

# HOLOMUA

RETIREES & ACTIVE MEMBERS



Employees' Retirement System  
of the State of Hawaii

## CIO Report

# Investments' positive returns for fiscal year

Aloha kākou,

I'm sure you have heard the great news about our June 30, 2022, investment performance figures. They're impressive by any measure—whether it is versus our policy benchmark, a traditional 60% stock/40% bond portfolio, our 7% annualized long-term target, or in comparison to our peer group of public pension plans.

For example, our 3.7% one-year return exceeded our policy benchmark by 5%, a 60/40 stock/bond portfolio by 19%, and the median peer pension plan by 11%. The multi-year numbers, moreover, demonstrate that the investment team has consistently produced returns for our investment portfolio well in excess of the ERS benchmark as well as the ERS's 7% percent annualized long-term return target over the past decade (see bar chart at right).

The ERS depends on investments as well as employee and employer contributions to ensure it can pay current and future retirees and beneficiaries.

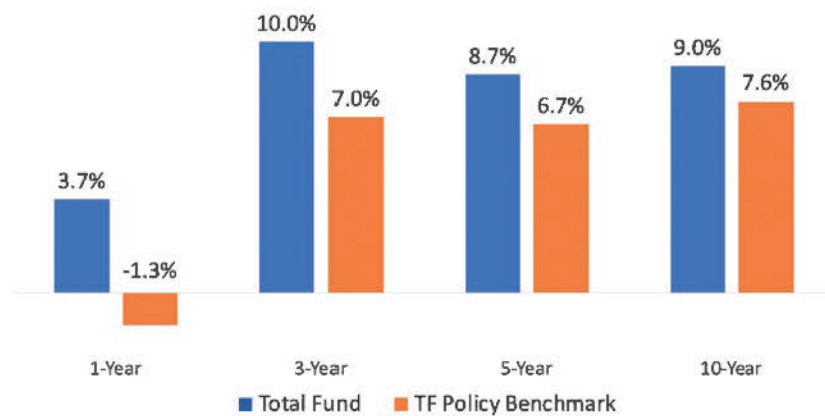
Our returns also place the ERS in the top decile (between the top one percentile and 10th percentile) of our public pension plan peer group for all time periods from the most recent quarter all the way out to 10 years. Notably, if we had only achieved our policy benchmark return over the past five years, we would only have been in the 59th percentile of our peer group instead of the 5th percentile ranking of our actual return; so that extra 2.0% of return each year for five years pushed us up to the very top of

our peers, and that is due to impressive manager selection and timely rebalancing of assets performed consistently over time. We have also accomplished this out-performance with a significant reduction

in volatility versus our peers, such that if we risk-adjusted the returns of our peers over the past five-years to equalize risk taken, we exceeded their median return by an additional 1.9% per year.

...continued on page 4

ERS Total Fund Performance vs. Policy Benchmark



ERS Total Fund Cumulative Excess Return (\$ million)  
June 30, 2012 - June 30, 2022



# Message from the Executive Director

## ERS Staff Forms the Foundation on Which We Stand

While our Investment Team deserves and receives a good amount of recognition for generating its above-average investment returns, year in and out, it's our Retirement Benefits, Accounting, Information Services and Staff Support Services branches that serve as the structural foundation for our organization and are responsible for overall service delivery.

Our successful operations depend on these units, which interface with many of our members, and represent the invisible players who work behind the scenes. Most daily contact—on behalf of our active members, retirees, beneficiaries and employers—occurs in our Retirement Benefits Branch (RBB). Aply led by its long-term chief, Karl Kaneshiro, he is expertly supported by Lori Kobayashi and Jewel Pharms, General Professionals, who oversee daily operations on Oahu and on the Neighbor Islands.

