

The following notice has been emailed to faculty members by the university:

Important notice regarding the Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) Health Benefit Plans:

Due to the severity and complexity of the State's fiscal situation, and the sizeable health plan rate increases that are anticipated, the EUTF Board of Trustees has not reached an agreement on the benefit plans and rates to be offered for the plan year beginning July 1, 2009. The Board has instead agreed to the following:

- The postponement of the EUTF Open Enrollment Period that was previously scheduled for May 18 – June 12, 2009. The open enrollment period will be rescheduled after the Board determines the 2009 – 2010 health plans and rates.
- The extension of the current health benefit plans through July 31, 2009. Rate increases will apply to certain benefit plans and will be announced shortly. The Board will consider further extensions for the months of August and September if it continues to be unable to reach an agreement.
- The scheduling of a limited special open enrollment period for hardship cases to be held from May 15 – June 12, 2009. This will accommodate employees who need to make changes effective July 1, 2009 and who would be negatively affected by a delay in the open enrollment. The EUTF will approve plan changes normally permitted only during the open enrollment period on a case-by-case basis for personal, medical or financial reasons. Employees who believe they qualify for this hardship must submit an Enrollment Change Form (EC-1) (http://www.eutf.hawaii.gov/OE_Forms/EC-1%20July%202007.doc) to their campus/college personnel officer and attach a brief explanation of why the change is needed and how inability to make the change would create a hardship for the employee and/or family.

EUTF will be issuing an employee newsletter this month and preparing individual notices for employees that contains their current benefit plans' enrollments and a brief description of the Board's actions. The individual notices are expected to be distributed in the middle of next week.

For nine-month employees who will be off-duty soon, we ask that you regularly read your email for important updates on the EUTF health benefit plans. Additional information may be obtained from the EUTF website: <http://www.eutf.hawaii.gov/> In addition, please ensure that your campus/college personnel officer has your current mailing address in the event that open enrollment materials need to be mailed to you.

Employees may call the EUTF at 536-7390 with any questions. Neighbor island employees may call toll free at 1-800-295-0089.