



January 17, 2024

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
Senate President
415 South Beretania Street
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

VIA EMAIL

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
415 South Beretania Street
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

RE: Financial Audit of the Employees' Retirement System of the State of Hawai'i

Dear President Kouchi and Speaker Saiki:

The audit report on the financial statements of the Employees' Retirement System of the State of Hawai'i for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022, was issued on October 18, 2023. The Office of the Auditor retained Eide Bailly LLP to perform the financial audit. For your information, we are attaching a copy of the two-page Auditor's Summary of the financial audit report.

You may view the financial audit report and Auditor's Summary on our website at:

https://files.hawaii.gov/auditor/Reports/2022_Audit/ERS2022.pdf; and

https://files.hawaii.gov/auditor/Reports/2022_Audit/ERS_Summary_2022.pdf.

If you have any questions about the report, please contact me.

Very truly yours,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "LH Kondo".

Leslie H. Kondo
State Auditor

LHK:LYK:emo

Attachment

cc/attach (Auditor's Summary only): Members of the Senate
Members of the House of Representatives
Carol Taniguchi, Senate Chief Clerk
Brian Takeshita, House Chief Clerk

Auditor's Summary

Financial Audit of the Employees' Retirement System of the State of Hawai'i

Financial Statements, Fiscal Year Ended June 30, 2022



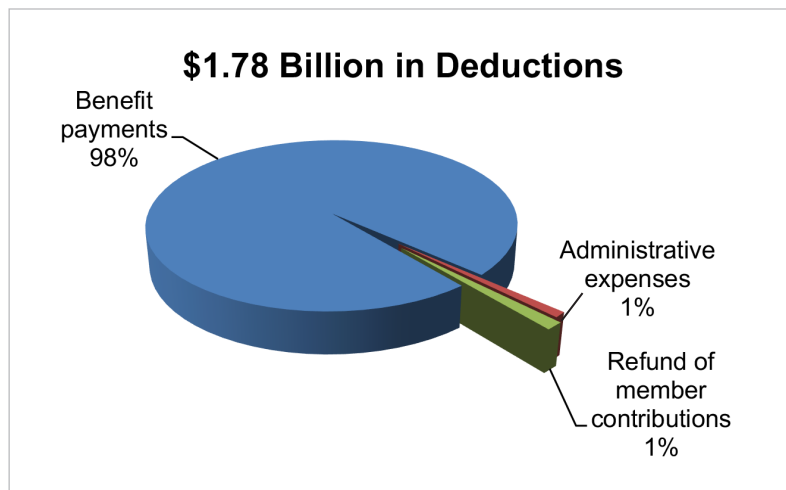
***THE PRIMARY PURPOSE** of the audit was to form an opinion on the fairness of the presentation of the financial statements for the Employees' Retirement System of the State of Hawai'i, as of and for the fiscal year ended June 30, 2022. The audit was conducted by Eide Bailly LLP.*

About the System

The Employees' Retirement System of the State of Hawai'i (ERS) is a cost-sharing, multiple-employer retirement system for government workers. Through its pension benefits program, ERS provides a defined-benefit pension plan for all state and county employees, including teachers, professors, police officers, firefighters, correction officers, judges and elected officials. ERS is governed by a Board of Trustees, which consists of eight members.

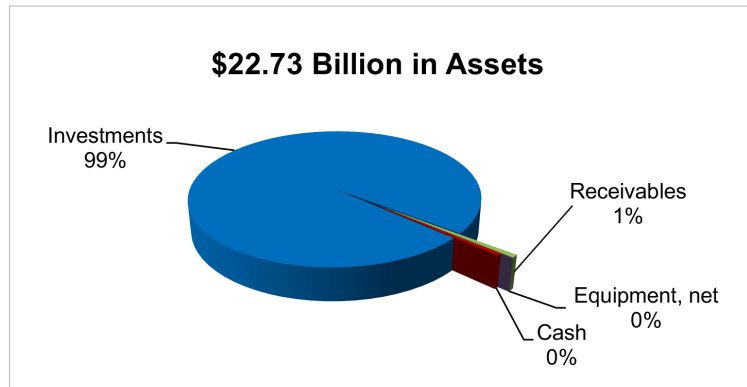
Financial Highlights

FOR THE FISCAL YEAR ended June 30, 2022, ERS reported total net additions of approximately \$1.7 billion. Additions consisted of \$1.53 billion from contributions and \$165 million in net investment income.



Total deductions of approximately \$1.78 billion consisted of (1) \$1.74 billion for benefit payments; (2) \$17 million for administrative expenses; and (3) \$24 million for refund of member contributions.

As of June 30, 2022, assets totaled \$22.73 billion and liabilities totaled \$872 million, leaving a net position balance of \$21.86 billion. Total assets included (1) investments of \$22.47 billion; (2) receivables of \$156 million; (3) cash of \$99 million; and (4) net equipment of \$5 million.



Auditor's Opinion

ERS RECEIVED AN UNMODIFIED OPINION that the financial statements were presented fairly, in all material respects, in accordance with generally accepted accounting principles.

Findings

THE AUDITORS IDENTIFIED A MATERIAL WEAKNESS and a significant deficiency in internal control over financial reporting that were required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*.

A material weakness is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control, such that there is reasonable possibility that a material misstatement of the entity's financial statements will not be prevented, or detected and corrected, on a timely basis. The material weakness identified by the auditors related to the classification of certain investments. A reclassifying journal entry was recorded by management to correct the classification and accounting for these investments. There was no impact on net position, but the journal entry had material impacts on financial statement line items in the statement of fiduciary net position. Management acknowledged the finding and has implemented procedures to monitor, review, and approve investment classifications for reporting in conformity with similar investments held by other statewide employee retirement systems.

A significant deficiency is a deficiency, or a combination of deficiencies, in internal control that is less severe than a material weakness, yet important enough to merit attention by those charged with governance. The significant deficiency identified by the auditors related to the lack of a documented journal entry review and approval process. Management acknowledged the finding and has implemented procedures to strengthen the journal entry, review, and approval process.

There were no instances of noncompliance or other matters required to be reported under *Government Auditing Standards*. The Independent Auditors' Report on Internal Control over Financial Reporting and on Compliance and Other Matters Based on an Audit of Financial Statements Performed in Accordance with *Government Auditing Standards* is reported separately and is available upon request.



For the complete report and financial statements, visit our website at:
https://files.hawaii.gov/auditor/Reports/2022_Audit/ERS2022.pdf