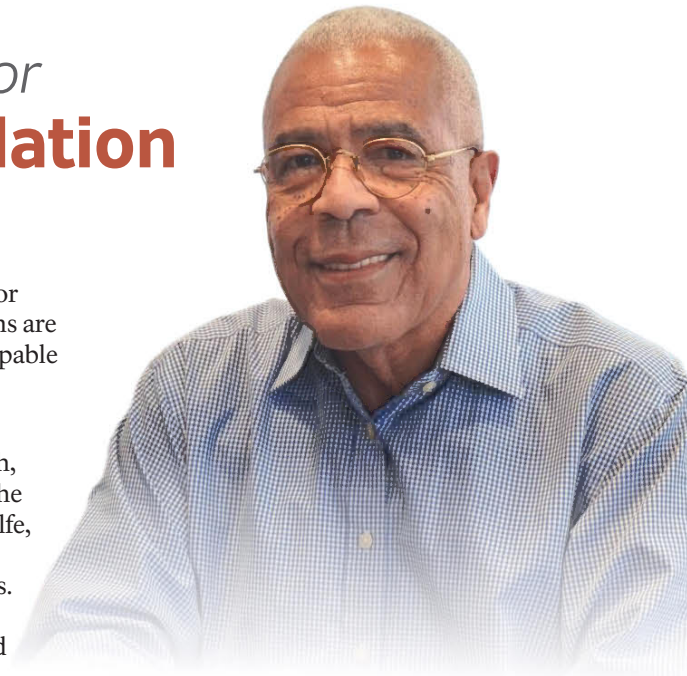
Karl has 42 years of state government service and has been with the ERS since 1984. Lori joined the ERS in September 2008 and served as a Retirement Claims Examiner and Program Specialist before her promotion to General Professional in December 2019. Jewel joined the ERS in August 2021 after serving as Pension Program Manager for the California State Teachers' Retirement System for nearly eight years. The RBB staff responds to the thousands of calls, inquiries, emails, letters and personal visits emanating from our many stakeholders regarding retirement

and other benefits, such as survivor payments and refunds. Their teams are among the most dedicated and capable employees in state government.

Key to our financial stability and reporting is our Accounting Branch, which operates independently of the state treasury. It is led by Larry Wolfe, who has been with the ERS for 25 years, and branch chief for 11 years. The branch supervisors include: Jennifer Tanaka, Disbursement and Benefits, who has been with ERS for 19 years; Cullen Fujimoto, Investment Audit (nearly 33 years); and Debra Nakamura, Cash Management (eight years). The branch maintains and accounts for all fiscal and material resources of the ERS. The branch's interaction with our custodial bank and investment managers is integral to our investment team's operations and success.

The Information Services Branch, headed by chief Keith Miyamoto and IT Supervisor Sandra Straub, installs, manages and monitors all telephone network, digital equipment, software and hardware utilized by the System. Keith has been with the ERS for more than 20 years and Sandra for more than 15 years. Digital communications, on which we all rely, are the backbone of our operational infrastructure. The servicing and protection of our information systems and the data housed therein are among our highest priorities.

The thread connecting our various branches is the Staff Support Services



(SSS) Branch. Diane Tengan, who has been with ERS for 31 years and supervisor since 2016, supervises the unit, which staffs our front office member reception area, and processes all incoming and outgoing mail. The "support" provided by SSS touches every aspect of our enterprise.

Our business ecosystem could neither operate nor flourish without the hard and coordinated work between our various branch leadership teams and their staff. Please join me in thanking them, because through their efforts, you get to know and identify with the ERS.

Mahalo nui loa,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Thomas Williams'.

Thomas Williams



Retirement Benefits Branch (RBB) employees staff the ERS call center during regular business hours to answer questions from active members, retirees, beneficiaries and others.

# Neighbor Island Representatives Continue to Serve

Over the last few years, our Neighbor Island representatives had to modify their business practices due to COVID-19. During this pandemic, our Neighbor Island offices remained open to service our membership. They continued to provide counseling services and assist the state and county personnel and payroll staff. In addition, they often assisted the Oahu ERS office with virtual presentations and phone counseling. Providing professional, consistent and friendly customer service for our members and retirees has always been central in guiding the operations for our Neighbor Island offices.

