

LOIS P. SALAVERIA

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
Ka ‘Oihana Mālama Mo‘ohelu a Kālā P.O. BOX 150

HONOLULU, HAWAl'I 96810-0150

December 18, 2023

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President and Members of the Senate
Thirty Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker and Members of the House of Representatives
Thirty Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki and Members of the Legislature:
For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the Actuarial Asset and Liability Stress Test 2023 report, as required by Act 85, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2017. In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, a copy of this report has been transmitted to the Legislative Reference Bureau and the report may be viewed electronically at http://ers.ehawaii.gov/resources/reports-to-legislature.

Sincerely,<br>/S/<br>LUIS P. SALAVERIA<br>Director of Finance

## Enclosure

c: Legislative Reference Bureau
ec: Governor's Office: Gov.ReportsDistribution@hawaii.gov Lieutenant Governor's Office: LtGov.ReportsDistribution@hawaii.gov Legislative Auditor: auditors2@auditor.state.hi.us Department of Budget and Finance: DBFLeg.DIR@hawaii.gov

December 18, 2023

## Board of Trustees

Employees' Retirement System of
The State of Hawaii
City Financial Tower
201 Merchant St., Ste. 1400
Honolulu, HI 96813-2980

## Re: Stress Test Annual Report

Dear Members of the Board:

The purpose of this report is to provide the Employees' Retirement System of the State of Hawaii (ERS) with the information it must submit to the legislature as required by ACT - 85 (2017). Act - 85 (2017) requires that the actuary of the ERS perform an annual stress test as defined by the legislation and described below. This stress test us based on the preliminary valuation results of ERS as of July 1, 2023.

## Requirements of Annual Stress Test Report

The annual stress test must address the following scenarios:

1. A 30-year projection of the ERS's assets, liabilities, pension debt, service costs, employee contributions, employer contributions, net amortization, benefit payments, payroll, and funded ratio assuming the current actuarial assumptions are met, including a $7 \%$ return projected from the actuarial, or smoothed, value of assets. See Stress Test Exhibit 1.
2. Two 30-year projections of the same items above assuming the actual investment performance in future years is $2 \%$ less than the assumed rate of return, starting from the market value of assets as of the valuation date, but with two different contribution policies.
a. The first scenario shows the projected items assuming that the employer contribution rate in future years would increase if necessary to meet the current funding policy. In other words, if the funding period in a future year exceeds 30 years, the contribution rates would be adjusted to bring the funding period down to 30 years. See Stress Test Exhibit 2A.
b. The second scenario shows the projected items assuming no change in the current statutory contribution rates. See Stress Test Exhibit 2B.
3. Two 30-year projections of the same items above assuming the actual investment performance in the first year is a negative $20 \%$ followed by a 20 -year period where investment performance is $2 \%$ less than the assumed rate of return, but with two different contribution policies.
a. The first scenario shows the projected items assuming that the employer contribution rate in future years would increase if necessary to meet the current funding policy. In other words, if the funding period in a future year exceeds 30 years, the contribution rates would be adjusted to bring the funding period down to 30 years. See Stress Test Exhibit 3A.
b. The second scenario shows the projected items assuming no change in the current statutory contribution rates. See Stress Test Exhibit 3B.
4. The estimated actuarial accrued liability, the total normal cost for each benefit tier, and the employer normal cost for each benefit tier under the current investment return assumption and using the 10-year average of the 30-year treasuries notes as of the valuation date. See Stress Test Exhibit 4.

## Stress Test Summary Results

The information required by the legislation is contained in the tables that follow this letter. The following is some brief commentary concerning the results themselves.

1. As shown in Stress Test Exhibit 1, the ERS is expected to be fully funded ( $100 \%$ funded ratio) in fiscal year ending 2046. Important Note: the Statutes governing the ERS contemplate that the employer contribution rates would be changed when the ERS is fully funded. However, because the statutes governing the stress test require the use of the same contribution pattern for Scenario's 1, 2B and 3B, we felt it would be inappropriate to change the contribution rates for Scenario \#1 since the contribution rates would not change under the ERS statute in Scenarios 2B and 3 B .
2. Stress Test Exhibits $2 A$ and $2 B$ are identical. This is because the funding period at future valuation dates under both scenarios is never expected to exceed 30 years. The impact of the underperformance is a lengthening of the period of time until the plan is fully funded, but it is never expected to be more than 30 years from a future valuation date. Note this is true in aggregate as well as for the All Other Employee group and the Police and Fire Employee group when determined separately.
3. Under the first part of the $3^{\text {rd }}$ Stress Test (see Stress Test Exhibit 3A) the employer contribution rates would ultimately increase to $26.00 \%$ of pay for All Other Employees and $49.00 \%$ of pay for Police and Firefighters and remain at those levels for the foreseeable future. As shown in Stress Test Exhibit 3B (Employer Contributions remain at statutory rates) the funded ratio would decline to approximately $32 \%$ but the trust is never exhausted. The funded ratio would begin to slowly climb once the 20-year period of 5\% returns ends.

