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MUTUAL BENEFIT ASSOCIATION OF HAWAII

MEMORANDUM

February 25, 2002

TO: **Administrative Committee**
Hawaii Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund

FROM: **Melvin M. Higa**
Senior Vice President

SUBJECT: **Communications from the Public**

The Department of Accounting and General Services (DAGS) is mandated, by law, for establishment of the state government's communication backbone, providing centralized computer information management and processing services, coordinating the use of all information processing equipment, software, facilities, and services in the executive branch of the State, and consulting and support services in the use of information processing and management technologies to improve the efficiency, effectiveness, and productivity of state government programs. Further, the law also requires that the state communication system established by DAGS be to:

(1) Facilitate implementation of the State's distributed information processing and information resource management plans;

(2) Improve data, voice, and video communications in state government; and

(3) Provide a means for connectivity among the state, university, and county computer systems.

Said mandate raise questions as to jurisdiction, funding and performance of services to be delivered by DAGS to June 30, 2003, and from beginning July 1, 2003. Answers on this matter are critical to the many issues the board of trustees and the board committees need to address. For example, this matter could affect the Administrative Committee's deliberations on meeting Agenda Items (B) Draft Procurement Process, (C) Interim Budget, (D) Appropriation Request to 2002 Legislature, (F) TPA vs. In-house Administration, and (H) Retention of Advisors.

Thank you for allowing us the opportunity to submit our input.

Respectfully submitted,

Melvin M. Higa

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