



UNIVERSITY
of HAWAII®

Ke Kulanui o Hawai'i

Wendy F. Hensel
President

DEPT. COMM. NO. 324

January 13, 2025

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

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura,
Speaker and Members of the House of
Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
State Capitol, Room 439
Honolulu, HI 96813

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

Pursuant to Section 304A-3007, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, I am transmitting a copy of the 2024 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,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wendy F. Hensel'.

Wendy F. Hensel
President

Enclosure

c: Legislative Reference Bureau Library

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RCUH

Research Corporation
of the University of Hawai'i

'Aha'uina Noi'i O Ke Kulanui O Hawai'i

2024

ANNUAL REPORT

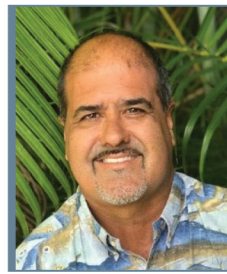
WELCOME



This was another stellar and prosperous year for the University of Hawai'i (UH) and our research 'ohana. Congratulations to our researchers who brought in approximately \$615 million in Extramural research awards in Fiscal Year 2024. Outstanding work! As a result, we have been very busy keeping up with this demand to ensure that we can help UH researchers deliver in accordance with the terms of these well-deserved awards.

Simultaneously with these notable successes, and as with every passing year, change is inevitable. This year was no different. In fact, there were many notable moments of change for the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i (RCUH) and the University as we said aloha to many valued individuals of our 'ohana and welcomed new faces throughout the year. Most notably, we have a new UH President coming on board, a new RCUH Finance Director, and some changes with our RCUH Board Members.

On behalf of RCUH, we would like to take this opportunity to thank UH President David Lassner for his undying and loyal commitment to the University. We also want to welcome incoming President Wendy Hensel and we look forward to working with her to continue to make our University the best it can be. We want to also thank and recognize Glenn Yee, our RCUH Director of Finance, who is retiring at the end of this year. We wish Glenn and his family the best. Glenn's successor is Tracey Heinrich, who will serve as our new Director of Finance. A warm welcome to Tracey! And last, but not least, we want to thank former RCUH Board Chair Ken Hayashida who needed to leave us prematurely to serve on another



Leonard Gouveia, Jr.
Executive Director



David Karl
Board Chair

state board that needed his expertise and wisdom. Good luck Ken and thank you for your sound wisdom and support!

We completed year three of our five-year strategic plan. This annual report highlights our accomplishments during the calendar year, but as with previous years, complete updates can be found in the descriptive minutes of our RCUH Board Materials on the RCUH website.

Finally, I am happy to report that reviews by our external auditors once again resulted in an unmodified opinion and no material weaknesses or significant deficiencies were identified.

As always, we will continue to streamline our energies and make our organization stronger and more efficient. Most importantly, we strive to continue to improve our value to the UH and State of Hawai'i and want to thank all of those individuals who have positively impacted our successful organization. It goes without saying that we must acknowledge the dedicated work of our reliable RCUH core staff who provide fast, efficient, and professional services to all projects. Their continued adaptability and willingness to accept necessary and appropriate changes make it possible for RCUH to excel and provide the excellent top-quality services that are needed for our research 'ohana.

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

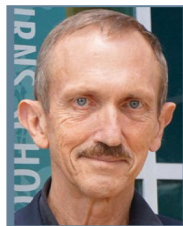
The affairs of the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i are under the general management and control of its eight-member Board of Directors. There is currently one vacancy for the Non-UH Research Organization Appointee position as of December 2024.



David Karl
Board Chair



Taryn Salmon
Vice Chair



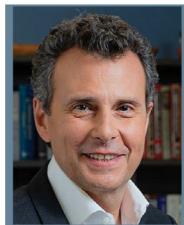
William Haning III



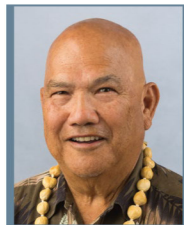
Ken Kawahara



Jaret KC Leong



Vassilis Syrmos



Ernest Wilson

ALOHA 'OE!

Mahalo to our two outgoing board members who completed their term in 2024. You'll be missed!



