WORKING TO FULFILL YOUR RETIREMENT DREAMS

FALL 2026

HOLOMUA

RETIREES & ACTIVE MEMBERS

Employees' Retirement System
of the State of Hawaii

Diamond Head

ERS Welcomes Dr. Amanda Lowrey to the Board of Trustees

The Employees' Retirement System (ERS) is pleased to welcome Dr. Amanda Lowrey, Ph.D., as the newest member of the ERS Board of Trustees.

The nomination period for the general employee trustee seat concluded on June 19, 2026. Dr. Lowrey was nominated by the Hawaiʻi Government Employees Association (HGEA), her representative union organization. As the sole nominated candidate, she was declared elected without the need for an election, in accordance with Hawaiʻi Revised Statutes, Chapter 88-24.

Dr. Amanda Lowrey

Dr. Lowrey succeeds former Trustee Bennett Yap, who retired from the State of Hawaiʻi on March 1, 2026. She will serve the remainder of his term, which ends on Jan. 1, 2032. "It's a privilege to be able to serve the many people who benefit from our fund, both currently and in the future," said Dr. Lowrey. "I have a lot to learn and I'm excited to work with our Board to protect all of our hard-earned pensions."

With nearly 20 years of service to the State of Hawaiʻi, Dr. Lowrey brings extensive public service experience and a strong commitment to serving Hawaiʻi's public employees and retirees. She currently serves as a Food Safety Specialist with the Hawaiʻi State Department of Health and earned a Ph.D. from Northwestern University. "Her combination of academic achievement, professional expertise, and dedication to public service will be a valuable asset to the Board," said ERS Executive Director Kalbert Young.

Trustee Dr. Amanda Lowrey took her oath of office in the presence of ERS Executive Director Kalbert K. Young

The ERS Board of Trustees plays a vital role in overseeing the administration of retirement benefits for Hawaiʻi's public employees and retirees. Dr. Lowrey's leadership and perspective will help support the Board's ongoing commitment to the long-term sustainability and success of the retirement system.

Please join us in welcoming Dr. Amanda Lowrey to the ERS Board of Trustees. We look forward to her contributions as she helps guide the future of the Employees' Retirement System.

The Board of Trustees, the governing body of the ERS, is comprised of eight seats, including four elected by the membership (two general employees, a teacher and a retiree), three appointed by the governor, and the state Director of Finance.

Kaua‘i – State of Hawai‘i Employees’ Benefits Fair

This past July, the ERS took the opportunity to participate in the State of Hawai‘i Employees’ Benefits Fair on Kaua‘i, and the community response was very positive. Employees on Kaua‘i visited throughout the day to meet the Kaua‘i office team and learn more about the ERS programs, resources and support available to them.

The Benefits Fair was organized by Empower, who administers the deferred compensation programs for multiple government employers. Deferred compensation plans are voluntary retirement savings plans available to employees. Along with your ERS pension, they are an important part of retirement planning.

Many employees stopped by the ERS table to get information, ask questions and learn more about their retirement. The opportunity to speak directly with ERS staff was appreciated by the attendees.

ERS Executive Director Kalbert Young and Retirement System Benefits Manager Lori Kobayashi also spoke at an informational session that provided a summary update of the pension system and highlighted the steps involved in the retirement process. Along with those on Kaua‘i who attended in person, employees (and retirees) throughout the state also attended the session virtually. It was the highest attended session of the day, with participants noting how helpful the information was to better understand their ERS program and what to expect as they move toward retirement.