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4. The 10 -year average of the 30 -year treasury notes is $2.78 \%$ as of July $1,2023$.

Based on the information reviewed for this report, the stress test shows that the System is sustainable in the protracted low return environment of Scenario \#2, but would require maintaining the current contribution patterns for a much longer period of time than is currently expected. While we believe the likelihood of Scenario \#3 occurring is remote, if it did occur it would require an increase in the employer contribution rates under the current statutes and the higher rates would be required for many years.

## Disclosures

The information contained in this report is based on the preliminary valuation results of the ERS as of June 30,2023 . While the actual valuation results may be slightly different, it is not expected that those changes will have any material impact on the information contained herein.

Except as noted, the data, financial information, and actuarial methods and assumptions are those used in the June 30, 2023 actuarial valuation. These assumptions are detailed in the actuarial valuation report dated January 2024. The results of the actuarial valuation and this "Stress Test" are dependent on the actuarial assumptions used. Actual results can and almost certainly will differ, as actual experience deviates from the assumptions. Even seemingly minor changes in the assumptions can materially change the liabilities, calculated contribution rates and funding periods. Based on the scope of this engagement, we have not performed analysis on the potential range of future measurements based on other factors. The actuarial calculations are intended to provide information for rational decision making.

This report was prepared using our proprietary valuation model and related software which in our professional judgment has the capability to provide results that are consistent with the purposes of the valuation. We performed tests to ensure that the model reasonably represents that which is intended to be modeled.

Joe Newton is a member of the American Academy of Actuaries and meets the Qualification Standards of the American Academy of Actuaries to render the actuarial opinions contained herein.

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We look forward to discussing the results of this analysis with the Board.

Sincerely,


Lewis Ward
Consultant


Joseph P. Newton
Pension Market Leader and Actuary

Enclosures

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# Hawaii Employees Retirement System 

Stress Test Projections
(Dollar Amounts in \$ Millions)


Hawaii Employees' Retirement System
Stress Test Exhibit 2A - Actual Returns are 5\% (2\% Less than Assumed)
Scenario A - Contribution Rates Adjusted if Necessary to Keep Future Valuations' Funding Periods at 30 Years or Less (Dollar Amounts in \$ Millions)


Hawaii Employees' Retirement System<br>Stress Test Exhibit 2B - Actual Returns are 5\% (2\% Less than Assumed) Scenario B - Contribution Rates Kept at Current Statutory Rates<br>(Dollar Amounts in \$ Millions)



Hawaii Employees' Retirement System
Stress Test Exhibit 3A - Negative 20\% Return Followed by 20-Year Period with 5\% Returns
Scenario A - Contribution Rates Adjusted if Necessary to Keep Future Valuations' Funding Periods at 30 Years or Less (Dollar Amounts in \$ Millions)


# Hawaii Employees' Retirement System <br> Stress Test Exhibit 3B - Negative 20\% Return Followed by 20-Year Period with 5\% Returns Scenario B - Contribution Rates Kept at Current Statutory Rates <br> (Dollar Amounts in \$ Millions) 



## Hawaii Employees' Retirement System

Stress Test Exhibit 4 - Comparison of Cost Items at Current Investment Return Assumption (7.0\%) and 10-Year Average of 30-Year Treasuries (2.78\%)

Membership Tier
Actuarial Accured Liability
Total Normal Cost \%
Employer Normal Cost \%

| Valuation Assumptions |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Hired Prior to | Hired After |
| July 1, 2012 | June 30, 2012 |
| $\$ 27,434$ | $\$ 1,631$ |
| $12.78 \%$ | $12.24 \%$ |
| $8.28 \%$ | $4.16 \%$ |

Police and Fire Employees

| Valuation Assumptions |  |
| :---: | :---: |
| Hired Prior to <br> July 1, 2012 | Hired After <br> June 30, 2012 |
| $\$ 6,938$ | $\$ 222$ |
| $28.60 \%$ | $22.46 \%$ |
| $16.40 \%$ | $8.26 \%$ |

10-Year Average of 30-Year Treasuries

| Hired Prior to <br> July 1,2012 |  | Hired After <br> June 30, 2012 |
| :---: | :---: | :---: |
| $\$ 12,442$ | $\$ 578$ |  |
| $87.22 \%$ | $66.93 \%$ |  |
| $75.02 \%$ | $52.73 \%$ |  |

Dollar Amounts are in \$ Millions

