

## News from the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF)

### Some important reminders for retirees regarding Medicare Part B:

- If you and/or your dependent are retired and turning 65 years old, or you and/or your dependent are over 65 and are retiring, you **must** enroll in Medicare Part B to be enrolled in the EUTF and HSTA VB retiree medical and/or prescription drug plans.
- Retirees and their dependents, age 65 or older, who reside outside of the U.S., must also enroll in Medicare Part B.
- You are eligible to enroll in Medicare Part B as long as you are a U.S. citizen or a lawfully admitted noncitizen who has lived in the United States for at least five years. You do not have to be eligible for Medicare Part A (free hospital insurance) to purchase Medicare Part B.
- Medicare Part B Open Enrollment will be held January 1 – March 31, 2014, with coverage effective July 1, 2014.
- Once you are enrolled in Medicare Part B you are eligible to be reimbursed for your Medicare Part B premium. You **must** provide EUTF with the following information:
  1. A copy of your Medicare Part B card;
  2. A completed Direct Deposit Authorization Form (found on the EUTF website at [www.eutf.hawaii.gov](http://www.eutf.hawaii.gov)). The reimbursement effective date is the start date of your Part B coverage or the date EUTF receives a copy of your Part B card, **whichever is later**.
  3. A copy of the letter from the Social Security Administration (SSA) indicating the amount of your Part B premium, if you pay a higher than standard income-related Medicare Part B premium.
    - ☛ If you are receiving a Medicare Part B premium reimbursement that includes an income-related adjustment, EUTF re-sets your Medicare Part B premium to the standard amount every January 1st. Therefore, you must provide EUTF with a copy of the letter from the SSA indicating the amount of the income-related Medicare Part B premium each year.

Failure to provide the EUTF with the above-mentioned documents may result in your medical and/or prescription drug plans being terminated.

- If you are currently receiving Medicare Part B premium reimbursement by check, please contact our Finance Department at 586-7390 or toll-free at 1-800-295-0089, to arrange to have it deposited directly to your bank account just like Social Security.
- You are not required to enroll in Medicare Part B if you are only enrolled in the retiree dental, vision, and/or life insurance plans. However, please keep in mind that Medicare Part B enrollment is required if you wish to enroll in the retiree medical and/or prescription drug coverage at a later date. Delayed enrollment into Medicare Part B may result in penalties imposed by the Social Security Administration (SSA). These penalties are not reimbursable by the EUTF.
- EUTF reimburses you quarterly for the cost of your Medicare Part B premium (not including any penalties imposed by the SSA).
- Every January the Medicare Part B Premium Reimbursement amount resets to the standard amount **which is \$104.90 for 2014**. If you have a higher income-related premium contribution, please submit to the EUTF a copy of your letter from Social Security indicating your 2014 Medicare Part B Premium contribution.
- For more information on Medicare and your enrollment responsibility, please refer to the EUTF Retiree Reference Guide, or contact Social Security toll-free at 1-800-772-1213 or visit their website at [www.socialsecurity.gov](http://www.socialsecurity.gov).
- Please be sure EUTF has your current address and phone number.

**Important:** The EUTF is a separate organization from the ERS. If you have any questions about information in this article, please **DO NOT** contact ERS. Please contact the EUTF directly at 586-7390 or toll-free at 1-800-295-0089, or email the EUTF at [eutf@hawaii.gov](mailto:eutf@hawaii.gov). You can also visit our website for more information @ [www.eutf.hawaii.gov](http://www.eutf.hawaii.gov).