We want to take this time to introduce our representatives at our Neighbor Island district offices:



**Island of Hawaii:** Due to the large membership population, this is the only island staffed with three Retirement Claims Examiners (RCE). Since 2018 Dayle Ishii has been the lead RCE and has been with our office since August 2004. Dayle previously worked at Hawaii Community College in the human resources office. Carlos Chavez

Bugarin has been with ERS for three years and previously held a customer service position with a medical carrier in Hilo. Kin Oshiro joined our office in September 2021. He brings previous experience and expertise from working in the state as well as County of Hawaii. Our Hawaii Island office is based in Hilo, and its staff travels to Kona throughout the year to provide scheduled counseling services.

## Island of Kauai:

Michelle Hinazumi is the lead RCE since 2019 and has been with ERS since 2018. She comes to ERS with a personnel background, as she previously worked for the County of Kauai, Department of Human Resources for six years. In June 2020, Taylor McCarthy was hired and relocated from Oahu. She previously worked at Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii for 10 years in finance and administration. She is a welcome addition to our Kauai office and she's getting to know the membership and departmental staff.



**Island of Maui:** Since 2012, Paul George has been the lead RCE, developing a firm proficiency of our ERS statutes, practices



and standards from the beginning of his tenure with our office in August 2004. He is joined by Emalu-Hina Cleveland, who has been with ERS since 2014. With Paul's understanding of membership needs and Emalu-Hina's perseverance with departmental inquiries, they have established a solid foundation of expertise delivering exceptional service to our membership. They are also responsible for serving the membership on Lanai and Molokai.

Our Neighbor Island offices are an important extension of our Oahu office in providing assistance on retirement benefits and services. The ERS is fortunate and proud of our Neighbor Island representatives for their continued dedicated service to our membership.

You may visit our website at [ers.ehawaii.gov](http://ers.ehawaii.gov) for their contact information.

## COMING SOON IN JANUARY 2023

The Employees' Retirement System (ERS) is preparing to implement the new IRS federal income tax withholding election forms effective Jan. 1, 2023. The Form W-4P (Withholding Certificate for Periodic Pension or Annuity Payments) and a new Form W-4R (Withholding Certificate for Nonperiodic Payments and Eligible Rollover Distributions) include substantial changes to the federal tax withholding elections available, as well as changes to the calculation ERS uses to determine the amount to be withheld.

A significant change to the W-4P form is that filers will no longer be able to adjust

their withholding by electing a specific number of withholding allowances. The IRS now offers new input fields for increasing or decreasing the amount to withhold, including fields for tax credits and deductions.

It is important to remember that the ERS cannot provide tax advice, and affected members and retirees should check with a tax adviser or consultant. The ERS will provide more information on the new form on the ERS website and in the Winter *Holomua* in December.

## Member Online Information Update

The ERS has updated its website with member information through July 2022. 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. Please note, information for retirees and beneficiaries is not included.

Help us ensure that we have the most accurate information possible by logging on to the website at [ers.ehawaii.gov](http://ers.ehawaii.gov) and click on Active Member Information. To report any discrepancies with your account information, click on the link to the ERS 243 Member Information 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.

# Hodel named Acting CIO; Goo is Acting Deputy CIO

The Employees' Retirement System (ERS) Board of Trustees approved the appointment of Howard Hodel, CFA, MBA, as acting Chief Investment Officer (CIO) effective July 1, 2022, Executive Director Thomas Williams announced.

Hodel has been serving as ERS's Deputy CIO, overseeing the \$7 billion diversifying strategies portfolio and serving as the Chief Risk Officer. Anthony "Tony" Goo, BA, ERS's investment officer of public markets, is serving as Acting Deputy CIO.