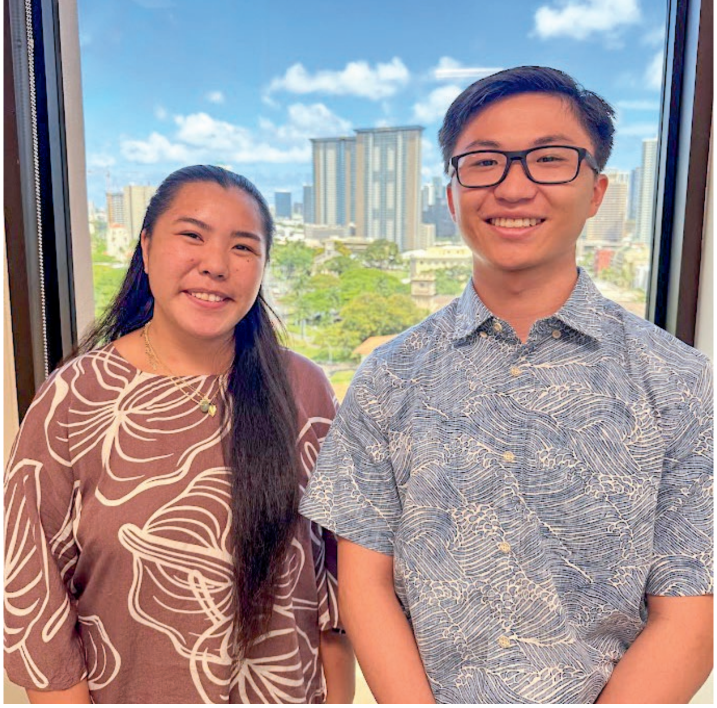
Thanks to the strong engagement from our members and the generous sponsorship of the Island $avings Plan, the Kaua‘i State of Hawai‘i Employees’ Benefits Fair was a success. Look for future opportunities to meet with ERS at upcoming Benefits Fairs.

ERS Executive Director Kalbert K. Young, Retirement System Benefits Manager Lori Kobayashi and Kaua‘i Island Retirement Claims Examiner Taylor McCarthy assisted ERS members at the State of Hawai‘i Employees’ Benefits Fair held on July 7.

Aloha kākou!

The Employees' Retirement System (ERS) welcomed two Summer 2026 interns to join the Investments team. These internships foster pathways for local students to develop the skills, values and real-world experience needed to contribute meaningfully to Hawai'i's financial and economic future, while encouraging them to keep the islands in their hearts as they pursue careers often found elsewhere. They received broad exposure to various areas of private markets through due diligence, research and analysis, and interactions with high-level executives at the world's leading investment firms.

Maxwell Chin is a rising Sophomore at Boston College and Shaylin Yamada recently graduated with a degree in Finance from Northern Arizona University. They coauthored the article below to explain the purpose and building blocks of the ERS Investment portfolio. We extend our appreciation for their optimism, hard work, and professionalism and wish them aloha on their future endeavors.



Shaylin Yamada and Maxwell Chin, ERS Summer 2026 Investment Interns

Why does ERS invest?/What does ERS do?

Over the last 100 years, ERS has had the privilege of providing pension benefits to the retirees and beneficiaries of Hawai'i. ERS has been able to fulfill this mission by using the contributions received from employees and employers to incerease the fund with the returns on investments from those contributions.

Investments are very important to ERS's mission. ERS's main goals are to preserve the capital contributed to the pension fund and and grow it safely. Investments are an effective avenue to achieve this goal. They allow the System to increase its assets and help to ensure there are enough funds to pay benefits to both current and future retirees. Most of ERS's income comes from its investments. As a result, investing is crucial to our ability to serve the pension.

What does ERS invest in?

ERS's portfolio (what ERS owns) is made up of investments in both public and private assets. Assets in the public market can be bought by members of the public (bonds and stocks), while private assets (ownership stakes, credit) are not publicly listed and can only be bought by larger, institutional investors such as insurance companies or pension funds like ERS.

Private assets make up more than 47% of ERS's portfolio. Because private assets are generally less liquid (harder to buy and sell) and less regulated than public securities, investors may earn higher than expected returns as compensation for taking on additional risk and complexity.

