



DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL

News Release

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GOVERNOR

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**COURT GRANTS ATTORNEY GENERAL'S REQUEST FOR PRELIMINARY INJUNCTION  
REQUIRING UPW AND HGEA TO MAKE THEIR WELFARE BENEFIT PLAN RECORDS  
AVAILABLE FOR AUDIT**

Yesterday afternoon, Circuit Court Judge Eden Elizabeth Hifo granted Attorney General Earl I. Anzai's motion for preliminary injunction to require the Hawaii Government Employees Association (HGEA) and the United Public Workers (UPW) to make accounting and other records relating to their health, life, drug, and dental insurance plans available for audit by the State Comptroller.

Judge Hifo ruled that there was a compelling public interest in how public funds that have been transferred to UPW and HGEA by the State Public Employees Health Fund have been expended. The Court also ruled that the State had a strong likelihood of success on the merits of its claim that UPW and HGEA had certified that they would permit an audit of these records.

Eleven of 13 public worker unions have made their records available for audit, or agreed to do so. The Attorney General filed suit on March 15, 2002 and sought an injunction against HGEA and UPW because they refused to produce their records for audit.

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