"We are particularly well-served by Howard and Tony's willingness to step up and serve our organization in these vital capacities," Williams said. "They will assure us continuity of management, strategy implementation and portfolio development. Each has contributed significantly to our progress to date."

## ... CIO Report, continued from page 1

Over the past decade, this outperformance versus benchmark has produced \$1.5 billion of excess value with over 60% of that amount coming in the last three years alone (see bottom chart on Page 1). That represents \$1.5 billion of unfunded liability reduction and moves us closer to becoming fully funded than if we had just achieved our benchmark return.

So, you might be wondering how the investment team achieved these extraordinary returns. It all started eight years ago in 2014 when the ERS Trustees adopted a novel risk-based capital allocation methodology proposed by ERS investment staff and our general consultant, Meketa. The goal was to create a "risk-aware" portfolio that systematically adjusts to changing market conditions to limit losses during equity market corrections (down more than 10%) and particularly "bear" markets (down more than 20%). The multi-year plan was also to double the allocation to private equity and real assets (real estate, timber, infrastructure and agriculture) over time, along with increasing the allocation to diversifying strategies, which provide protection to the portfolio as well as positive returns that are uncorrelated to stock and bond returns, to

Hodel replaces Elizabeth Burton, who resigned after nearly four years as CIO on June 30, 2022.

ERS recently hired Honolulu-based Kumabe HR to lead an external outreach for a new chief investment officer.

Before joining ERS in March 2014, Hodel provided financial, investment and energy consulting services to institutional clients in Hawaii and on the Mainland. Previously, Hodel headed Bank of Hawaii's Asset Management Group.

Hodel also worked 15 years at Bank of America, establishing and heading the analytics and market risk unit assigned to the bank's \$250 billion Asset Management Group. He served in the bank's Treasury Department as a market risk manager, planning manager, and mergers and acquisitions manager. He spent nine years at British Petroleum (Amoco and Sohio) in various



Howard Hodel

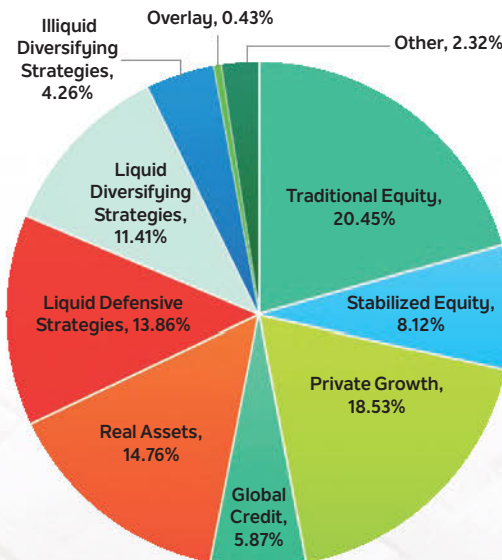
Anthony Goo

financial, economic, and planning positions.

Before joining ERS, Goo worked at the Bank of Hawaii in various management positions, including Senior Vice President in charge of fiduciary asset management and institutional services departments.

Goo's industry experience includes serving as Chief Investment Officer of Bishop Street Capital Management, Senior Vice President and Manager of the Trust Portfolio Management Department of First Hawaiian Bank, and Portfolio Manager for the Asset & Liability Department of First Interstate Bank.

35% of total capital. Staff steadily built out all the components, and we are currently about 95% complete with this transition (see pie chart below).



- Traditional Equity
- Liquid Defensive Strategies
- Stabilized Equity
- Liquid Diversifying Strategies
- Private Growth
- Illiquid Diversifying Strategies
- Global Credit
- Overlay
- Real Assets
- Other

Transitioning and at that same time managing the portfolio is challenging, especially during the difficult market conditions of early 2020 when equity valuations dropped by more than a third due to COVID-19-related lockdowns and in the first half of 2022 when global equities declined by 20% and bonds by 10%. Over the past eight years, the ERS staff has diligently invested in diverse markets and strategies with the best managers possible, while maintaining a high level of liquidity and moving capital quickly to the most promising investments as opportunities arise.