ERS invests across four main asset types between both public and private markets: Global Equity, Global Credit, Real Assets and Diversifying Strategies. The types of investments are varied (diversified) to reduce risk.

Global Equity

Equity simply means owning a piece of a company. When ERS invests in equity, the System becomes part owner of the businesses invested in. If those businesses grow and earn profits, the value of the investment grows too. Investing in growth-oriented and risk-taking assets that tend to have higher returns makes equities the primary return drivers of the ERS portfolio. Equity provides appreciation and income over the long term. ERS buys both public and private equities.

ERS invests in public equities, such as stock index funds (diversified pools of stocks) that capture the overall returns of the market and spreads the ownership risk over many stocks. On the private side, ERS invests in funds which invest in private ownership shares of businesses. Private equity typically carries more risk but offers the potential for higher returns.

Global Credit

Credit investing is when ERS lends money in exchange for interest. This kind of investment provides steady income and helps stabilize the portfolio, providing consistent returns in a shorter time frame compared to private equity. ERS invests in both liquid credit, which is easy to buy and sell, and private credit, which is harder to trade but offers higher returns due to added risk and complexity. Credit plays a key role in balancing growth and income.

Real assets

Real assets are physical investments such as buildings, land, infrastructure, timber and agriculture. Some real assets, like office buildings or warehouses, are considered "core" investments within the ERS portfolio and provide stable and predictable income. Others, such as value add or opportunistic real estate, involve more risk and effort but can offer higher returns. Real assets help protect the fund from inflation and add stability over time.

Diversifying Strategies

Diversifying Strategies are investments that do not move in the same direction as the stock market because this asset class consists of investments that are generally uncorrelated with traditional stock markets. They act like a buoy during difficult economic times, helping preserve value when markets fall. These investments are crucial to ERS's portfolio because they balance the risk-return trade-off. In other words, it steadies the broad growth portion of our portfolio, which behaves with greater fluctuation.

These strategies don't grow as quickly during strong markets, but they are crucial for protecting the fund during recessions or market shocks. Example investments within this asset class include commodities and treasury bonds that help balance risk across the entire portfolio.

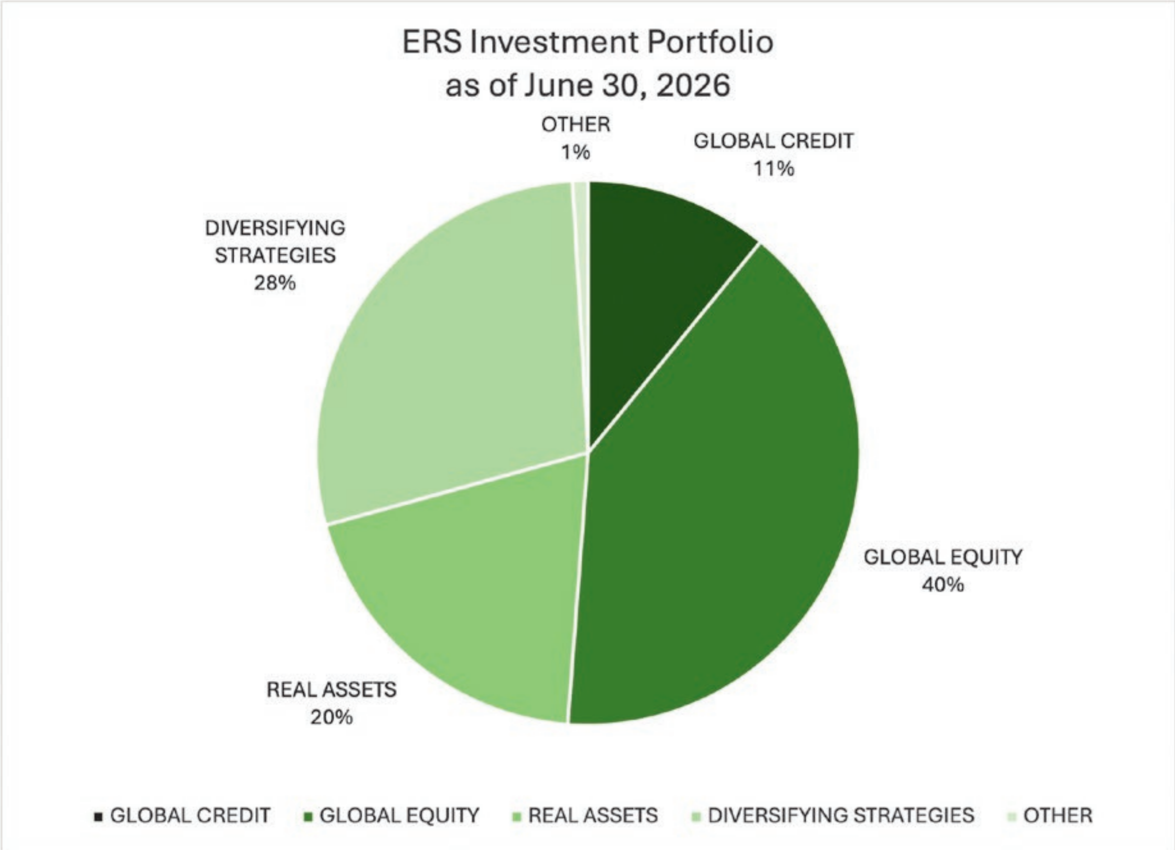
How does investing impact ERS in the long run?

