

HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
Minutes of the Board of Trustees
Tuesday, December 6, 2022

TRUSTEES PRESENT

Mr. Roderick Becker, Chairperson
Ms. Audrey Hidano, Vice Chairperson
Mr. Osa Tui, Secretary-Treasurer (via video conference)
Mr. Christian Fern
Mr. Wesley Machida (via video conference)
Ms. Celeste Nip (via video conference)
Mr. James Wataru
Mr. Robert Yu (via video conference)

TRUSTEES ABSENT

Ms. Jacqueline Ferguson-Miyamoto
Mr. Damien Elefante

ATTORNEY

Mr. Michael Chambrella, Deputy Attorney General (via video conference)

EUTF STAFF

Mr. Derek Mizuno, Administrator
Ms. Donna Tonaki, Assistant Administrator
Ms. Amy Cheung (via video conference)
Ms. Linda Green (via video conference)
Ms. Emily Kaimulua (via video conference)
Mr. Jack O'Neill (via video conference)
Ms. Jessica McDonald (via video conference)
Ms. Lara Nitta (via video conference)

CONSULTANTS (via video conference)

Ms. Diane Clausen, PSG
Mr. Stephen Murphy, Segal Consulting

OTHERS PRESENT (via video or audio conference)

Mr. Matthew Artz
Ms. Stacia Baek, HMSA
Ms. Sandra Benevides, CVS
Dr. Cass Caceres-Licos
Ms. Sophie Cocke
Ms. Erin Dey, Humana
Ms. Elaine Fujiwara, HDS
Ms. Samantha Furutani, CVS
Mr. Izeah Garcia
Dr. Rich Garcia
Mr. Dale Goya, HMSA
Mr. Galen Haneda, HMSA
Ms. Vanelle Hirayasu, HMA
Dr. Rachel Kaya
KITV4 News
Mr. Cary Koike, HMSA
Mr. Chris Letoto, HMSA
Ms. Alicia Lou, Honolulu Civil Beat
Mr. Carlos Mozo
Ms. Amy Perruso
Dr. Melissa Ring
Ms. Kathleen Rubio
Mr. Fred Seavey, NUHW
Dr. Tami Swonigan, Kaiser
Ms. Fanny Takehara, DHRD
Mr. Guy Tingey, CVS
Dr. Darah Wallsten
Ms. Lisa Webb
Jessica
Kimberly
Kimberly S.
Maui Kaiser member
Member Gillentine
Miki
NUHW observer
Zoe
Anonymous Attendee (x5)

I. CALL TO ORDER

The meeting of the Board of Trustees of the Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) was called to order at 9:00 a.m. by Chairperson Roderick Becker, in the EUTF Board Room, 201 Merchant Street, Suite 1700, Honolulu, Hawaii, on Tuesday, December 6, 2022.

II. NEW BUSINESS

- A. Kaiser Permanente – Member Access to Mental and Behavioral Health Support
- B. Special Open Enrollment

Mr. Derek Mizuno read a statement from Kaiser Permanente (Kaiser) that they are not participating in the meeting as they have provided responses to questions from the Board at the last meeting and it "would jeopardize progress we have made in our bargaining sessions." Mr. Mizuno summarized the two options provided by EUTF staff to address the access issue – 1) allow active employees (retirees had open enrollment during October) to submit appeals to change from Kaiser to HMSA plans or 2) conduct a special open enrollment to allow only changes from Kaiser to HMSA through December 23, 2022 with an effective date of January 1, 2023. Mr. Mizuno noted that staff is recommending the first option for the following reasons:

1. Kaiser's response noting the following:
 - Kaiser increased the number of external providers and are working to hire more internal staff.
 - 108 contracted providers are seeing new patients.
 - 42% increase in referrals to contracted providers.
 - Access to appointments improved post-strike as measured by conducting appointments within 48 hours for urgent appointments, 10 business days for initial appointments and 20 business days for follow up appointments.
2. DHRD and the County of Maui raised premium conversion plan (pre-tax deductions) issues. The appeal process will allow EUTF staff to determine compliance with premium conversion plan provisions and explain the issues with the member if they do not comply.
3. Ability to provide information to HMSA on the members changing plans.
4. Members have not called EUTF about this issue.

The Board voiced their concerns and upset with Kaiser not attending today's Board meeting, requirements under the contract for Kaiser to attend the meeting, Kaiser not describing the process of a member calling to schedule an appointment, why Kaiser Hawaii has not come to an agreement with the union when it is part of Kaiser California that has settled, and in the past the EUTF has not conducted a special open enrollment in similar situations and would conducting one now set a precedent for future labor disputes. Trustee Osa Tui noted that HSTA members have raised issues with accessing Kaiser's mental and behavioral health services and read statements from two members.

MOTION was made and seconded to delegate authority to the Administrator for appeals related to changing coverage for active employees from Kaiser to HMSA if the reason is difficulty in accessing Kaiser mental and behavioral health services. (Fern/Wataru) The Board discussed setting an end date for the appeal process noting that it should end the earlier of June 30, 2023 or the end of the strike.

An AMENDED MOTION was made and seconded to delegate authority through the earlier of the end of the NUHW strike or June 30, 2023 to the Administrator for appeals related to changing coverage for active employees from Kaiser to HMSA if the reason is difficulty in accessing Kaiser mental and behavioral health services. (Fern/Wataru) Members of the public – Dr. Swonigan, Kimberly, anonymous, Carlos Mozo, Rachel Kaya, Melissa Ring, and State Representative Amy Perruso – described their frustrations and concerns with accessing Kaiser's mental and behavioral health services. The Board further discussed how

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quickly staff can process the appeals, the member experience transitioning from Kaiser to HMSA and capacity at HMSA to provide necessary services. Mr. Cary Koike, HMSA, informed the Board that HMSA has reached out to providers to assess capacity and have them prepare for adding new patients. EUTF staff will provide HMSA will lists of members moving to HMSA through this process so HMSA can assist members with finding HMSA providers. The motion passed unanimously. (Employer Trustees-4/ Employee-Beneficiary Trustees-4)

VII. NEXT MEETING DATE

Tuesday, December 20, 2022, 9:00 a.m.

VIII. ADJOURNMENT

MOTION was made and seconded for the Board to adjourn the meeting at 10:16 a.m.

(Fern/Wataru) The motion passed unanimously. (Employer Trustees-4/Employee-Beneficiary Trustees-4)

Respectfully submitted,

/s/

Osa Tui, Secretary-Treasurer

APPROVED on December 20, 2022.

Documents Distributed:

1. Letter to General Counsel, National Committee for Quality Assurance from National Union of Healthcare Workers, Regarding Kaiser Foundation Health Plan, Inc. of Hawaii, Dated November 2, 2022. (12 pages)
2. Memorandum to BOT from Jessica McDonald, Member Services Branch Manager, Regarding Special Open Enrollment, Dated November 28, 2022. (1 page)