Having little turnover in the Investment staff has been a major advantage in execution that has allowed us to be proactive and stay ahead of the markets. The skillsets, experience, teamwork and collegial culture within the investment office, in my opinion, are top decile and would be difficult to replicate.

Mahalo,  
Howard Hodel, CFA  
Acting Chief Investment Officer

# Knowing your membership class

A common question from members contacting the ERS is, “What plan am I in?”

The ERS is one retirement plan with different membership classes based on your ERS membership date and designated categories.

Here’s a rundown of the membership classes:

## Contributory

You are a Contributory member if you have an ERS membership date prior to July 1, 1984 and you did not elect to become a Noncontributory member in 1984 or a Hybrid member in 2006. Or you were hired in a designated category that requires membership as a Contributory member (i.e., Police Officers, Firefighters, Certain Public Safety Officers, Judges, Elective and Legislative Officers).

The Contributory membership class has two tiers based on ERS membership dates prior to July 1 (Tier 1) and after June 30,

2012 (Tier 2), both with different vesting and eligibility requirements. Contribution rates also vary depending on the member’s occupation and ERS membership date.

## Noncontributory

You are a Noncontributory member if you have an ERS membership date between July 1, 1984 to June 30, 2006, or you were a Contributory member who elected to become a Noncontributory member in 1984. If you have an ERS membership date between July 1, 1984 to June 30, 2006 but you were hired in a designated category you will be enrolled as a Contributory member and follow the Contributory requirements.

## Hybrid

You are a Hybrid member if you have an ERS membership date from July 1, 2006, or you were a Contributory or Noncontributory member who elected to become

a Hybrid member in 2006. If you have an ERS membership date from July 1, 2006 but you were hired in a designated category you will be enrolled as a Contributory member and follow the Contributory requirements.

Similar to the Contributory membership class, the Hybrid membership class has two tiers based on their ERS membership dates prior to July 1 (Tier 1) and after June 30, 2012 (Tier 2), both with different vesting and eligibility requirements. The member’s contribution rate is either 6% for Tier 1 or 8% for Tier 2.

More on the ERS plan for active employees is at the ERS website, <https://ers.ehawaii.gov/members/active>.

Members can visit our website for membership information under the “Active Membership Information” at [ers.ehawaii.gov](https://ers.ehawaii.gov).

## Thinking About a 2023 Retirement?

Members or former members who are eligible and considering retirement in 2023 can prepare by knowing the deadlines for filing an application. A retirement date can be the first of the month or on Dec. 31. An application can be filed as early as 150 days prior and not fewer than 30 days before the retirement date.

For information, go to [ers.ehawaii.gov/members/planning-for-retirement](https://ers.ehawaii.gov/members/planning-for-retirement) or contact the ERS: [ers.ehawaii.gov/resources/contact-us](https://ers.ehawaii.gov/resources/contact-us).

Here’s a list of first and last days to file an application. The ERS must receive an application by the last days listed (not postmarked, if mailed). Applications must be signed in front of a notary or an ERS representative.

I would like to retire on:	FILING WINDOW	
	The first day you can file:	The last day you can file:
January 1, 2023	August 4, 2022	December 2, 2022
February 1, 2023	September 6, 2022	December 30, 2022
March 1, 2023	October 3, 2022	January 30, 2023
April 1, 2023	November 2, 2022	March 2, 2023
May 1, 2023	December 2, 2022	March 31, 2023
June 1, 2023	January 3, 2023	May 2, 2023
July 1, 2023	February 1, 2023	June 1, 2023
August 1, 2023	March 6, 2023	June 30, 2023
September 1, 2023	April 4, 2023	August 2, 2023
October 1, 2023	May 4, 2023	September 1, 2023
November 1, 2023	June 5, 2023	October 2, 2023
December 1, 2023	July 5, 2023	November 1, 2023
December 31, 2023	August 3, 2023	December 1, 2023

“First Day to File” and “Last Day to File” in red are adjusted due to weekends and/or holidays.

## The remaining retirement dates for 2022:

I would like to retire on:	The last day you can file:
November 1, 2022	September 30, 2022
December 1, 2022	November 1, 2022
December 31, 2022	December 1, 2022



## 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)

### FOR ACTIVE EMPLOYEES & RETIREES

## Contacting the EUTF

### General Questions

Visit the EUTF website [eutf.hawaii.gov](https://eutf.hawaii.gov) for answers to your general EUTF questions.

1. Descriptions, forms and deadlines related to qualifying events that allow changes to your EUTF benefits during the year (e.g. new hires, marriage, birth, loss of coverage and acquisition of coverage). <https://eutf.hawaii.gov/active/eutf-hsta-active/qualifying-events/>
2. EUTF health plan descriptions—find general information on what your EUTF health plans cover and your coinsurance or copayments. <https://eutf.hawaii.gov/health-life-insurance-providers/>
3. Preparation for retirement—overviews, pre-retirement including Medicare checklists, forms, deadlines, eligibility and descriptions of retiree health benefits can be found at <https://eutf.hawaii.gov/future-retirees/eutf-future-retirees/enrollment-overview/>. Preretirement workshops dates and times can be found at below.

### Insurance Carrier (HMSA, Kaiser Permanente, CVS, HDS, VSP, HMA and Securian) Questions

Contact the insurance carriers directly for membership cards, claims and questions whether a specific procedure is covered by your insurance. **VSP Vision does not mail membership cards, just mention to your provider that you have VSP coverage through EUTF.** <https://eutf.hawaii.gov/health-life-insurance-providers/>

### Qualifying Events and Supporting Documents

For active employees, ensure that your EC-1 Enrollment Form is submitted to your personnel office (or online for certain employers) within the required deadlines with all supporting documents (45-days from the date of the event, except births are 180 days). Retirees should mail their EC-2 Enrollment Form directly to the EUTF. Following are some of the more common events and supporting document requirements:

1. Adding dependents through a qualifying event (e.g. new hire, marriage, birth and loss of coverage, new full-time student (ages 19-23)). Include with your EC-1 a marriage certificate for spouses, birth certificates for children, student certification and domestic partner documents as described at <https://eutf.hawaii.gov/active/eutf-hsta-active/qualifying-events/>
2. Birth – include a birth certificate (or hospital notice) and the newborn's Social Security Number. The Social Security Number is required to process the enrollment.
3. Loss of coverage—you can add yourself and/or dependents to EUTF plans if you lose non-EUTF coverage. In addition to the dependent supporting document requirements in #1, include a notice from the former employer or insurance carrier that states the coverages lost (i.e. medical, dental and/or vision), the date coverage was lost and the individuals who lost coverage.

4. Acquisition of coverage—you can drop EUTF coverage for yourself and/or dependents if you or your dependents acquire non-EUTF coverage. Include a notice from the employer or insurance carrier that states the coverages acquired (i.e. medical, dental and/or vision), the date coverage was acquired and the individuals who acquired coverage.
5. If your enrollment request impacts another EUTF member (e.g. you're adding a spouse that is terminating their EUTF plans or you're currently covered under your EUTF parent's plans), add a short note that describes the situation. This will help ensure that the effective dates are correct.

Visit <https://eutf.hawaii.gov/active/eutf-hsta-active/qualifying-events/> for more information on these and other qualifying events. Enrollment requests including RUSH enrollments will not be processed until all supporting documents and information are provided to the EUTF.

Please allow three weeks (from the time you submit your EC-1 and all supporting documents to your personnel office until the time you receive a mailed confirmation notice from EUTF) before contacting the EUTF to follow up on your enrollment.

