

OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
KE KE'ENA O KA MEIA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



MICHAEL D. FORMBY
MANAGING DIRECTOR
PO'O HO'OKELE

KRISHNA F. JAYARAM
DEPUTY MANAGING DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O HO'OKELE

April 9, 2026

The Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair and Presiding Officer
and Members
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Waters and Councilmembers:

SUBJECT: Cost Items – Hawai'i Fire Fighters Association
Bargaining Unit 11
(Included and Excluded Managerial)
July 1, 2025 – June 30, 2029

Pursuant to Section 89-11(g), Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), I am submitting for your action the cost items as contained in the final and binding arbitration award for Bargaining Unit 11 that was recently issued. The Collective Bargaining Agreement is effective from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2029.

According to Chapter 89, HRS, cost items require City Council action. Section 89-11(g), HRS, provides that,

"All items requiring any moneys for implementation shall be subject to appropriations by the appropriate legislative bodies and the employer shall submit all such items within ten days after the date on which the agreement is entered into as provided herein, to the appropriate legislative bodies."

Furthermore, in accordance with HRS Section 89C-3(b)(2), civil service managers excluded from Bargaining Unit 11 shall be provided adjustments that result in compensation and benefit packages that are at least equal to the compensation and benefit packages provided under collective bargaining agreements for counterparts and subordinates within the employer's jurisdiction.

Attached is a proposed resolution for your favorable consideration and Exhibit A, which is a summary of the cost items for Bargaining Unit 11 included and civil service excluded managerial employees.

MAYOR'S MESSAGE 48(26)

The Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair and Presiding Officer
and Members
April 9, 2026
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Should you have any questions, please contact Nola N. Miyasaki, Director of the Department of Human Resources, the City's representative for collective bargaining, at 808-768-8500.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Rick Blangiardi". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style with a large initial "R".

Rick Blangiardi
Mayor

Attachments: Exhibit A (Report to City Council)
Proposed Resolution

cc: Department of Budget and Fiscal Services
(w/ Attachments)
Department of Human Resources
(w/ Attachments)

**REPORT TO CITY COUNCIL
COLLECTIVE BARGAINING AGREEMENT FOR BARGAINING UNIT 11 (HFFA)
INCLUDED AND EXCLUDED MANAGERIAL**

Background

Negotiations with the Hawai'i Fire Fighters Association (HFFA) began with the exchange of proposals on July 31, 2024. The collective bargaining agreement for Bargaining Unit (BU) 11 expired on June 30, 2025. On June 27, 2025, HFFA and Employers (State of Hawai'i, City and County of Honolulu, County of Kaua'i, County of Maui, and County of Hawai'i) agreed to extend the terms of the BU 11 collective bargaining agreement from July 1, 2025 and until a new agreement was approved and implemented. The Hawai'i Labor Relations Board declared impasse on November 8, 2024, and on September 8, 2025, the parties selected Arbitrator Thomas F. Levak, Esq. as the neutral arbitrator and chairperson of the arbitration panel. A hearing was conducted in Honolulu, Hawai'i from December 8, 2025, through December 11, 2025, and the arbitration panel recently issued its decision. This request also includes the agreement reached by the parties regarding Employer contributions to the Hawai'i Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF), Section 50 of the collective bargaining agreement.

Positions Covered in the City and County of Honolulu (as of April 1, 2026)

Bargaining Unit	Included	Excluded	Excluded Managerial	Total
11 – Fire Fighters	1,040	0	28	1,068

Duration

The BU 11 Collective Bargaining Agreement will be effective from July 1, 2025 through June 30, 2029. However, there is reopener language specific to the Employers' contributions to the EUTF for the plan years 2027 – 2028 and 2028 – 2029, allowing either party to give written notice of its intent to reopen EUTF negotiations by January 31, 2027.

Cost Items

A. Salaries

1. **Effective retroactively to July 1, 2025:**

- a. Three percent (3%) across-the-board increase to the salary schedule.

2. **Effective July 1, 2026:**

- a. Three percent (3%) across-the-board increase to the salary schedule.