Investment earnings grow through compounding. As returns build on top of past returns, the fund strengthens over time. Strong investment performance helps ERS pay benefits without relying too heavily on contributions from government employers. If ERS continues its current path, the fund is projected to be fully funded in about 20 years, meaning it will have enough money to cover all present and future benefit payments. Investing responsibly today ensures that pensions can be paid for generations to come.

Our Thoughts and Opinions

Over the summer, we had the opportunity to intern with ERS Investments. In working with the team and learning about ERS's investment process, we believe ERS manages its assets with intentionality. They have a diversified portfolio across different kinds of assets, as well as investments of varying levels of risk. ERS is constantly finding a balance between capital preservation and growth. Through its disciplined investment approach, we believe ERS will be able to achieve its long-term return objective and is on the track to becoming a fully funded and sustainable pension.

-Max & Shay



***Totals may not equal 100% due to rounding. Past performance is not a guarantee of future returns. "Other" includes cash, cash equivalents and closing accounts.**

Portfolio Performance and Highlights

As of June 30, 2026, the ERS Total Fund reached historic milestones:

- Total Fund value: $26.6 billion – the highest in ERS history
- Quarter-to-date: $929 million in gains, generating a 3.7% return
- 1-Year: $2.2 billion in gains, generating a 9.2% return
- Annualized returns:
  - 3-year: 7.2%
  - 7-year: 7.5%
  - 10-year: 7.9%

Strong, long-term figures continue to surpass the Fund's 7% actuarial return objective, reflecting disciplined strategy, risk awareness and a long-term stewardship mindset. Our focus remains ensuring growth while reserving stability for current and future retirees.

Mahalo!

We are grateful for your trust, commitment and continued support. While we are proud of the results from our diligence, we remain vigilant and are continuously evaluating how we can improve and better serve our members.

Online Member Information Update

ERS has updated its website with member information through July 2026. This update is for active members in the Contributory, Noncontributory and Hybrid plans. Member information and account balances may vary in timeliness due to payroll lags and adjustments. Please note information for inactive members, retirees and beneficiaries is not included.

Help us ensure we have the most accurate information possible by logging onto our website at ers.ehawaii.gov and clicking on "Active Member Information." To report discrepancies with your account, print and mail a completed ERS-243 Member Information Form (a fillable form link is at the bottom of the Active Member Information page) to ERS with a printout or screenshot of your "My Retirement Account" information. Once we complete our research, corrections will be applied and you will be notified of any changes.

