary, which you can start researching.

- Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) at (808) 586-7390 – Medical coverage and life insurance benefits
- Employee Union Organizations – Life insurance
- Deferred Compensation Plans and/or Tax Shelter Annuities – Other savings
- Others – Life insurance policies, title certificates, safety deposit box, power of attorney, investment accounts, wills and trusts, military benefits, Social Security and accounts from all financial institutions.

This is only a summary of the death process as other situations (e.g. estate or AP payments) may require further processing or additional research on the death benefits.

Brief your beneficiary and/or family of your ERS benefits and keep your ERS documents and other important information in one place. You have an opportunity and time now to protect your family and make some decisions in advance to provide peace of mind for your loved ones.

Annual Post-Retirement Increase in July

Qualified retirees and beneficiaries with retirement dates in 2021 and earlier will receive their annual post-retirement increase in July.

Increases of 2.5% (for membership dates before July 1, 2012) and 1.5% (for membership dates on or after July 1, 2012) are calculated on the base pension amount and are not compounded.

Semi-monthly payees will receive their increase on July 15, while monthly payees will receive their increase on July 29.

Keep the ERS payment statement you receive, because statements are only generated when there is a change in the pension amount. The payment statement will show the gross payment amount, deductions withheld and the net payment amount. Confirm the net payment amount with the ERS deposit amount on your bank statement when you receive it.

For information, contact the ERS at (808) 586-1735.

NO: 0000000 STATE OF HAWAII EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM

PAYMENT DATE: 07/29/2022 STATEMENT OF RETIREMENT ALLOWANCES AND DEDUCTIONS

NAME: DOE, JANE ERS ID: 0000000000

Payee: DOE, JANE 0000000000

Tax Recipient: DOE, JANE 0000000000

RETIREMENT NO.: 0000

RETIREMENT ALLOWANCES			DEDUCTIONS		
DESCRIPTION	CURRENT	YEAR TO DATE	DESCRIPTION	CURRENT	YEAR TO DATE
Pension Monthly	5,000.00	35,000.00	Federal Tax WH (945/941)	706.00	4,900.00
TOTALS	5,000.00	35,000.00	EE Dues & Ins - PPA	6.00	42.00
			TOTALS	706.00	4,942.00

CHECK AMOUNT: 4,294.00

ANNUAL POST RETIREMENT INCREASE: For qualified retirees and beneficiaries receiving monthly pension payments, your post retirement increase has been added to your July 29 pension payment. The 2.5 percent increase (for membership dates before July 1, 2012) and 1.5 percent increase (for membership dates on or after July 1, 2012) are not compounded and are calculated on your base pension amount. If you retired in 2022, this statement is being provided for information only since you are not eligible for a post retirement increase in 2022. PLEASE KEEP THIS PAYMENT STATEMENT AS A RECORD OF YOUR CURRENT PENSION AMOUNT.



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

FOR ACTIVE EMPLOYEES & RETIREES

Walk-in and Virtual Appointments

EUTF is scheduling appointments for walk-in and virtual appointments. Please visit the EUTF website at eutf.hawaii.gov for more information on how to schedule an appointment, or call our Member Services Branch at (808) 586-7390 or toll-free 1-800-295-0089 (press 2), from 7:45 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, excluding state holidays.

Required Supporting Documents

EUTF requires that all supporting documents (e.g., marriage certificates, birth certificates, student verification letters, letters indicating a loss of coverage or acquisition of coverage, etc.) be received before an enrollment change is processed. Please write the retiree/employee's first and last name, date of birth and last four-digits of their SSN on the supporting document(s) when submitting them directly to the EUTF.

HMSA Members

It's OK to get help. Prioritize your mental health. Everyone faces challenges that impact their mental and emotional health. Getting help can sometimes feel difficult or embarrassing, but it's important to know that mental health challenges are common. In 2020, one in five American adults experienced a mental illness according to the National Alliance on Mental Health. That same year, 26.3 million people got mental health services online. That's because telehealth is one of the easiest ways to get the help you need. With HMSA's Online Care®, you can connect with a therapist or counselor at no cost 24/7, 365 days a year without leaving home. Not sure where to start? HMSA's Behavioral Health Program can connect you or your loved ones to condition-specific behavioral health resources, education and other support services. We can also make referrals to behavioral health providers and provide case management services. To learn more about the program, call (808) 695-7700 or (855) 856-0578.

Kaiser Permanente Members

Having a positive outlook is important for your well-being, but sometimes, life can get you down. If you find yourself or a loved one experiencing depression, anxiety, insomnia, substance use or another mental health disorder, we encourage you to seek professional help. You can connect with a mental health professional when and where it works for you. You can talk to your primary care doctor about any mental health issues, anytime. They'll also do mental health and substance use screenings and help you with next steps if you need support. If you're already getting care through a specialty or emergency department, your care team can connect you to the right resources. No referral is needed to make an appointment with a mental health care professional. To schedule an appointment, call Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 5 p.m. for Oahu (808) 432-7600 or for the Neighbor Islands 1-888-945-7600.

Humana Members

Five Ways to Become Healthier and Happier. You don't always have control over the things that make you happy or unhappy, but you can do many things to keep your spirits up and put more joy in your life. **Exercise.** Staying active improves your sense of well-being and helps you feel more energized. **Stay Connected.** Visiting friends and family, joining a club or walking group may help boost your morale. **Get in a Good Routine.** Sticking with daily activities, including scheduling times for meals, exercising, socializing and getting at least eight hours of sleep may be beneficial. **Manage Stress.** Participating in relaxing activities, such as yoga, tai chi and meditation are great ways to get relief. **Talk it Out.** Speaking to a friend, trained counselor, physician or spiritual leader may help improve your mood. Telehealth visits are available through your Humana Plan. Ask your trusted provider about local virtual behavioral health options, or get started with Array, a national in-network virtual behavioral health provider. Visit www.arraybc.com/patients/humana, or call (888) 410-0405 (TTY: 711) to schedule your Array virtual visit.

CVS PRESCRIPTION DRUG PLAN

Plan Changes

- Added the RxSavingsPlus program to the EUTF and HSTA VB active and non-Medicare retiree plans effective July 1, 2022. This is a discount program on certain non-covered drugs. This program is also available to employees not enrolled in the CVS Prescription Drug Plan. Learn more about RxSavingsPlus at caremark.com/eutf.
- Added prior authorization and quantity limits for Opzelura (treats atopic dermatitis) and eye drops used to treat presbyopia (farsightedness), such as Vuity under the EUTF active and non-Medicare retiree plans effective July 1, 2022.
- Added prior authorization for Kerendia (treats chronic kidney disease in adults with type 2 diabetes) under the EUTF active and non-Medicare retiree plans effective July 1, 2022. Existing members using Kerendia will be grandfathered and will not need to obtain prior authorization.
- Removed the member copay for Phexxi (a contraceptive) under the EUTF and HSTA VB active plans effective May 15, 2022, in accordance with federal law.
- Expanded the age limitation for colonoscopy prep prescription drugs to ages 45-75 under the EUTF and HSTA VB active plans effective May 1, 2022, in accordance with federal law.

Know Your Benefit

The best way to ensure proper coverage at the pharmacy is to know your prescription drug benefit. Your out-of-pocket cost can depend on the type of drug (e.g. generic, brand or specialty), the cost of the drug, the pharmacy filling your prescription, and whether you have reached your maximum out-of-pocket limit.

A brief summary of the EUTF prescription drug benefit is below.

	EUTF Actives	EUTF Retirees
Calendar Year Maximum Out-of-Pocket (MOOP) Limit (individual/family)	\$4,350/\$8,700 75/25: \$3,150/ \$6,300	None
	In-network copay for a 30-day supply	In-network copay for a 30-day supply
Generic	\$5	\$5
Preferred brand	\$25	\$15
Non-preferred brand	\$50	\$30
Specialty		
MOOP	\$2,500	\$2,000
Generic	10% up to \$200 per fill	20% up to \$250 per fill
Preferred brand	20% up to \$300 per fill	
Non-preferred brand	30% up to \$400 per fill	

For maintenance medications, if you go to a Retail 90 or mail-order pharmacy, you pay two times the 30-day copay for a 90-day supply.

We encourage the use of generic medications as an alternative to certain brand medications as an affordable and effective form of treatment for many health conditions. CVS Caremark has a generic step therapy and Dispensed as Written (DAW 1&2) program in place for EUTF actives and non-Medicare retirees. Generic step therapy may require that you try generic drug treatment(s) prior to the use of a brand drug. DAW1&2 increases the member out-of-pocket for certain brand medications if a generic equivalent is available. In addition to the generic copay, the member will be responsible for the difference in cost of the generic and brand medication. For more information, contact CVS Caremark Customer Care at 1-855-801-8263 or register on caremark.com.

