

House Committee on Health  
Date: Wednesday, March 27, 2013  
Time: 10:00 am  
Place: Conference Room 329  
Testimony in Support of HCR81/HR62

Dear Chairwoman Belatti, Vice Chairwoman Morikawa, and Members of the HLT Committee:

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in strong support of HCR81/HR62.

As a member of the Hawaii Army National Guard, I am eligible for Tricare Reserve Select (TRS), a premium-based health plan available for purchase by eligible members of the National Guard and Reserves.

Opting for TRS is cheaper for state and county employed Guardsmen and Reservists. For this reason, I cancelled my medical and drug coverage from the Hawaii Employer-Union Health benefits Trust Fund (EUTF) effective November 1, 2010. The current monthly premium cost for TRS for my family and me is only \$195.81. This premium includes medical and prescription drugs. I will save \$432.61 monthly or \$5,191.32 yearly (assuming current premiums rates for EUTF and Tricare RS). Other state and county workers also in the Guard and Reserves would see savings.

Covering the Tricare Select costs would not only save Guardsmen and Reservists money, but would also save EUTF a large amount of money. Based on the current premium rates, EUTF will save \$533.34 monthly and \$6,400.08 yearly because it no longer will need to pay the employer portion of the premium for my family. If EUTF decides to pay the Tricare RS premium for each employee, EUTF will save \$340.45 monthly or \$4,085.40 yearly for each employee. Furthermore, if only 245 Tricare RS-eligible employees choose this option, EUTF will save more than \$1 million each year.

I appealed to EUTF for three years through four letters requesting consideration of TRS coverage and was denied on all accounts.

These resolutions urge the Board of Trustees of EUTF to further consider covering Tricare Reserve Select and encourage further discussion of the feasibility of this proposal. For these reasons, I strongly support HCR81/HR62.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify before you today.

With warmest aloha,

K. Mark Takai  
State Representative  
33<sup>rd</sup> House District

TESTIMONY BY SANDRA YAHIRO  
ACTING ADMINISTRATOR, HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST  
FUND, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE  
STATE OF HAWAII  
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH

ON

**HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 81**

March 27, 2013, 10:00 a.m.

URGING THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND TO PAY THE TRICARE RESERVE SELECT PREMIUMS FOR ELIGIBLE STATE AND COUNTY EMPLOYEES WHO ARE MEMBERS OF THE NATIONAL GUARD AND RESERVES WHO DECLINE HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE THROUGH THE HAWAII EMPLOYER UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND AND INSTEAD OPT FOR HEALTH INSURANCE COVERAGE THROUGH TRICARE RESERVE SELECT

The Hawaii Employer Union Health Benefits Trust Fund Board of Trustees (Board) discussed the concept of paying the Tricare premium for those members who opt out of EUTF coverage and enroll in Tricare. The Board is opposed to paying the Tricare premium because it believes there are many similar situations where members would also ask for EUTF to pay their premiums if they opt out of EUTF coverage, such as when members may be covered under a spouse's plan. If EUTF pays for Tricare, as H.C.R. 81 suggests, EUTF would need to consider paying for the premiums of members who become covered under their spouse's private sector plans. At this time EUTF does not have information on the numbers of members that are enrolled in Tricare or that now have other coverage, such as coverage under a spouse's private sector plan.