### Contacting the EUTF

If your specific question cannot be answered through one of the aforementioned options, please contact the EUTF by one of the following methods:

1. Send a secure email by visiting [eutf.hawaii.gov](https://eutf.hawaii.gov). Go to the bottom of the EUTF home page, select Send Us a Message.
2. Call us at (808) 586-7390 or (800) 295-0089.
3. Set up an in person or virtual Teams appointment at [eutf.hawaii.gov](https://eutf.hawaii.gov), under the Appointment Scheduler.

## CVS/SilverScript Prescription Drug Plan Changes

Excluded the Vision Enhancement Agents category from the EUTF active and non-Medicare retiree plans effective October 1, 2022, and from the EUTF Medicare retiree plan effective January 1, 2023. These are prescription ophthalmic products used to improve field of vision and includes Vuity (treats presbyopia), Upneeq (treats droopy eyelids), and Acuvue Theravision (treats eye allergies). For more information, contact CVS Caremark at 1 (855) 801-8263.

### FOR RETIREES

## Retiree Plan Changes Effective January 1, 2023

### Kaiser Permanente

Changed coverage for a Prostate Specific Antigen (PSA) screening to a \$0 copay under the EUTF and HSTA VB non-Medicare retiree plans.

### Humana

Added coverage for Post-Discharge Transportation at no charge for up to 12 one-way trips to plan-approved locations (not to exceed 50 miles per trip) per facility discharge by car,

van, or wheelchair access vehicle. Benefit must be utilized within 60 days of the discharge event and is subject to transportation provider availability within the plan service area.

### HDS

Added coverage for decoronation, which is the intentional removal of coronal tooth structure for preservation of the root and surrounding bone, under the EUTF and HSTA VB retiree plans. This benefit is limited to once per tooth per lifetime and is covered at 60%.

Added Total Health Plus benefits, which include extra cleanings and fluoride treatments for members with certain conditions such as cancer (including oral cancer), Sjogren's Syndrome, stroke, heart attack/congestive heart failure, kidney failure, organ transplants, or have a medical risk for cavities, under the EUTF and HSTA VB retiree plans.

### Securian

Changed the life insurance benefit amount from \$1,815 to \$1,487 for EUTF and HSTA VB retirees.

For more information, contact Kaiser Permanente at (808) 432-5250 on Oahu or toll free 1 (844) 276-6628, Humana at toll free 1 (888) 908-6518, HDS at (808) 529-9310 on Oahu or toll free 1 (866) 702-3883, and Securian at 1 (808) 536-9890 or toll free 1 (877) 291-8466.

## Medicare Advantage Plan Mailers

With Medicare Open Enrollment (Oct. 15 through Dec. 17) approaching, please be wary of mail advertisements for Medicare Advantage plans. Some of these advertisements may even appear to be an official Medicare-issued notice but is not. An official Medicare-issued notice will 1) have a letterhead with either the U.S. Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services (CMS) or the U.S. Social Security Administration (SSA) logo and 2) direct you to contact either the CMS or SSA office.

### Reminder:

- If you are an active employee and enrolled in an EUTF or HSTA VB medical and prescription drug plan, you have creditable coverage and can delay your Medicare Part B and Part D enrollment without penalty. For more information, refer to the Active Reference Guide on the EUTF website ([eutf.hawaii.gov](http://eutf.hawaii.gov)).
- If you are a Medicare eligible retiree and enrolled in the HMSA 90/10 plan, the coordination of benefits between Medicare and the HMSA 990/10 plan results in almost no out-of-pocket cost for you. For more information on coordination of benefits with Medicare, refer to the Retiree Highlights Guide on the EUTF website ([eutf.hawaii.gov](http://eutf.hawaii.gov)).
- If you are enrolled in the Kaiser Permanente Senior Advantage plan or the Humana Medicare Advantage plan, you are already enrolled in a Medicare Advantage plan and will be disenrolled if you enroll in another Medicare Advantage plan.