If you are a Kaiser Permanente, Humana or HSTA VB member, refer to the Active Reference Guide or Retiree Highlights Guide on the EUTF website (eutf.hawaii.gov) for a summary of your prescription drug plan benefits. Kaiser Permanente members can also visit the Kaiser Permanente website at mybenefits.kp.org/eutf/plans.

AT-HOME COVID-19 TESTS

When to Use It

At-home COVID-19 tests should be used if you have symptoms, think you've been exposed to COVID-19, are returning from travel or plan to gather indoors with those who may be at risk, including unvaccinated children, seniors and those who are immunocompromised.

How to Get it

First, we encourage you to order your free at-home COVID-19 tests (third round available May 16, 2022) through the federal government website COVIDtests.gov.

You can get an additional eight tests per member per month through the end of the national public health emergency, but

how depends on the plan that you are enrolled in.

- HMSA plan for active employees and non-Medicare retirees. Call the dedicated HMSA OTC At-Home COVID-19 Tests Phone Line at 808-951-1956 or 1-800-796-2925 toll-free, Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. to 4 p.m., to request tests by mail. Members can expect to receive their tests within 3 to 4 weeks via the United States Postal Service. To ensure adequate inventory to fulfill all member requests, HMSA will start by only shipping two tests per member per month. HMSA will adjust this limit based on member demand and available inventory.
- Kaiser Permanente plan for active employees and non-Medicare retirees. Visit kp.org/covidtests or use the Kaiser Permanente mobile app to order a test and have it shipped to your home. If you are planning to visit a Kaiser Permanente pharmacy, you may be able to pick up a test while there, as supply allows. You can also pick up a test at participating retail pharmacies, such as Walmart or Safeway. Simply show your photo ID and Kaiser Permanente ID card at the pharmacy counter. Visit kp.org to see a list of participating retail pharmacies. Availability of tests may vary.
- Medicare retirees. Coverage is provided through Medicare Part B. Simply show your Medicare card at the pharmacy counter. For more information and a list of participating pharmacies, visit medicare.gov/medicare-coronavirus.

For more information on coverage of COVID-related services, visit eutf.hawaii.gov/eutf-covid-19-coverage.

FOR ACTIVE EMPLOYEES

EUTF Pre-Retirement Health Benefits Workshops

Attend a Pre-Retirement Health Benefits Webinar and learn about the 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 to learn about your EUTF retiree health insurance benefits. We'll cover:

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

Schedule of Webinars

Date	Time
6/13/2022	10-11:00 a.m., 11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.
6/20/2022	
7/11/2022	
7/18/2022	
8/8/2022	
8/15/2022	

To access the webinar, go to eutf.hawaii.gov on the day of the event and select "Learning Center" in the menu bar. Click the "Webinar" button and select the desired webinar. Registration is not required.



Employees' Retirement System
of the State of Hawaii

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Honolulu, HI 96813-2980

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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

ers.hawaii.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,

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RETIREES & ACTIVE MEMBERS

Punchbowl Crater from Nuuanu Trail
by Judith Carluccio

Ask ERS

Answers to some frequently asked questions

Q: Is the ERS able to verify my Social Security coverage while employed with the State or County?

A: Yes. The ERS recommends the actual Social Security request to be submitted to ensure the complete employment information is provided. For ERS' research, please provide the name (e.g. maiden name) used for the employment periods.

Q: How do I get a copy of my deceased

relative's IRS Form 1099-R?

A: Contact the ERS for reprints of IRS Form 1099-R. Before reprints are mailed, you must inform the ERS of the death of a retiree or beneficiary who received a pension, survivor income benefit or refund payment. Submit the signed reprint request in writing to ERS with the deceased's information, details of your request and your name, address and phone number. ERS may need to contact you before processing the request.

UA 'IKE ANEI 'OUKOU? DID YOU KNOW?

More than 15,000 active employees who are ERS members are eligible to retire. These members have met the age and years-of-service retirement requirements for their membership (Hybrid, Contributory and Noncontributory) category. The ERS has no mandatory retirement age requirement, however, by statute, judges must retire upon reaching age 70.