



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®

Ke Kulanui o Hawai'i

David Lassner
President

DEPT. COMM. NO. 395

January 22, 2024

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,
President and Members of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 409
Honolulu, HI 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki, Speaker
and Members of the House of
Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 431
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

Pursuant to Section 304A-3007, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, I am transmitting a copy of the 2023 Annual Report of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i.

In accordance with §93-16, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, we have also transmitted a copy of this report to the Legislative Reference Bureau Library.

The public may view an electronic copy of this report on at the following link:
<http://www.rcuh.com/>.

Sincerely,

David Lassner
President

Enclosure

c: Legislative Reference Bureau Library

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RCUH

Research Corporation
of the University of Hawai'i

'Ahauiua Noi'i O Ke Kulanui O Hawai'i

2023

ANNUAL REPORT

WELCOME



This year was full of unexpected and impactful events in the State of Hawai'i and abroad. Despite these challenges and stressors, we were blessed with another record funding year with many notable achievements in our research community. We wish everyone the best and trust that 2024 will be prosperous and memorable for everyone.

Consistent with previous RCUH annual reports, this year's report provides the opportunity to celebrate the people who contribute to advancing our mission to support and enhance research, development, and training in Hawai'i, with a focus on the University of Hawai'i (UH). As always, this includes RCUH's core staff, whose daily commitment and work makes it possible to deliver excellent support and resources to our research community. We are truly thankful for their hard work and dedication during these very busy and fortunate times of record extramural funding. We also continue to invest in technology and our professional staff to improve our services for the research community as efficiently and cost-effectively as possible.

We will embark on year three of our five-year strategic plan with an emphasis on continually improving and refining our services and value to UH and the State of Hawai'i. Our major achievements in calendar year 2023 include:

- Establishing a single physical location for core staff,
- Increasing outreach to projects via in-person meetings and virtual Q&A sessions,
- Transferring the majority of Revolving Accounts back to the University,



Leonard Gouveia, Jr.
Executive Director



Ken Hayashida
Board Chair

- Completing a working capital reserve policy approved by the RCUH Board of Directors,
- Enhancing internal data and systems security procedures, and
- Beginning the implementation of the replacement of the AS400.

Complete updates can be found in the minutes of our RCUH Board materials on our website. We also want to recognize and thank those at UH who have collaborated with us in making necessary changes and modifications to improve the work that we do.

Like past reports, information relating to RCUH's financial and personnel status is for the fiscal year (July 2022–June 2023), while the program reports are for the calendar year. Once again, it is important to note that the reviews of external auditors indicate that RCUH is operating without any major weaknesses.

Finally, we acknowledge and thank the RCUH Board of Directors for their expertise, support, and guidance throughout this past year, and recognize our new chair, Ken Hayashida. We look forward to continue working closely with our board throughout the year. We hope you find this report interesting and helpful and encourage anyone to reach out to us if there are any questions or concerns. This report is also posted at www.rcuh.com.

ABOUT US



The Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i (RCUH) was established by the Hawai'i State Legislature in 1965 as a public instrumentality and is attached to the University of Hawai'i (UH) for administrative purposes.

To fulfill its mission, RCUH is exempt from certain State procurement and personnel laws. This allows RCUH to provide rapid and efficient services that enable its clients to be more productive and to meet their research, development, and training objectives in a timely manner.

OUR VISION

A Hawai'i where research, development, and training flourish and energize a prosperous state economy.

OUR MISSION

To support and enhance research, development, and training in Hawai'i with a focus on the University of Hawai'i.

RCUH BOARD OF DIRECTORS

The affairs of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i are under the general management and control of its eight-member Board of Directors.



Ken Hayashida
Board Chair



Kelli Goodin
Vice Chair



William Haning III



David Karl



Jaret KC Leong



Taryn Salmon



Vassilis Syrmos



Ernest Wilson

ALOHA 'OE!

Mahalo to our two outgoing board members who completed their term in 2023. You'll be missed!



Eugene Bal III



Diane Paloma

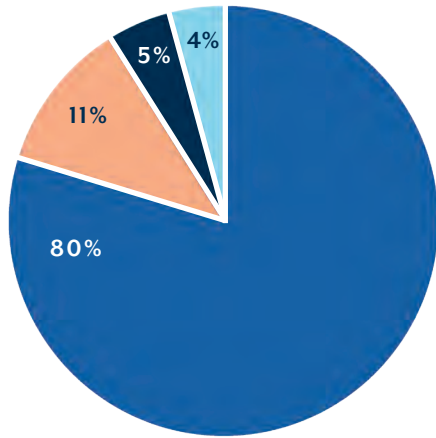
Cover photo by Andrew Gray/Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research (CIMAR); back cover photo courtesy CIMAR

FINANCIAL & HR REPORT



VOLUME OF BUSINESS BY PROJECT TYPE

(Monies processed in the RCUH Financial System to support research projects, not RCUH revenue)



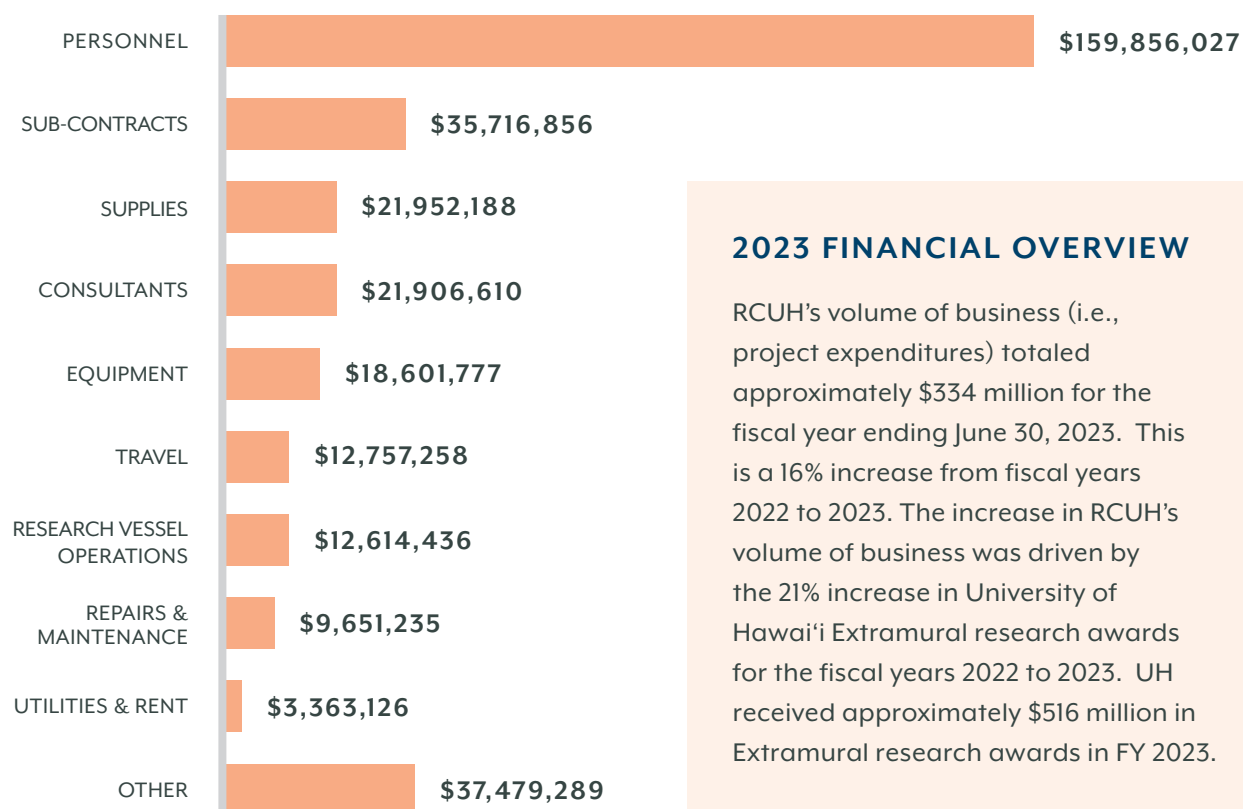
TOTAL VOLUME OF BUSINESS:
\$333,898,802

- **UH EXTRAMURAL PROJECTS (\$266,558,062)**
 Externally sponsored federal and non-federal contracts, grants, and other agreements
- **UH REVOLVING PROJECTS (\$37,593,990)**
 Self-sustaining, income-generating projects established to support a specialized service activity, a recharge center, or other sales and service activities
- **UH INTRAMURAL PROJECTS (\$16,094,345)**
 Internally sponsored programs or activities funded with UH Research and Training Revolving Funds (RTRF) or Tuition and Fee Special Funds (TFSF)
- **DIRECT PROJECTS (\$13,652,405)**
 Projects assigned to and accepted by RCUH from non-UH organizations, including federal and State agencies, international organizations, and other not-for-profit organizations

PROJECTS BY COUNTY

COUNTY	NO. OF PROJECTS	NO. OF EMPLOYEES	VOL. OF BUSINESS
HONOLULU	3,547	1,713	\$272,616,355
HAWAI'I	409	606	\$32,394,781
MAUI	154	317	\$26,926,239
KAUA'I	21	80	\$1,961,427
STATEWIDE	4,131	2,716	\$333,898,802
OTHER (Continental U.S. + International)		178	

FY 2023 FINANCIAL EXPENDITURES



2023 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

RCUH's volume of business (i.e., project expenditures) totaled approximately \$334 million for the fiscal year ending June 30, 2023. This is a 16% increase from fiscal years 2022 to 2023. The increase in RCUH's volume of business was driven by the 21% increase in University of Hawai'i Extramural research awards for the fiscal years 2022 to 2023. UH received approximately \$516 million in Extramural research awards in FY 2023.

TRANSACTIONS BY FISCAL YEAR

TRANSACTIONS	FY 2023	FY 2022	FY 2021
TIMESHEETS/eTIMESHEETS	59,075	57,367	57,379
VENDOR PAYMENTS	40,171	33,814	29,981
NON-PO PAYMENTS	23,181	18,688	16,983
PURCHASE ORDERS	12,271	11,186	9,997
TRAVEL REQUESTS/COMPLETIONS	14,058	7,572	3,256
CASH RECEIPTS	9,036	8,832	6,316
W-2'S ISSUED *	3,823	3,527	3,574
TERMINATIONS	1,314	1,497	1,445
NEW HIRES	1,546	1,520	1,633

* Data reported based on calendar year

2023 YEAR IN REVIEW



RCUH continues to make progress in Year 2 of its 2022–2026 Strategic Plan. The summary below will take a look at each goal and provide updates on objectives that are in progress or have been completed.

GOAL #1: EVALUATE AND IMPLEMENT RECOMMENDATIONS FROM THE RCUH TASK FORCE.

Developed policy regarding appropriate RCUH reserve levels and use, including coverage of UH/RCUH liabilities.

In March 2023, the RCUH Board of Directors approved a policy that guides RCUH's working capital reserves. Finance Director Glenn Yee provided a presentation to the Board and explained the difference between RCUH's project contingent liability reserve and its working capital reserve, which is the balance of funds beyond regular annual operational funds. See [Policy 4.900](#) for further details.

Collaborated with UH IT on replacement of RCUH's AS400 system.

RCUH entered into a \$3 million contract to replace its AS400 system and transition its systems to an enterprise and development

platform. UH Information Technology Services (ITS) provided input on technology enhancements, work scope, and pricing. As of December 2023, the enterprise platform is forecasted to be completed in early 2024, while the AS400 transition is estimated to be completed at the end of 2024.

Transferred Revolving Account funds from RCUH back to the University.

RCUH worked closely with the UH Office of Research Services (ORS) and UH fiscal staff for a span of seven months on the transition of Revolving Accounts from RCUH's Financial Portal to UH's Kualii Financial System. Although few projects received an exemption to transfer in 2024, the majority of accounts (totaling approximately \$10.5 million) moved back to UH's accounts effective July 6, 2023.

GOAL #2: CLARIFY RCUH'S IDENTITY WITH UH AND THE STATE.

Engage with stakeholders to establish guidelines, expectations for RCUH's scope of work.

In order to provide a clearer understanding of RCUH and the services it offers, ED Gouveia spoke at the UH Board of Regents' Research & Innovation Committee meeting on Feb. 2, 2023. He provided a condensed version of the ["Introduction to RCUH" presentation](#) found online. ED Gouveia and RCUH directors

also presented at the Leading with Excellence Conference, hosted by the UH Mānoa Office of the Vice Provost for Academic Excellence on Aug. 9, 2023. "Enhance Your Research with RCUH" was attended by 30 current and newly appointed academic leaders. The presentation explained the complex relationship between UH and RCUH, introduced potential new Principal Investigators (PIs) to RCUH's services, and provided a glimpse at our priorities moving forward.

GOAL #3: REFORM RCUH'S INTERNAL OPERATIONS.

Utilize and implement feedback from core staff.

RCUH conducts a core staff survey every other year to measure staff satisfaction with internal operations and leadership. In 2023, RCUH saw improvement in 14 out of 22 questions compared to the 2021 survey. The percentage of improvement ranged from 2% to 41%. The largest gains were in work-life balance, department morale, and feeling respected. The survey also reflected the need for improvement in internal communication, pay commensurate with job responsibilities, and leadership encouraging creativity, innovation, and improvement. Survey results were shared with RCUH's directors, managers, and Board of Directors.

Develop and implement an action plan for data and systems security.

RCUH has made significant strides in securing its IT systems with the help of its IT System/ Security Administrator. Security enhancements include implementing geo-blocking on firewalls, obtaining vulnerability scanning capability, and developing an internal password policy for core staff. He also worked with RCUH's IT vendors to add software that will block corrupted attachments. RCUH Core Staff also received simulated phishing attacks on a regular basis to keep cyber safety top of mind.

Reduce the administrative burden for researchers.

Several initiatives were executed in 2023 to reduce the administrative burden on Principal Investigators and their administrative staff. The RCUH Human Resources Department:

- Distributed payroll calendar invitations that set up automatic reminders for payroll deadlines.
- Transitioned RCUH employees at the UH Marine Center to eTimesheets.

- Accepted UH Title IX Training in lieu of RCUH's EEO/Sexual Harassment Prevention course to eliminate the duplication of training for RCUH employees working on UH projects.
- Updated its policy for Employee/Independent Contractor (EIC) reviews. PIs and project staff can now determine whether a formal EIC determination is needed, and potentially reduce any administrative delays. After 10 months of implementation, HR staff reduced its EIC requests from 52 reviews/month in 2022 to 16 reviews/month in 2023.
- Developed an online eWaiver form for Open Enrollment within Employee Self-Service. This eliminated the need to download a PDF, sign it, and reupload it into the system.
- Enhanced the RCUH HR Portal to include Minimum and Maximum Compensation fields in recruitment requests to prepare for the 2024 Pay Transparency Law.

New Direct Projects in Calendar Year 2023

- **Demo Photonic Lantern Nulling (est. budget: \$114,595)**
This Subaru Telescope project is part of a collaborative research effort with the California Institute of Technology. The project will develop optimally customized-mode-selective photonic lanterns to enable the characterization of hundreds of exoplanets on solar system scales.
- **Western States Genetic Network (est. budget: \$575,000)**
This project will research best practices to provide services, education, and information. Results will be disseminated through peer-reviewed publications and presentations.



Members of the RCUH Board of Directors and Executive Director Lenny Gouveia held a maile lei during a Hawaiian blessing of RCUH's new office space by Kahu Kordell Kekoa.

Establish a single physical location for core staff.

For the first time in more than 25 years, RCUH core staff will be housed under the same roof. The Finance and Corporate Services departments were previously located at the Mānoa Innovation Center, but relocated to East-West Center's Burns Hall in February 2023. By completing this move, RCUH will save an approximately \$155,000 per year, while reducing its square footage by nearly 40%, from 7,052 square feet to 4,285 square feet. The move also contributed to improved internal communication and collaboration between departments.

Evaluate current roles/positions to consider modification of RCUH's organizational chart.

The HR Department completed a review of all internal functions and attributes of employees to identify performance gaps and opportunities for improvement. Departmental changes have included reassignments, changes in roles and

responsibilities, and distribution of functions. By identifying efficiencies, this resulted in a reduction to 14 full-time personnel compared to 24 full-time HR staff in 2017.

Enhance IT systems to reduce manual processes and eliminate paper documents.

The HR Department began to include electronic W-2 consent with hiring documents in 2023 to reduce the number of printed W-2s that must be prepped and mailed manually. This resulted in a 28% decrease in paper W-2s from approximately 1,200 at the beginning of 2023 to 865 at the end of the year.

Implement MFA for all RCUH systems.

Several technical issues resulted in a delay of Multi-Factor Authentication (MFA) for all RCUH systems. However, MFA has been implemented for RCUH webmail users and website administrators. The external release is anticipated in early 2024.

Invest in development of RCUH core staff.

RCUH core staff participated in several professional development trainings, such as “Empowering Truth & Trust in the Workplace” by Alice Inoue of Happiness U and “Outstanding Customer Service” by Jan Kaeo of Dale Carnegie Training Hawaii & Guam. Managers have also attended various supervisory training sessions offered by the Hawaii Employers Council.

RCUH also coordinated an all-day staff retreat on December 29, 2023 at Ko’olau Ballrooms & Conference Center. The retreat was facilitated by Peter Adler, who led RCUH through the

development of its strategic plan. Since one-third of core staff were hired within the last three years, the objective of the meeting was to increase staff awareness of RCUH’s mission, how work flows through the departments/sections, and what role each member plays. In a post-retreat survey, 94% of respondents said that the retreat improved staff morale and team cohesion, while one staff member wrote, “#ProudToBeRCUH! My biggest takeaway is that we are one and we need to continue to work together (within our sections, departments, and as a corporation) towards the same mission, values, and goals.”

GOAL #4: INCREASE ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH TO CLIENTS.

Strengthen relationships with PIs, FAs, and Project Staff.

The HR team met with key stakeholders throughout the year to gather an understanding on how RCUH can better support their needs and educate RCUH employees on their benefits. HR staff have spent considerable time working on live and virtual presentations, as well as simplifying published resources. Presentation topics included Open Enrollment preparation, the new EIC Determination process, and workplace safety. Virtual Q&A sessions were also held to discuss the impact of the new pay transparency law and to review the updated interface in the HR Portal and Employee Self-Service.

Coordinate professional development opportunities for project staff.

RCUH partnered with the Hawaii Employers Council to offer a three-part professional development series for RCUH supervisors. More than 100 individuals attended the first webinar “Supervision 101” on Sept. 20 and Oct. 1.

Conduct annual forum on research-related topics.

RCUH partnered with the UH Mānoa Office of Vice Provost for Research and Scholarship to host a hybrid 2-hour forum, “Unleashing the Potential: AI’s Impact on Academic Research” on Nov. 17 at the UH Mānoa IT Center. Panelists Peter Sadowski, Jason Leigh, and June Zhang engaged attendees by highlighting potential AI opportunities, challenges, and recommendations for researchers, institutions, and policymakers.



RCUH employees and family members volunteered at the Hawai’i Foodbank Food Drive Day on Aug. 26, 2023. Donations made on Food Drive Day went towards the Foodbank’s Maui Relief Fund in support of those impacted by the wildfires.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



HAWAI'I ANT LAB MAKES HEADWAY IN COMMUNITY AWARENESS AMID LITTLE FIRE ANT INFESTATIONS

Mentions of Little Fire Ants (LFA) have popped up in the local news all year as infestations spread across the state. Recognized as one of the world's worst invasive species, these ants were first discovered on Hawai'i Island in 1999, and the Hawai'i Ant Lab (HAL) has worked to eradicate these pests where feasible.

As a project of the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit in UH Mānoa's College of Natural Sciences, HAL is a small, Hilo-based operation with nine employees on Hawai'i Island and two on O'ahu. The unit does not have any regulatory authority and relies on public interest and cooperation to mitigate the risk and impacts of invasive ants. HAL offers the following services to the public:

- Ant Identification
- Treatment Advice
- Ant Management Clinics
- Presentations, Info Booths
- Farm Visits

Research Manager Michelle Montgomery shared that the climate surrounding invasive ant awareness in Hawai'i has increased exponentially in 2023, thanks to motivated, well-informed community members and the efforts of some state legislators and council members. "The research HAL has conducted over the years has attracted people from all over the world seeking our expertise. However, the need for HAL's expertise and support has grown at a faster pace than our resources can keep up with. I'd like to see HAL continue to grow so that we can meet the needs of the public and build strong extension and operations programs on O'ahu and Kaua'i," Montgomery said.

One of HAL's major research outcomes is the creation of the Gel Bait Concept, which was developed by Project Advisor and Former Project Manager Casper Vanderwoude. These unique gel baits can be applied to vegetation where it will stick to leaves



and branches. Since LFAs often nest in trees, this development has been critical to combatting these pests. HAL provides guidance on how to mix and apply the custom gel bait, including selecting the appropriate active ingredient while abiding by pesticide laws and using pesticides in accordance with manufacturer labeling.

Over the past decade, HAL has partnered with the Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC) to provide training and support for MISC staff for larger LFA control initiatives and on research projects. Through this partnership, MISC has been able to build capacity with an “ant task force” and improved upon the methodology for HAL’s gel bait. By refining the mixture and applying it via helicopter, a 175-acre Little Fire Ant infestation on Maui has reached a turning point with eradication in sight, according to MISC’s LFA Coordinator Brooke Mahnken.

Montgomery said it felt absolutely wonderful to see the success on Maui because it highlights hope. “MISC has shown the rest of Hawai‘i that with enough resources, each island can build their own capacity and mitigate the risks of LFAs spreading islandwide. Hawai‘i Ant Lab cannot do it alone.”



Join the fight against Little Fire Ants and other invasive ant species by attending the free Little Fire Ant Management Clinic on Zoom the last Thursday of every month. Learn about Little Fire Ant biology, how to perform a survey, different treatment methods, and how to mix and apply gel baits around your home. Sign up today at www.littlefireants.com, call (808) 315-5656, or email info@littlefireants.com.

Photo on left: Little Fire Ants are so small that most people don’t notice them. They also displace other ant species and predate on native insects and vertebrates.

Photos courtesy the Hawai‘i Ant Lab



Why Use Gel Baits?

Ants consume gel baits far more easily than granular baits.

Contrary to popular belief, worker ants do not eat solids—they only consume liquids. Most granular baits are made from corn grits and vegetable oil, and when a worker ant finds a bait granule, it often sucks the oil out of the granule and leaves the rest behind.

Gel baits stick to the trunks and branches of trees.

Little Fire Ants often nest in the foliage and branches of trees. These may not be well-controlled with standard bait applications because the tree-dwelling ants do not always forage on the ground. Most baits are granular and cannot be applied to trees. If you have trees over six-feet tall, Hawai‘i Ant Lab’s gel baits are your only effective bait option.

Gel baits are more tolerant to moisture than granular baits.

Granular baits are inactivated by rainfall. Once the granules become soggy, they are no longer attractive to ants. Windward locations in Hawai‘i often experience regular and frequent rain. In some locations it is difficult to predict if it will rain on any given day.

CENTER ON DISABILITY STUDIES PROVIDES RESOURCES FOR UNDERSERVED COMMUNITIES FOR 35 YEARS

For 35 years, the Center on Disability Studies (CDS) has worked to meet the needs of underrepresented people in Hawai'i, including those with disabilities, Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and other underserved populations. The center is housed in UH Mānoa's College of Education and has grown from a staff of four in 1988, to a thriving organization in 2023 with 160 employees, 60 of whom were hired by RCUH. CDS Interim Director Dr. Lauren Lum Ho shared that the center has been able to magnify its impact through multiple projects and initiatives over the years. A quick scan of CDS' website displays the breadth of its work with more than 30 active projects, including the Hawai'i Positive Engagement Project (H-PEP) and Project Hōkūlani.



HAWAI'I POSITIVE ENGAGEMENT PROJECT (H-PEP): SPARK ALOHA!

H-PEP facilitates strengths-based reflection and learning for Hawai'i's educators and parents, empowering them to provide optimal support for their students and keiki. SPARK Aloha was developed in response to the heightened needs and stress resulting from the COVID-19 pandemic. In 2023, H-PEP partnered with Ceeds of Peace to support more than 40 participant-led well-being/literacy projects in schools throughout the state. H-PEP led two 10-week well-being cohorts where participants engaged in weekly positive psychology activities grounded in Native Hawaiian perspectives and practices. Participants reported the following shifts:

- Increases in well-being (e.g., positive emotions, engagement, relationships, accomplishment)
- Increases in happiness levels
- Increases in educators' self-efficacy
- Decreases in negative emotions, stress, depressive symptoms, cognitive stress, somatic stress, trouble sleeping, and burnout



Participants convened in person at H-PEP's Cohort 8 SPARK Aloha Celebration Retreat to present their well-being/literacy projects that were implemented in their community, schools, or organizations.

Principal Investigator Dr. Naomi Rombaoa expressed the importance of supporting the well-being and flourishing of educators and parents in Hawai'i. "They need to refill, recharge, and reset so that they can continue to radiate aloha to our precious keiki and best support their social, emotional, and academic needs."

"H-PEP has taught me so many things that I can use in both parenting and educating for the rest of my life...As a mother I have learned to be more patient and understanding with my keiki. I've always known I was blessed, but H-PEP made me see that my life's blessings are immeasurable."

- Feedback from a H-PEP Participant



PROJECT HŌKŪLANI

Principal Investigator Hye-Jin Park believes that if diverse voices of myriad Pacific Islanders and individuals with disabilities begin to be heard in STEM studies and careers in sufficient numbers, their diversity will have a unique influence on our collective future. Project Hōkūlani works toward this goal by helping high school students navigate towards STEM careers through high-interest, hands-on academic enrichment in six areas of science: health, agriculture, astronomy, creative/digital media, computer science, and sustainability.

Students participate in bi-weekly mentoring lessons that showcase the connection between STEM and Native Hawaiian culture and practices. The project also offers college transition lessons, which help participants prepare resumes and applications for college and scholarships. Lastly, students are able to participate in a STEM internship that offers 48 hours of real-world, first-hand experience during spring and summer breaks.

Project Hōkūlani has served 193 students in a span of four years and has opened the door to new opportunities for the next generation. The project also embraces diversity with a



A Hōkūlani student intern participates in a virtual reality demonstration on a model of the Hokale'a voyaging canoe at the Oceanit headquarters, under the supervision of internship mentor Ian Kitajima.

recruitment goal of having participants with disabilities make up at least 20% of those accepted into the program. “Just as cultural diversity deepens learning between Native Hawaiians and non-Hawaiians in our lessons, so too are all students with ability differences valued for their unique perspectives as this benefits everyone,” Dr. Park said.

CDS developed and distributed resources to Maui Wildfire victims

The wildfires in Maui had a devastating impact on the communities of Lahaina, Kula, and Olinda. In the aftermath following the horrific fires, it was quickly recognized that individuals with intellectual or developmental disabilities (IDD) were being left out of the conversation, despite being at a greater risk of developing post-traumatic stress disorder (PTSD). In the week following the fires, Dr. Maya Matheis, a clinical psychologist at CDS, worked with the Department of Health Developmental Disabilities Division to develop two social story workbooks (one for adults, one for keiki) that focused on psychoeducation, coping skills and the trauma narrative—a process in which an individual communicates and documents their personal experience. Additionally, a quick reference card was developed for family members and service providers supporting people with IDD experiencing traumatic stress. The toolkit is free as a [digital download](#) and hard copies were disseminated to community organizations and mental health professionals on the Valley Isle.

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES



RESEARCH/PROJECT MANAGER CATEGORY



1st Place: Derek Risch, UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

As the spatial conservation and wildlife planner at the Hawaii Wildlife Ecology Lab, Derek and his team developed wild ungulate distribution models that have had a profound impact on conservation, agriculture, and hunting decisions. His contributions have bridged gaps between various communities and fostered co-beneficial relationships, like the Hawai'i Ungulates Working Group.



2nd Place: Matthew Widlansky, UH School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

Since joining the UH Sea Level Center in 2017, Matthew has published 25 peer-reviewed articles and secured more than \$2.2 million dollars in funding. As Associate Director, his pioneering work on sea-level forecasting is used for measuring sea level rise, capturing storm surge, and providing warnings for tsunamis, all of which are valuable to climate monitoring and public safety.



Honorable Mention: Russell Kackley, Subaru Telescope

Russell's critical engineering and support role touches nearly every division and many categories at Subaru Telescope. He helped ensure that the project met an ambitious deadline to establish a queue observation system for the cutting-edge Hyper-Suprime Cam to maximize scientific productivity and flexibility. Outside of the workplace, he is a passionate mentor in local schools' robotics programs and frequently judges various robotic competitions.



Honorable Mention: Natalie Wallsgrove, UH School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

Natalie began her journey as an undergraduate assistant in the isotope biogeochemistry lab, before becoming lab manager 11 years later. Throughout her career, Natalie has trained more than 100 users in state-of-the-art analytical procedures and thanks to her management plan, the lab has never run a deficit, even during the COVID-19 pandemic.

TEAMS CATEGORY

1st Place (tie): Center for Maunakea Stewardship



Mark Ellis



Robert Madrigal



Oscar Pouoa



Tommy Waltjen

This team of rangers has logged hundreds of hours protecting the vast natural, cultural, and historical resources on 11,000 acres of UH-leased land on Maunakea. They play a vital role in keeping visitors safe, including implementing a brake check system for drivers coming down from the summit. Rangers start work before sunrise to provide safety briefings to early visitors and their accountability measures and personalized interactions have made a remarkable difference in visitor safety.

1st Place (tie): Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research



Corinne Amir



Jonny Charendoff



Mia Lamirand



Frances Lichowski

This team led cutting-edge research and development on a new photogrammetry technology, called Structure from Motion, or SfM, to assess coral reef conditions more efficiently underwater. The SfM team developed a novel Python tool to automate 3D-generated models and reduced processing time by 50%. Their efforts, which included 800 hands-on computer hours, culminated in the generation and publicly available data for 13,000 coral colonies within seven months of image collection.

MAHALO TO THE 2023 SELECTION COMMITTEE!

RCUH wants to give a special mahalo to the Selection Committee members who volunteered their time to review and score these nominations:

- **Peter Adler**, Principal, ACCORD3.0; City & County of Honolulu Ethics Commissioner
- **Sarah Guay**, President & CEO, Hawaii Employers Council
- **Taryn Salmon**, Senior Executive VP, CIO, Bank of Hawaii; RCUH Board Member

TEAMS CATEGORY

2nd Place: Ola HAWAII



Grace Matsuura



Kimberley
Spencer-Tolentino



JoAnn Tsark

Now in its second 5-year cycle, Ola HAWAII has fostered meaningful connections between researchers and diverse communities in Hawai'i, addressing health disparities and improving indigenous and minority health, particularly among Native Hawaiians, Pacific Islanders, and Filipinos. Ola HAWAII incorporates community engagement at all levels of the project, which includes building community trust in research and including community members in reviewing grant proposals.

Honorable Mention: Applied Research Laboratory at UH Maui



Yvette Gurule



Gerry Smith



Kelly Suzuki Payba



Lynette Yamamoto

The Applied Research Lab at the University of Hawai'i Maui is not only a critical resource for advanced computing capabilities, but also a vital component of the U.S. Department of Defense's high-performance computing center in Kihei. Working tirelessly to support all of its projects is the Business Operations team, which manages budgeting, financial analysis, procurement, travel coordination, contract management, and the tracking of 84 different funding sources.

PROJECT SUPPORT STAFF CATEGORY



1st Place: Jennifer Benitez, UH Maui College

As the backbone of the Upward Bound project, Jennifer supports the team's efforts throughout the summer and academic year, overseeing procurement for the program's three grants. Her work plays a pivotal role in changing the lives of low-income and first-generation high school students. Annually, the UH Maui College program serves about 200 students within Maui County's seven public high schools, including students from Moloka'i and Lāna'i.

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



**RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
STATE OF HAWAII
Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2023 and 2022 and 2021**

Condensed Statements of Net Position (Unaudited)

The Corporation's assets and deferred outflows of resources, liabilities, deferred inflows of resources, and net position at June 30, 2023, 2022 and 2021 are summarized below:

	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>
Current assets	\$ 50,412,810	\$ 52,652,187	\$ 43,570,646
Capital assets	3,431,018	2,429,469	2,830,822
Total assets	<u>53,843,828</u>	<u>55,081,656</u>	<u>46,401,468</u>
Deferred outflows of resources	<u>81,799</u>	<u>86,456</u>	<u>138,003</u>
Total assets and deferred outflows of resources	<u>\$ 53,925,627</u>	<u>\$ 55,168,112</u>	<u>\$ 46,539,471</u>
Current liabilities	\$ 37,954,343	\$ 40,419,330	\$ 31,596,937
Noncurrent liabilities	4,219,642	4,207,587	4,826,947
Total liabilities	<u>42,173,985</u>	<u>44,626,917</u>	<u>36,423,884</u>
Deferred inflows of resources	<u>782,871</u>	<u>968,928</u>	<u>634,864</u>
Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources	42,956,856	45,595,845	37,058,748
Net position			
Net investment in capital assets	3,144,620	2,172,035	2,830,822
Unrestricted	<u>7,824,151</u>	<u>7,400,232</u>	<u>6,649,901</u>
Total net position	<u>10,968,771</u>	<u>9,572,267</u>	<u>9,480,723</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and net position	<u>\$ 53,925,627</u>	<u>\$ 55,168,112</u>	<u>\$ 46,539,471</u>



To view RCUH's complete audited financial statements for FY 2023, please visit <https://www.rcuh.com/rcuh-fy-2023-audit/> or scan the QR code with your smartphone.

**RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
STATE OF HAWAII
Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2023 and 2022 and 2021**

Condensed Statements of Revenues, Expenses and Changes in Net Position (Unaudited)

The Corporation's statements of revenues, expenses and changes in net position for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2023, 2022 and 2021 are summarized as follows:

	2023	2022	2021
Operating revenues			
University of Hawai'i	\$ 7,338,439	\$ 6,705,099	\$ 6,665,561
Other sponsor agencies	555,513	732,743	552,855
Total operating revenues	7,893,952	7,437,842	7,218,416
Operating expenses			
Personnel costs	4,048,929	3,778,162	4,098,339
Data processing services	1,477,290	1,171,655	1,139,123
Depreciation and amortization	840,329	897,037	873,309
Insurance	586,066	574,374	477,322
Professional and technical support	215,117	261,613	151,610
Office and equipment rental	113,925	179,901	291,077
Other expenses	403,076	506,720	297,194
Total operating expenses	7,684,732	7,369,462	7,327,974
Operating income (loss)	209,220	68,380	(109,558)
Nonoperating revenues			
Intergovernmental (Federal awards)			
Revenue	102,251	349,424	307,889
Expense	(102,251)	(349,424)	(307,889)
Interest Income	1,186,970	167,550	199,670
Unrealized gain (loss)	314	(144,386)	(24,977)
Increase in net position	1,396,504	91,544	65,135
Net position			
Beginning of year	9,572,267	9,480,723	9,415,588
End of year	\$ 10,968,771	\$ 9,572,267	\$ 9,480,723

**RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I
STATE OF HAWAI'I
Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2023 and 2022 and 2021**

Condensed Statements of Cash Flows (Unaudited)

The Corporation's statements of cash flows for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2023, 2022 and 2021 are summarized as follows:

	2023	2022	2021
Operating activities			
Cash received from operations	\$ 7,763,869	\$ 7,857,216	\$ 8,235,545
Cash payments for operations	(6,946,897)	(6,302,378)	(6,558,201)
Project expenditures and reimbursements, net	<u>3,057,987</u>	<u>(3,697,056)</u>	<u>9,781,624</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	3,874,959	(2,142,218)	11,458,968
Capital and related financing activities	(993,220)	(238,250)	(443,979)
Investing activities	<u>11,858,920</u>	<u>1,860,202</u>	<u>(4,565,164)</u>
Increase (decrease) in cash	14,740,659	(520,266)	6,449,825
Cash			
Beginning of year	<u>21,229,139</u>	<u>21,749,405</u>	<u>15,299,580</u>
End of year	\$ <u>35,969,798</u>	\$ <u>21,229,139</u>	\$ <u>21,749,405</u>



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