## HMSA Members

**Chronic condition support when you need it.** According to the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, heart disease, cancer, and diabetes are the leading causes of death and disability in the U.S. But these chronic conditions are largely preventable by practicing healthy behaviors, such as quitting tobacco, eating healthy, getting regular physical activity, limiting alcohol, completing annual screenings, and getting enough sleep. And we understand that it's easier said than done.

With HMSA's Health and Well-being Support, you don't have to do it alone. HMSA no-cost well-being resources offer

support, information, and guidance to help you manage your condition. Members with asthma, COPD, diabetes, or hypertension will find a wealth of information and support to handle these issues, including help making important lifestyle changes so you can be as healthy as possible.

In addition, everyone can take advantage of preventive care services such as annual doctor visits, screenings, and health education workshops. Diabetes prevention programs are also available to help members reduce their risk of type 2 diabetes.

Learn more at [hmsa.com/eutf-well-being-support](http://hmsa.com/eutf-well-being-support) or call 1 (855) 329-5461, option 1.

## Kaiser Permanente Members

**Lifestyle changes for chronic conditions.** It's normal to experience a range of emotions after being diagnosed with a chronic illness. People who have chronic illnesses must adjust to both the illness and its treatment. These changes may be stressful and cause feelings of frustration and sadness as you realize the life you once knew is now different.

Making healthy lifestyle changes may help if you have a chronic condition, such as: diabetes, heart disease, high blood pressure and high cholesterol. Making small changes to eliminate harmful habits, eating a healthy diet and getting more exercise may reduce your risk of heart attack, stroke, and other serious health problems.

It's important to visit your doctor to discuss your health and to evaluate your risks for future conditions. Work with your doctor to create a personalized care plan to deal with your health problem. Be sure to make and go to all appointments and call your doctor if you are having problems.

The key to managing any condition is to become your own advocate and commit to making better health your passion and cause. Call (808) 432-2260 to connect with a wellness coach for one-on-one guidance and support or to register for a Lifestyle Medicine class.

## 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
9/12/2022, 9/26/2022	11:00am – 12:00pm, 12:00 – 1:00pm
10/03/2022, 10/10/2022	
11/14/2022, 11/21/2022	

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" button and select the desired webinar. Registration is not required.



Employees' Retirement System  
of the State of Hawaii

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### Thomas Williams

Executive Director

### Kanoe Margol

Deputy Executive Director

### Howard Hodel

Acting 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,

or mail: 201 Merchant Street,

Suite 1700

Honolulu, HI 96813

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FALL 2022

# HOLOMUA

RETIREES & ACTIVE MEMBERS

Mā'ili from Pu'u O Hulu pillbox trail near Wai'anae  
By Christine Chang

## Ask ERS

### Answers to some frequently asked questions

#### **Q: Can I direct deposit my pension into a trust account?**

*A: No. Section 88-91 of the Hawaii Revised Statutes requires that the ERS pay our retirees as individual primary account holders and not assigned to a trust account since it is not an individual. The Internal Revenue Code (IRC) at Section 401(a)(2) requires qualified governmental pension plans, such as the ERS, to make it impossible for monies to benefit persons other than the members/retirees and beneficiaries. We realize this pension assignment may create additional discussion with your financial*

*institution to comply with the law. The ERS thanks you for your efforts to ensure that your pension is paid to you and only you.*

#### **Q: Does the ERS distribute or sell my contact information?**

*A: No. The ERS will never divulge your contact information to other parties. We will only call if we are responding to your request. The ERS representative will always provide you their name, position and official contact information. If you receive an unexpected call from the ERS requesting personal information, please get the caller's name and position and notify us immediately.*

## UA 'IKE ANEI 'OUKOU? DID YOU KNOW?

*The ERS was established in 1926 with mandatory membership for all Hawaii territorial employees who became employees after Jan. 1, 1926. Membership was optional for those who were already employees of the territory as of Jan. 1, 1926. (Side note: Social Security was founded in 1935, when President Roosevelt signed the Social Security Act).*