Thinking About a 2027 Retirement?

Here are some important dates:

Members or former members who are eligible and considering retirement in 2027 should prepare by familiarizing themselves with the deadlines for filing an application. Your retirement date can be the first of the month or on Dec. 31. Applications can be filed as early as 150 days prior to — but not fewer than 30 days before — your retirement date.

For more information, go to **ers.ehawaii.gov/members/planning-for-retirement** or contact the ERS via **ers.ehawaii.gov/resources/contact-us**.

Here's a list of application deadlines for retirement in 2027. The ERS must receive applications by the deadlines listed (not postmarked, if mailed). Applications must be notarized or signed in front of an ERS representative.

	FILING WINDOW	
I would like to retire on:	The first day you can file:	The last day you can file:
Jan. 1, 2027	Aug. 4, 2026	Dec. 2, 2026
Feb. 1, 2027	Sept. 4, 2026	Dec. 31, 2026
March 1, 2027	Oct. 2, 2026	Jan. 29, 2027
April 1, 2027	Nov. 2, 2026	March 2, 2027
May 1, 2027	Dec. 2, 2026	April 1, 2027
June 1, 2027	Jan. 4, 2027	April 30, 2027
July 1, 2027	Feb. 1, 2027	June 1, 2027
Aug. 1, 2027	March 4, 2027	July 2, 2027
Sept. 1, 2027	April 5, 2027	Aug. 2, 2027
Oct. 1, 2027	May 4, 2027	Sept. 1, 2027
Nov. 1, 2027	June 4, 202	Oct. 1, 2027
Dec. 1, 2027	July 6, 2027	Nov. 1, 2027
Dec. 31, 2027	Aug. 3, 2027	Dec. 1, 2027

Remaining Retirement Dates in 2026

	FILING WINDOW	
I would like to retire on:	The first day you can file:	The last day you can file:
Nov. 1, 2026	June 4, 2026	Oct. 2, 2026
Dec. 1, 2026	July 6, 2026	Oct. 30, 2026
Dec. 31, 2026	Aug. 3, 2026	Dec. 1, 2026

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 RETIREES

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 from October 19 – 30, 2026. Changes made during OE will be effective January 1, 2027. Retirees already enrolled in an EUTF plan will be mailed an EUTF Retiree Benefits Highlight Guide in late September. If you do not receive your guide by October 16th, please visit **eutf.hawaii.gov**. The guide provides information on your health benefits, health plan premiums, and helpful tips.

Humana

1. Removed application of the deductible for all diabetic monitoring supplies, except continuous glucose monitors from a durable medical equipment provider or non-preferred pharmacy, effective January 1, 2027.
2. Changed the member cost share for emergency services from a 10% coinsurance to $50 copay per visit effective January 1, 2027. Not subject to the deductible. The $50 copay is waived if admitted to the hospital within 24 hours.

Securian

3. Changed the life insurance amount from $1,487 to $1,253 for EUTF and HSTA VB retirees effective January 1, 2027.

FOR ACTIVE EMPLOYEES AND RETIREES

HMSA Vision

1. HMSA Vision (powered by EyeMed) will replace VSP as the vision insurance carrier for EUTF and HSTA VB retirees and actives effective January 1, 2027 and July 1, 2027, respectively. HMSA Vision will provide vision benefits as a standalone vision plan. You do not need to be enrolled in an HMSA medical plan to enroll in this plan. If you are currently enrolled in the VSP plan, you will automatically be enrolled in the HMSA Vision plan unless you disenroll during Open Enrollment.
2. The Diabetic Eye Care program (an HMSA Vision-specific program) will replace the Essential Medical Eye Care program (a VSP-specific program) for EUTF and HSTA VB retirees and actives effective January 1, 2027 and July 1, 2027, respectively. The Diabetic Eye Care program provides additional coverage of eye exams and diagnostic testing for members with diabetes.