3. **Effective July 1, 2027:**

- a. Two and five-tenths percent (2.5%) across-the-board increase to the salary schedule.

4. **Effective July, 1, 2028:**

- a. Two and five-tenths percent (2.5%) across-the-board increase to the salary schedule.

The following chart summarizes the City's estimated salary costs for the four-year contract period for BU 11:

SALARY COSTS FOR BARGAINING UNIT 11*					
	FY 2026	FY 2027**	FY 2028**	FY 2029**	TOTAL
Included Employees	\$5,113,085	\$10,601,870	\$15,154,620	\$19,979,713	\$50,849,288
EM Employees	\$238,351	\$494,215	\$706,446	\$931,372	\$2,370,384
TOTAL	\$5,351,436	\$11,096,085	\$15,861,066	\$20,911,085	\$53,219,672

* Includes wage-related fringe benefits.

** Includes rollover from previous year.

B. **Employer-Union Health Benefits Trust Fund (EUTF)**

1. **Effective July 1, 2025:** The Employer will pay specific dollar amounts for the PPO and HMO plans. These amounts will generally equate to sixty percent (60%) of the final premium rates of the HMSA 80-20 medical plan (with drug and chiropractic care) established by the Trust Fund Board subject to a cap of 90% of the total premium for each plan. The Employer will pay specific monthly contributions which are generally equivalent to sixty percent (60%) of the premium cost and sixty percent (60%) of the administrative fees for all other plans except the life insurance plan (for which the Employer shall pay one hundred percent (100%) of the premiums and fees).
2. **Effective July 1, 2026:** The Employer will pay specific dollar amounts for the PPO and HMO plans. These amounts will generally equate to 60 percent of the final premium rates of the HMSA 80-20 medical plan (with drug and chiropractic care) established by the Trust Fund Board subject to a cap of 90% of the total premium for each plan. The Employer will pay specific monthly contributions which are generally equivalent to 60 percent of the premium cost and 60 percent of the administrative fees for all other plans except the life insurance plan (for which the Employer shall pay 100 percent (100%) of the premiums and fees).

The following chart summarizes the City's estimated EUTF costs for the first two years of the contract period:

FY26	FY27	Total FY26-27
\$1,079,816	\$2,151,366	\$3,231,182



RESOLUTION

APPROVING COLLECTIVE BARGAINING COST ITEMS FOR THE HAWAII FIRE FIGHTERS ASSOCIATION BARGAINING UNIT 11 INCLUDED AND EXCLUDED MANAGERIAL EMPLOYEES OF THE CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU.

WHEREAS, Chapter 89, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), establishes a statewide collective bargaining process for public employees; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Chapter 89, HRS, the employers and representatives of Bargaining Unit 11 (Hawai'i Fire Fighters Association) began negotiations on September 6, 2024, concerning a collective bargaining agreement for the employees in the bargaining unit; and

WHEREAS, negotiation and mediation efforts were unsuccessful and an arbitrator appointed by the parties recently rendered a decision; and

WHEREAS, for civil service managers excluded from Bargaining Unit 11, pursuant to Section 89C-3(b)(2), HRS, "Adjustments for excluded civil service employees result in compensation and benefit packages that are at least equal to the compensation and benefit packages provided under collective bargaining agreements for counterparts and subordinates within the employer's jurisdiction;" and

WHEREAS, the new collective bargaining agreement will make adjustments to wages and other non-wage cost items, and will be effective from July 1, 2025, through June 30, 2029; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to Section 89-11(g), HRS, the wage and non-wage cost items are subject to appropriations by the respective legislative bodies; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that it approve the collective bargaining cost items for the Bargaining Unit 11 included and civil service excluded managerial employees of the City and County of Honolulu, a summary of which is attached as Exhibit A; and



CITY COUNCIL
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU
HONOLULU, HAWAII

No. _____

RESOLUTION

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Mayor and Director of Human Resources of the City.

INTRODUCED BY:

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers