

Health Benefits Sweetened With No Cost to Retirees

On March 13, 2003, the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) approved the benefit plans and corresponding premium rates for active employees and retirees effective July 1, 2003. The biggest concern for all retirees this past year has been the fear that they would either lose benefits or have to contribute a significant share of the monthly premiums. This fear did not come to pass. **We are happy to inform you that benefits were maintained or improved and will continue to be provided at no cost to retirees!**

To simplify the enrollment process for the retirees, the EUTF will send to each retiree an enrollment form that will include the current demographic information to include the current list of dependents, and the current plans that each retiree is enrolled in. If a retiree wants to remain in his/her current HMSA or Kaiser medical plan, HDS dental and VSP vision plans, then no enrollment form needs to be submitted.

Full-time students, ages 19 through 23, who are attending an accredited college, university or technical school, and domestic partners, are now eligible for benefits. To enroll full-time students or domestic partners, please add their names and other information to the enrollment form.

The life insurance plan is now underwritten by Aetna, so all retirees need to fill out new beneficiary forms that will be mailed to you in late April along with the enrollment form and new benefits booklet. In addition, your life insurance face value has been increased from \$1,800 to \$1,900.

Open enrollment for retirees will be conducted from May 1 – May 31, 2003, the same time as for the active employees. The complete open enrollment schedule will be published by March 21, 2003. You can also see the latest information on our website, www.hawaii.gov/budget/heuhbtf/heuhbtf.htm. You can contact the EUTF at: 586-7390 or by email at healthbenefitstrustfund@hawaii.gov.