Kaiser Permanente

3. Changed the day supply limit for maintenance medications from 90 to 100 days under the EUTF and HSTA VB active and retiree plans effective January 1, 2027.
4. 100% coverage of post-discharge non-emergency medical transportation under the EUTF and HSTA VB retiree and active plans effective January 1, 2027 and July 1, 2027, respectively.

CVS

5. Added prior authorization criteria for Rhapsido, an oral medication that treats chronic spontaneous urticaria (CSU), under the EUTF active and non-Medicare retiree prescription drug plans effective July 1, 2026. Existing members using this product as of June 30, 2026, will be grandfathered and will not need to obtain prior authorization.

Managing Prescription Refills

Auto refills or text reminders are meant to assist with medication adherence or to ensure that you have an adequate supply of medication on hand. However, there are ways to manage your refills and communication preferences.

1. The best way to manage refills is to let your pharmacy know. If you take several prescriptions and want to synchronize your refills, ask the pharmacy staff to help schedule your refills so that you can conveniently fill applicable prescriptions at the same time.
2. Sign in at **Caremark.com** or the CVS Health mobile app. Find a list of your prescriptions and manage refills and medication reminders for each prescription.
3. Call CVS Caremark at 1 (855) 801-8263.

For Kaiser Permanente members, manage refill reminders under the pharmacy section at kp.org or on the Kaiser Permanente mobile app.

Mail Order from CVS Caremark Mail Pharmacy

Mail order from CVS Caremark Mail Pharmacy, located on Oahu, is a convenient, low-cost, and safe alternative to receiving your prescriptions from a retail pharmacy. Reasons to switch to mail order include:

1. Convenience. Have your prescriptions (up to a 90-day supply) delivered right to your doorstep (or P.O. box) without having to drive to or wait in line at a pharmacy. CVS follows drug manufacturer guidelines and requirements for medications that require special handling. Tracking the delivery status of your medication and managing refills are easy when using the CVS Health mobile app.
2. Low cost. Pay the same low copays as at a Retail 90 pharmacy (two times the 30-day copay for a 90-day supply) and no additional cost for shipping, whereas there may be delivery fees for home delivery from a retail pharmacy. Disclaimer: If you have multiple insurance plans with drug coverage, there is no coordination of benefits through mail order.
3. Safe. Prescriptions are filled by a registered pharmacist and shipped in secure, discreet, and temperature-controlled (if needed) packaging.

For more information on switching to mail order, call CVS Caremark at 1 (855) 801-8263.

Preventing Chronic Conditions and Management Programs

Kaiser Permanente comprehensive care for chronic conditions

Kaiser Permanente members who are at risk of developing a chronic condition are automatically enrolled in our disease management program. Our expert care teams collaborate across specialties and care settings to support earlier diagnosis and more coordinated, efficient treatment, helping members achieve better outcomes and manage their conditions effectively.

You'll receive a high level of personalized support from a team of dedicated doctors and clinicians who work together to deliver proactive, comprehensive care every step of the way.

You'll receive a high level of personalized support from a team of dedicated doctors and clinicians who work together to deliver proactive, comprehensive care every step of the way. Resources are available to support you in managing your health and navigating your care. Not sure where to start? Visit **kp.org/getcare** or call 1-833-833-3333.

Get Support for Your Weight Health Journey

HMSA CVS Weight Management Program

EUTF members have access to the CVS Weight Management Program, a voluntary lifestyle change program offered through your HMSA health plan at no additional cost. The program provides personalized support to help you reach your weight health goals, whether you use weight-loss medication or prefer lifestyle-only support.

Participants receive one-on-one virtual visits with a registered dietitian, personalized nutrition plans, access to the Health Optimizer app, digital coaching, and tools such as a connected scale to help track progress. The program can also work with your primary care provider to help keep them informed and support your care when needed.

To get started, download the Health Optimizer app, complete the eligibility survey, and schedule your initial assessment. For questions, call 1-800-207-2208 or visit **hmsa.com/eutf**, click Well-being Resources, and scroll down to CVS Weight Management for more information.

Upcoming EUTF Health and Wellness Activities

Click on the title or scan the QR code for more info!

- Sept. 7-Oct. 4 Right On the Money Challenge
- Sept. 15 at 11:30am FIT: To be Tried Workshop
- Sept. 24 at 11:30am Watch Your Back: Back Care Workshop
- Oct. 13 at 11:30am Advance Care Planning Workshop
- Oct. 22 at 11:30am Personal Finance Workshop

EUTF Pre-Retirement Health Benefits Workshops

Register for a preretirement health benefits workshop and learn about EUTF retiree health 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 from now, join us for a 60-minute presentation to learn about applying for your EUTF retiree health insurance benefits.

Topics covered will include:

- Who's eligible to enroll
- Health plan options
- Medicare
- Premiums and contributions
- Differences between the active employee and retiree plans
- How to enroll

To register for an in-person workshop, email eutf.outreach@hawaii.gov with your name, date and location of the workshop you wish to attend. Space is limited and on a first come, first served basis. Attendees must coordinate to attend the workshop on their own time.

Date	Time	Location
Oct. 6, 2026	11:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.	Kaua'i Community College OCET Bldg., Room 106 C,D 3-1901 Kaumuali'i Hwy., Līhue, HI 96766
Oct. 12, 2026	1:30-2:30 p.m. 3-4 p.m.	Public Utilities Commission Kekuanao'a Bldg, Hearing Room 465 S. King St., Honolulu, HI 96813
Oct. 14, 2026	11:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.	UH Maui College Ka'aike Bldg., Room 105 B,C,D 310 W. Ka'ahumanu Ave., Kahului, HI 96732
Oct. 21, 2026	11:30 a.m.- 12:30 p.m.	Aunty Sally Kaleohano's Lū'au Hale 799 Pi'ilani St., Hilo, HI 96720
Oct. 23, 2026	1-2 p.m. 2:30-3:30 p.m.	Windward Community College Hale Akoakoa, Room 160 C 45-720 Kea'ahala Rd., Kāne'ohe, HI 96744

To register for a webinar, go to https://eutf.hawaii.gov/learning-center and click on "Webinars and Workshops". Click the topic and time link for the desired date and time you'd like to attend. Once your registration is approved, you'll receive an email with a link to the webinar. Attendees must coordinate to attend the webinar on their own time.

Date	Time
Sept. 24, 2026	11:00 a.m. - 12:00 p.m. 2:45 p.m. - 3:45 p.m.
Oct. 29, 2026	
Nov. 5, 2026	
Nov. 19, 2026	

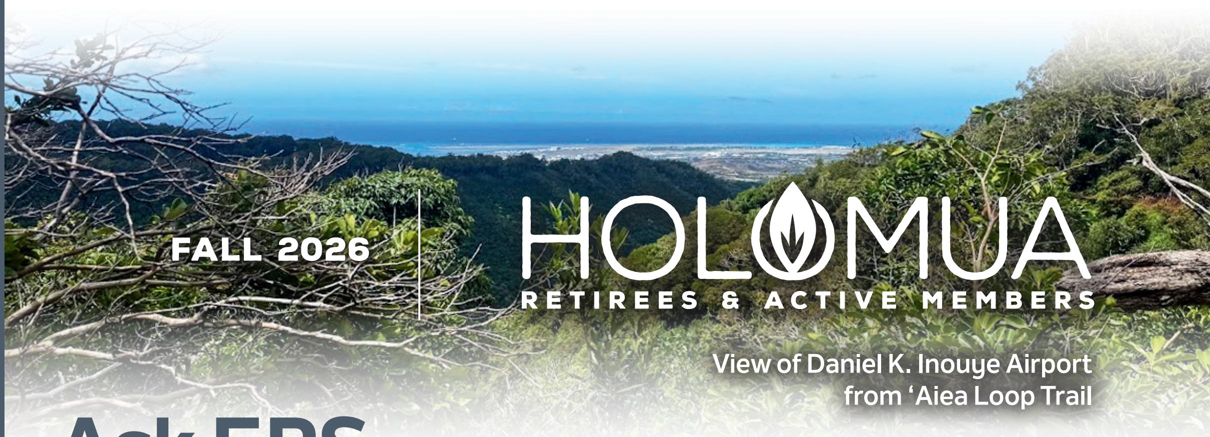
Medicare Part B Enrollment Webinar for EUTF Retirees

Are you an EUTF retiree reaching age 65? Join us for a 30-minute presentation to learn about the mandatory requirement to enroll in Medicare Part B in order to be enrolled in the EUTF retiree medical and/or prescription drug coverage. Topics covered will include:

- Medicare Eligibility
- Different Parts of Medicare
- Medicare Part B Premium Reimbursement
- EUTF Mandatory Medicare Part B Enrollment

To register for a webinar, go to https://eutf.hawaii.gov/learning-center and click on "Webinars and Workshops". Click the topic and time link for the desired date and time you'd like to attend. Once your registration is approved, you'll receive an email with a link to the webinar.

Date	Time
Oct. 15, 2026	11-11:30 a.m. 2:45-3:15 p.m.
Nov. 12, 2026	
Dec. 10, 2026	



View of Daniel K. Inouye Airport from ʻAiea Loop Trail

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

Kalbert K. Young
Executive Director

Anthony Goo
Interim Chief Investment Officer

Contact ERS-Pension
Monday-Friday 8am-4pm
(Except State Holidays)

For pension related questions, please contact ERS at:

Oʻahu: (808) 586-1735
Kauaʻi: (808) 274-3010
Hawaiʻi: (808) 974-4077
Maui: (808) 984-8181

Molokaʻi & Lānaʻi
toll-free to Maui:
1 (800) 468-4644, ext. 48181

Continental U.S. toll-free to Oʻahu:
1 (888) 659-0708

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,
or mail: 201 Merchant Street, Suite 1700
Honolulu, HI 96813

Ask ERS

Answers to some frequently asked questions

Q: Why are there two permissible retirement days in December for ERS?

A: Under Hawaiʻi Administrative Rules (HAR §6-26-2), most retirements are effective on the first day of the month. December is the only exception, allowing retirement to be effective on either the first or the last day of the month.

This exception provides flexibility for members who are planning to retire at year-end and helps accommodate different retirement, personnel and payroll timing needs during the month of December.

One such personnel consideration is the accrual and payment of unused vacation leave. Many employees accrue vacation on a calendar year basis with limitations on how much of any unused balance may be kept and rolled into the following calendar year. Retiring on the last day in December allows for the longest possible timeframe for both accrual and usage for those employees with an annual reset before the next year. Employees should check with their employer on the accrual, usage and unused vacation payment policies when planning their retirement.

The post-retirement increase would be another consideration specific between choosing to retire Dec. 31 or Jan. 1. The post-retirement increase is first effective the July of the calendar year following the year of retirement. For example, a Dec. 31, 2026 retiree would receive their first post-retirement increase July of 2027, while a Jan 1, 2027 retiree would first receive it July of 2028.

UA ʻIKE ANEI ʻOUKOU?

DID YOU KNOW?

The months of unused sick leave credited to retirees varied by group and was proportional to the amount of service at retirement. For the fiscal years between 2019 through 2024, the average months of sick leave credit by employee group was:

Employee Groups	Average Months of Credited Service at Retirement	Average Months of Unused Sick Leave	% Increase to the Months of Service Credit
General Employees	288.0	9.3	3.21%
Teachers	313.7	12.2	3.89%
Police & Fire	328.6	16.9	5.14%