Kelli Goodin



Ken Hayashida

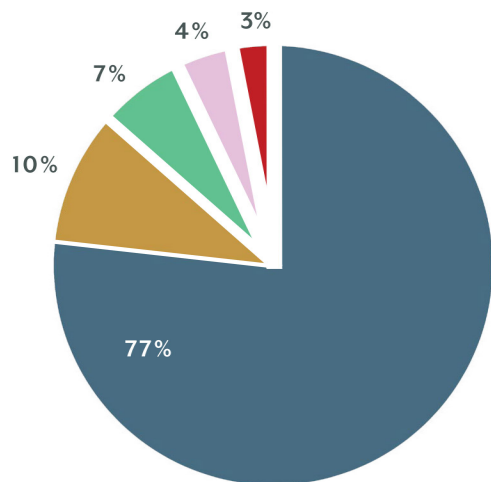
Cover photo and back cover photo provided by Masayuki Tanaka; both photos courtesy of the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan.

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:**

\$354,513,054

■ UH EXTRAMURAL PROJECTS (\$271,806,746)

Externally sponsored federal and non-federal contracts, grants, and other agreements

■ UH REVOLVING PROJECTS (\$34,419,021)

Self-sustaining, income-generating projects established to support a specialized service activity, a recharge center, or other sales and service activities

■ UH INTRAMURAL PROJECTS (\$23,438,695)

Internally sponsored programs or activities funded with UH Research and Training Revolving Funds (RTRF) or Tuition and Fee Special Funds (TFSF)

■ DIRECT PROJECTS (\$14,148,485)

Projects assigned to and accepted by RCUH from non-UH organizations, including federal and State agencies, international organizations, and other not-for-profit organizations

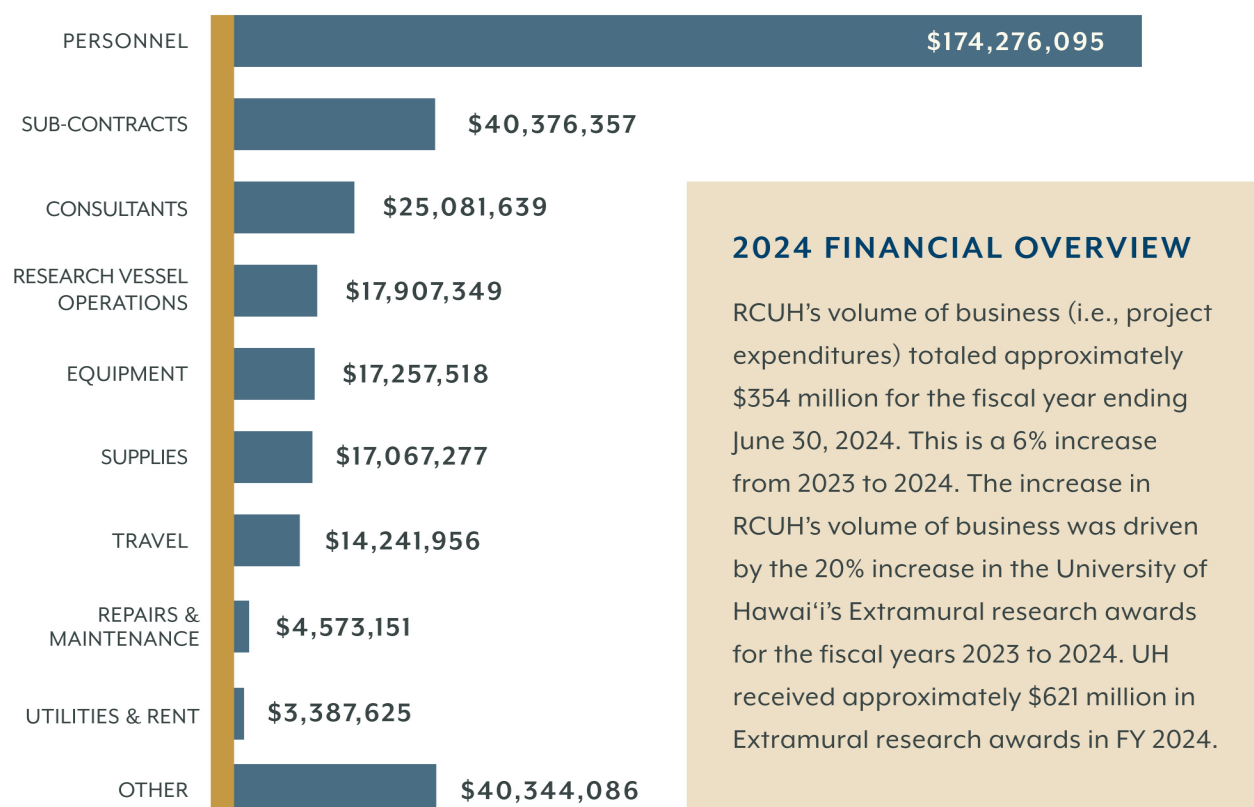
■ UH SPECIAL FUND RESEARCH RECHARGE CENTERS (\$10,700,107)

Income-generating projects that support a specialized service activity or a recharge center

PROJECTS BY COUNTY

COUNTY	NO. OF PROJECTS	NO. OF EMPLOYEES	VOL. OF BUSINESS
HONOLULU	3,638	1,692	\$291,711,242
HAWAI'I	416	637	\$34,680,982
MAUI	141	315	\$27,008,291
KAUA'I	17	77	\$1,112,539
STATEWIDE	4,212	2,721	\$354,513,054
OTHER (Continental U.S. + International)		191	

FY 2024 FINANCIAL EXPENDITURES



TRANSACTIONS BY FISCAL YEAR

TRANSACTIONS	FY 2024	FY 2023	FY 2022
TIMESHEETS/eTIMESHEETS	61,539	59,075	57,367
VENDOR PAYMENTS	40,002	40,171	33,814
NON-PO PAYMENTS	24,284	23,181	18,688
PURCHASE ORDERS	11,588	12,271	11,186
TRAVEL REQUESTS/COMPLETIONS	17,305	14,058	7,572
CASH RECEIPTS	3,771	9,036	8,832
W-2'S ISSUED *	3,717	3,823	3,527
TERMINATIONS	1,341	1,314	1,497
NEW HIRES	1,353	1,546	1,520

* Data reported based on calendar year

2024 YEAR IN REVIEW



RCUH continues to make progress in Year 3 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.

Evaluate purpose and need for line of credit.

RCUH conducted an evaluation, which included a review of the history of the line of credit (LOC), how the LOC functions to supplement RCUH's cash flow, and the current proposed bank terms and conditions. With guidance from the State Attorney General's Office, RCUH elected to terminate its line of credit. RCUH will review alternatives for cashflow shortfalls with guidance from the Attorney General's Office.

Update the UH/RCUH Internal Agreement.

With the transition of the incoming UH President, ED Gouveia plans to have discussions with President Wendy Hensel in the next year to evaluate the existing Internal Agreement.

RCUH continues its efforts to maintain its operating budget, which increased 3% from the previous fiscal year due to personnel and other costs.

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

Educate government agencies, private companies, not-for-profits about RCUH's services and capabilities.

ED Gouveia has met with various organizations, such as the Mauna Kea Stewardship and Oversight Authority, Maui County, Oracle, the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations, and individual Principal Investigators to clarify RCUH's role, services, and capabilities.

Develop marketing strategy, materials for outreach purposes.

The Human Resources department has developed numerous one-pagers and guides to assist project staff with administrative tasks and to help RCUH employees better understand their benefits.



RCUH Human Resources staff inspect a medical manikin with SimTiki Director Benjamin Berg at the SimTiki Simulation Center at the UH John A. Burns School of Medicine.

GOAL #3: REFORM RCUH'S INTERNAL OPERATIONS.

Evaluate internal procedures and streamline for efficiencies.

RCUH continues to evaluate its internal procedures to streamline for efficiencies. Several accomplishments this year included:

- Streamlining internal guidelines for privately funded (non-State) Direct projects to allow for exceptions to RCUH's procurement policies.
- Implementing an electronic Open Enrollment form, which resulted in an 87% submission rate.
- Establishing a separate login portal for new and returning applicants.
- Enhancing options for electronic personnel actions to reduce the number of manual personnel action forms.

Address staffing shortage.

By the end of 2024, RCUH core staff filled all of its vacant positions, including the critical role of Director of Finance (which was an impending vacancy due to a planned retirement). RCUH also increased its retention of core staff from the previous year from 13 terminations in 2023 to just 5 in 2024.

Provide training on how to address performance.

RCUH collaborated with the Hawaii Employers Council to offer a variety of training courses throughout the year for RCUH employees who serve in supervisory roles. Eight sessions were offered and topics included Building Employee Performance, Appraising Performance, Using Emotional Intelligence to Strengthen Work Relationships, and Managing Conflict in the Workplace. Feedback has been overwhelmingly positive from the 250+ attendees and RCUH Human Resources has noticed an impact post-training. RCUH plans to continue to offer these types of training for supervisors and may expand its audience to include project staff.



2024 Legislative Update

In the 2024 legislative session, Senate Bill 3208 was introduced by Senators Kim, DeCoite, Fevella, Hashimoto, Kidani, and Wakai to clarify RCUH's purpose. This bill did not move forward, however [Senate Bill 1511](#) was carried over from the 2023 legislative session and scheduled for a hearing with the House Committee on Higher Education & Technology (HET) on Feb. 9. The University offered comments in testimony, while RCUH submitted opposition to the bill. The HET committee recommended that the bill be passed with amendments and referred it to the House Finance Committee (FIN).

The FIN Committee recommended that the measure be passed with amendments on April 3. The Senate disagreed with the House's amendments, which resulted in a Conference Committee on April 25. Once additional amendments were made in May, the final bill was enrolled to the Governor on May 3.

Governor Josh Green notified the Legislature of his intent to veto the bill on June 21 and vetoed the bill on July 9. In his Governor's message he stated that "this bill is not necessary and will only create confusion about both the role of the RCUH and the ability of the University of Hawai'i to foster innovative research opportunities through RCUH, which amounted to more than \$300 million in the last year alone, with benefits to the state's economy and communities."

New Direct Projects in Calendar Year 2024

Department of State Islands Resilience (est. budget: \$286,582)

This project's goal is to catalyze island-led climate adaptation resilience by continuing to grow the Local2030 Islands Network.

Elements: Enabling High Precision Citizens Science Photometry from Wide Filed Color Images (est. budget: \$144,277)

The University of Texas requires Subaru Telescope staff expertise in the operation of PANOPTES, an open-source network of automated robotic telescopes. RCUH is providing administrative support services on behalf of Subaru Telescope.

Hi Local2030 Hub - Ala Wai Stormwater (est. budget: \$254,265)

This project will develop a mobile stormwater assessment app to prioritize Green Stormwater Infrastructure installations within disadvantaged communities.

Hi Local2030 Hub - Community Engagement for the Hawaii County Climate Action Plan (est. budget: \$86,990)

This project will support a collaboration between Hawai'i Green Growth and the

County of Hawai'i Department of Research & Development to enhance community engagement and communications on the county's integrated Climate Action Plan implementation and other sustainability efforts.

Hi Local2030 Hub - Watershed Finance and Restoration (est. budget: \$262,500)

This project will engage its network to accelerate restoration and improvement within Maui's watershed.

Hi Tobacco Prevention Control Block Grant 7 (est. budget: \$179,992)

This project seeks an RCUH position to provide personnel assistance to the State Department of Health, Chronic Disease Prevention and Health Promotion Division.

Robust Deep Contrast Imaging Self-Calibrating (est. budget: \$140,729)

University of Arizona researchers request physical and remote access to the Subaru Coronagraphic Extreme Adaptive Optics instrument installed on the Subaru Telescope. RCUH is providing administrative support services on behalf of Subaru Telescope.

Implement MFA for all RCUH systems.

RCUH incorporated Duo Security's two-factor authentication solution into its Financial Portal, Human Resources Portal, and Employee Self-Service on Feb. 23. By requiring two different channels of authentication, RCUH can help protect user logins from remote attacks that may exploit stolen usernames and passwords.

Create new IT policies and procedures.

RCUH also strengthened its IT security posture in 2024 with new internal guidelines, a migration to Office 365's Government Community Cloud, and ongoing phishing simulation campaigns for core staff. An internal Cyber Security Incident Response manual was also released in May to ensure that staff know what action to take should a cyber incident occur.

Replace AS400 System.

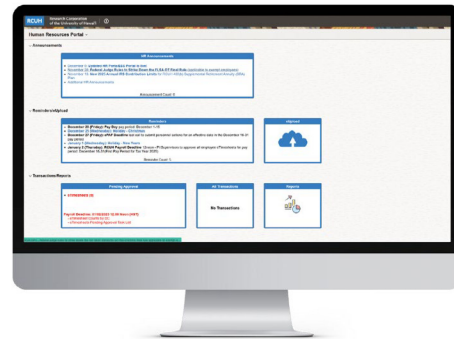
RCUH continues to work with DataHouse on the conversion of the accounting system to SAP. RCUH encountered challenges with its current payment processor at the end of the year and anticipates that the full transition will be pushed back to the second quarter of 2025.

Implement an Enterprise Integration and Application Development Platform.

The Lumisight platform and refreshed Financial Portal successfully went live on July 15. Although users reported bugs in the two-week post-launch period, a large majority of inquiries were addressed or resolved within a few days. A pre-launch demo and post-launch town hall were organized to acquire user feedback.

Update Human Resources Portal.

RCUH updated its Human Resources Portal and Employee Self-Service on Dec. 9 to upgrade to a more fluid version. This updated layout provides users with better functionality when using the portals via mobile phone or tablet.



GOAL #4: INCREASE ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH TO CLIENTS.

Conduct virtual Q&A sessions each quarter on various RCUH-related topics.

RCUH held webinars every quarter throughout the year to benefit RCUH employees. Webinar topics included Medicare 101, Pay Transparency, Financial Wellness, Flexible Spending Accounts, and more. The RCUH Human Resources team also held a mixture of 26 virtual, hybrid, and in-person meetings with more than 250 project staff to provide information on employee benefits in preparation for Open Enrollment.

Conduct annual forum on research-related topics.

RCUH collaborated with the UH Mānoa Office of the Vice Provost for Research and Scholarship to host a hybrid forum on April 19 titled "Connecting Voices: Fostering Community Engagement in Research." It featured six panelists from a spectrum of research fields. One attendee said, "It was refreshing to hear about the work being conducted out in Hawai'i's communities that centers the community voices."

Update RCUH Website.

RCUH released an online survey in June to gain stakeholder feedback on its current and future website. Responses were used to help develop the vision for the site's new design and to recruit focus group volunteers. RCUH moderated four sessions with this focus group in the fall and incorporated the group's recommendations into a Request for Proposal. A vendor was selected at the end of the year, and the goal is to unveil the updated site in the summer of 2025.



Dr. Ruben Juarez, Christy Martin, JoAnn Tsark, Dr. Donna-Marie Palakiko, Dr. Pia Arboleda attended in person while Dr. Mehana Vaughan shared her experiences virtually. Dr. Christopher Sabine moderated the hybrid event.

PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



SUBARU TELESCOPE CELEBRATES 25 YEARS OF ASTRONOMY RESEARCH

Stars in the night sky have always fascinated us. As astronomers, navigators, or occasional stargazers, we look to them as guides to our past, present, and future. Imagine viewing these jewels through the Subaru Telescope at the summit of Maunakea on Hawai'i Island. This 8.2-meter optical-infrared telescope, operated by the National Astronomical Observatory of Japan (NAOJ), offers one of the world's best astronomical observing platforms.

Subaru Telescope is home to about a hundred staff members—astronomers, engineers, mechanics, researchers, scientists, support staff, and technicians—of which many are locally-grown talent. Most of the staff is located at the Base Facility in Hilo, while others work at the summit (or travel between both facilities). Observation time is not limited to NAOJ personnel; it invites use of the facility to the worldwide scientific community via a

proposal process twice a year. A selection committee comprised of NAOJ staff and members of external research institutes determines which observation proposals have the most scientific merit and are best suited for Subaru Telescope.

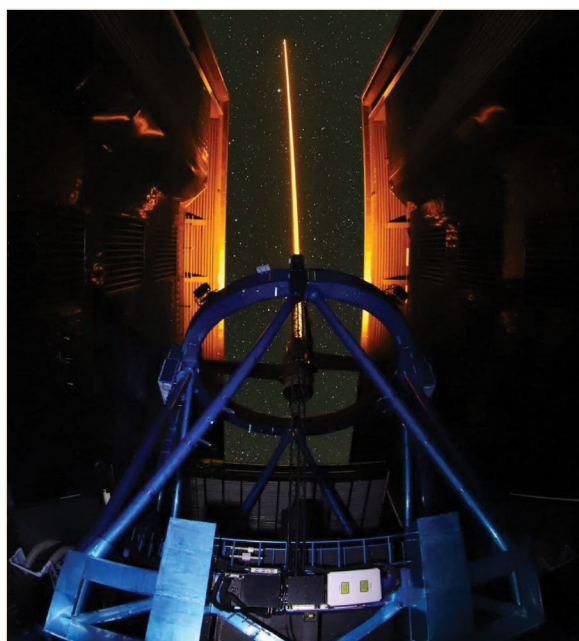
What makes the Subaru Telescope so desirable? Dr. Naoyuki Tamura, a Professor, Project Manager and Engineer of the Observatory, states, "Unlike the other telescopes on Maunakea and in the world, the Subaru Telescope has a tremendous advantage in observing a wide field of view with high spatial resolution in visible light by mounting a camera on the prime focus at the top of the telescope. The Hyper Suprime-Cam (HSC), the second-generation prime focus camera, has a sky coverage as extensive as nine full moons. HSC enables us to survey a vast portion of night skies efficiently."

Subaru's Adaptive Optics (AO) system removes the effects of atmospheric turbulence and obtains a sharp image of celestial bodies. From a deformable mirror of 36 elements in 2000, it was upgraded to a 188-element deformable mirror and a Laser Guide Star (LGS) system in 2006, and in 2024 further renovated to 3000 elements. The current AO system now has a much finer spatial resolution.

The exciting development for 2025 is the Prime Focus Spectrograph (PFS), an ultra-wide field, highly multiplexed spectrometer that can capture spectra of 2,400 objects at one time. Dr. Tamura explained, "With PFS, the Subaru Telescope will have an approximately 50 times larger field of view and approximately 100 times more objects can be observed simultaneously in spectroscopy compared to other conventional instruments."

Alongside instrument enhancements, the observation experience has evolved over the years. Initially, it was one telescope operator, one support astronomer, and one-to-a-few scientist observers from the research group all at the summit. Then observation progressed to a queue system to maximize scientific productivity and flexibility. With queue operations, scientists provide their targets and observing conditions in advance, and two telescope operators carry out the observations without the scientists present. This shift marked a pivotal moment for the observatory, requiring significant changes to the software, procedures, policies, and operations. Testing is now underway for "unmanned observation," where observation will be fully remote, requiring no staff at the summit.

Throughout the year, mindful of the host culture and the importance of community engagement, Subaru Telescope staff support a number of programs that inspire



What's in a Name?

Early in the construction, NAOJ held a contest among the Japanese public to name the telescope. Fittingly, "Subaru" was chosen from the thousands of submissions. "Subaru" is the Japanese translation of the Pleiades (or "Makali'i" in the Hawaiian language) star cluster. It also means "unite," resembling the Pleiades cluster of stars positioned closely to one another.

students to explore Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math (STEM) fields. Popular among the participants and astronomy professionals are AstroDay, Journey through the Universe, Maunakea Coin Contest, Subaru Stars, Akamai Workforce Initiative, and VEX Robotics Competitions.

Twenty-five years seem to have passed in a flash, but what an amazing ride it's been!

Photo on left: Jellyfish galaxies in the Hydra Galaxy Cluster. Image provided by Masayuki Tanaka. Photo above: First launch of Subaru's laser guide star system. Photos courtesy NAOJ.

RESEARCH VOYAGE TO REMOTE ATOLLS PROVIDES INSIGHTS ON MOVEMENT OF MARINE LIFE IN THE PACIFIC



Everything from the beloved Hawaiian monk seal to native corals must travel vast distances to establish themselves in Hawai'i's tropical waters. For many years the movement of marine species to Hawai'i from other regions of the world was unknown to scientists. But this past summer, a team of UH researchers embarked on a once-in-a-lifetime mission to study the movement of marine life to Hawai'i from Wake Island and Johnston Atoll.

In 2021, Dr. Peter Marko and Dr. Amy Moran, professors in UH Mānoa's School of Life Sciences, submitted and were awarded funding from the National Science Foundation to study the movement of marine life from the remote coral atolls of Wake Island and Johnston to and from Hawai'i. Dr. Marko explained, "the project is about understanding the connection between Hawai'i and the rest of the Pacific from a natural, biological, and community perspective. How do species get to Hawai'i and where do they come from?"

To answer these questions, the project's method was to collect samples of sea urchins, seawater samples, and water and plankton from Wake Island and Johnston Atoll and extract DNA from the samples to determine if they have a biological connection to Hawai'i. Environmental DNA (eDNA) would also be extracted from seawater samples taken around each atoll and be used similarly to study the genetic similarities of populations of species found in Hawai'i. This is a way to catalog species that are giving off DNA without ever having seen it with the naked eye.

Through these efforts, the project will gain insights into whether Wake Island and Johnston Atoll serve as stepping stones for marine movement to and from Hawai'i versus archipelagoes of greater distances. The findings



Microscopic larva of an unknown cidaroid sea urchin, collected from surface waters near Johnston Island. Photo by Nicole Giannetti.

could also reveal what the future may hold for Hawai'i's marine ecosystems as climate change could cause a rise in species dispersal across the world's oceans.

"The project was a challenge, but well worth the effort," said Dr. Marko. "The cruise, which was the scientific centerpiece of the project, did not happen until 2024, three years after we were awarded due to COVID. We also had to work with the University of Washington for more than a year to outfit their ship to accommodate our research." The other aspect of the trip that presented unique challenges was the remoteness of Wake Island and Johnston Atoll, which are located about 2,300 miles and 800 miles southwest of Honolulu. Invitations and permits are required from the United States Air Force to visit and conduct research in these remote locations. "For someone who does my work, biogeography, these are unusual, remote places that are very hard to get to," Dr. Marko said. "To be able to go is a once or twice-in-a-lifetime opportunity."

Joining Dr. Marko and Dr. Moran on the research trip was UH Diving Safety Officer David Pence, and a group of UH graduate and undergraduate students.

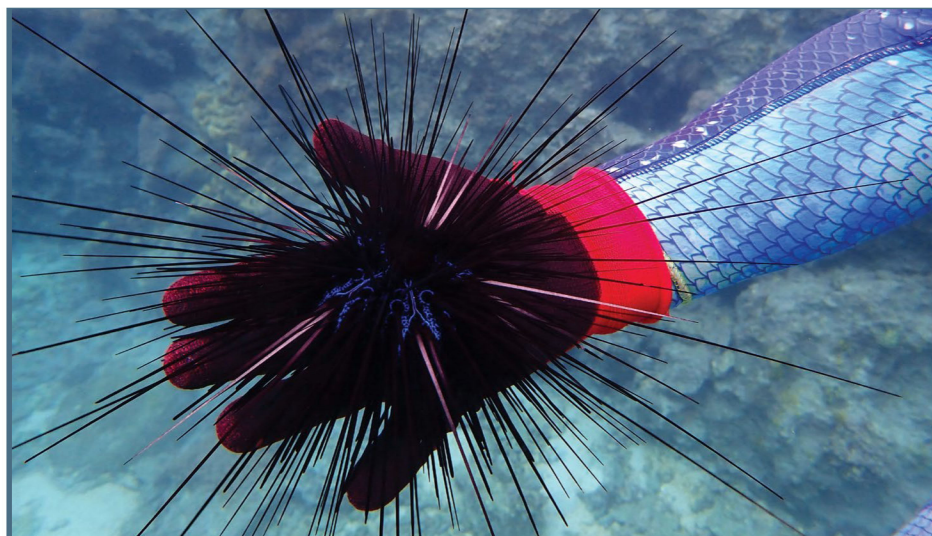
Together, the research team would spend 18 days voyaging from Guam to the atolls of Johnston and Wake Islands before returning to Hawai'i. However, the final challenge presented itself in obtaining the appropriate insurance to take the students on the research trip, which is when the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i (RCUH) was asked to assist. "We are incredibly grateful to RCUH for jumping in so we could hire the students and take them on the trip." With the final hurdle reached, the research trip was finally on its way.

Over the next 18 days, the 11-member crew voyaged into highly isolated territory, navigating through coral reefs before reaching Wake Island and Johnston Atoll. Both atolls are just specks on the map, tiny slivers of land that are half submerged, but beneath the waves may lie answers that could explain millions of years of biodiversity movement to the state. The team spent three days at each atoll performing multiple dives each day collecting samples, and then spending the evening processing samples. Long days, but very rewarding according to Dr. Marko. "It is a rare opportunity, so we have to make the most of it. We managed to dive and collect samples from a vast number of spots from each island. I would say an unprecedented number of collections were taken."

Of particular note to Dr. Marko was the relatively pristine nature of Wake Island and the biomass of organisms. "Wake has not been impacted by people since World War II. The health of the coral reefs there and biomass of fish and number of sharks in the water is stunning."

After the long journey came to a close and thousands of samples in hand, the research team is now transitioning into the analysis phase to discover the movement in the samples they collected. "These are very important biogeographic locations for understanding how and why species get to Hawai'i. You can think of Wake Island and Johnston as potential important crossroads for biodiversity moving into Hawai'i and out of Hawai'i over millions of years."

But beyond providing a better understanding of the past and present, the findings could also provide predictions for the future. "We suspect with climate change that species will go extinct in Hawai'i, but maybe other species from other places will arrive in Hawai'i that are better adapted to warmer conditions and replace the species that disappear due to warming," Dr. Marko said. "But if they are cut off because the conditions in the water column don't permit that type of dispersal then you can't expect that to happen. The worry is that the more the climate changes and warmer it gets, the more isolated Hawai'i could become." As Dr. Marko and his team continue to process and analyze the samples collected, answers to these questions could be revealed in the near future.



A diver holds a sea urchin (*Diadema savignyi*) underwater at Johnston Atoll. Photo by Samantha Darin.

OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES



RESEARCH/PROJECT MANAGER CATEGORY



1st Place: Kristen Harmon, UH Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience

Kristen led a collaborative effort to address knowledge gaps in efforts to transform the Hawaiian Islands from the extinction capital of the world, to the recovery capital of the world. She brought together nearly 100 taxonomic experts and land managers to develop a playbook of fully costed out actions to prevent extinction for 266 species over the next 20 years.



2nd Place: Ray Kahaunaele, UH Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit

Under Ray's leadership, the rapid response team of the Kaua'i Invasive Species Committee controlled 86 coqui frogs at six sites in 2023. His team performed ongoing surveys covering more than 19,000 acres, as well as controlling 3,318 individual plants. Ray brings creativity in working with partners to implement new techniques in the field, whether it's innovative protocols with the Hawai'i Ant Lab or experimental testing to reduce the spread of rapid 'ohi'a death.



Honorable Mention: Stanford J. Fichtman, Kapi'olani Community College

Since 2017, Stanford has served on a grant writing team that secured nearly \$34 million in Extramural awards at Kapi'olani Community College. He's always ready to help new Principal Investigators with their proposals and also provided expertise to the UH Community Colleges System in their efforts applying for workforce development grants for all seven community colleges.



Honorable Mention: Christine Tallamy Glazer, UH Mānoa College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resilience

Christine helps the SHEER Lab collect soil samples throughout the Hawaiian Islands. As the lab's lead technician and manager, she has contributed approximately 1,400 samples to this database. Data can provide critical indicators to improve soil health and fertility, reduce green gas emissions, and enhance the application of climate-smart practices in agriculture and agroforestry.

TEAMS CATEGORY

1st Place: UH Sea Level Center



Jon Avery



Jerard "Ziggy" Jardin



Jason Klem



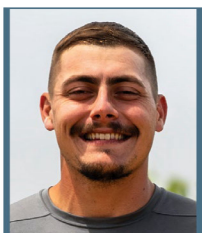
Nikolai Turetsky

This team helps to operate and maintain more than 90 sea-level and GPS monitoring stations that provide real-time observations from remote and under-resourced locations, such as Haiti, Kiribati, and Tanzania, that would otherwise not be available.

2nd Place: Mauna Kea Watershed Alliance



Marco Castro



Dylan Moniz

Field Crew Leader Marco Castro and Field Assistant Dylan Moniz work to protect and enhance the watershed ecosystems, primarily on the eastern slope of Mauna Kea. Their passion for conservation and restoration of these native ecosystems, both inspire and motivate them in the field.

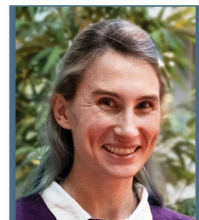
Honorable Mention: Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research



Emily Contreras



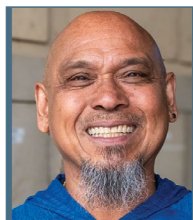
Nan Himmelsbach



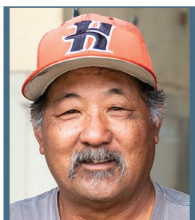
Andrea Lee Schmidt

This trio's research focuses on the early life stages of reef fishes and identifying how these nearshore species contribute to the diet of pelagic fishes, such as mahimahi, ono, and ahi.

Honorable Mention: Maunakea Shared Services



Douglas Astrande



Tracy Miyashiro



Travis Perez



Aaron Zimmer

This team works in some of the most inclement and extreme weather in the State to support world-class research on Maunakea. From snowstorms to heavy rains that create impassable washouts, the MKSS Utilities Team has learned to get out of their comfort zone.

PROJECT SUPPORT STAFF CATEGORY



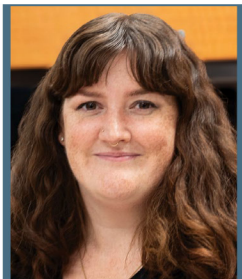
1st Place: Miku Lenentine, Kapi'olani Community College

As the Kaimuki Grid Resilience Facilitator for the Center for Resilient Neighborhoods (CERENE), Miku wears many hats to fulfill CERENE's mission of supporting neighborhood resilience planning for the impacts of climate change. Whether it's hosting seminars, engaging community members, or teaching mindfulness, Miku embodies CERENE's tagline of "resilience from the inside out."



2nd Place: Kealakekua Meyer, Kapi'olani Community College

When the Hoa Ho'o Nā'auao program had struggled to find college tutors for middle and high school students, Keala quickly led the transition from a tutoring program into an internship program, sparking more interest. She conceived and developed a framework to guide the interns, and under her leadership, the program has maintained its 16 interns and service to 500 students at Ke'elikolani, 'Ānuenue, and Jarett middle schools.



Honorable Mention: Sydney Carey, UH Mānoa College of Education

Described as a transformative presence, Sydney has made her mark in the Curriculum Research & Development Group. As the Production and Services Assistant, she helps this research unit continue its mission of creating and disseminating educational programs for pre-K through college-level audiences.



Honorable Mention: Russell Sumitomo, Kapi'olani Community College

For the past three years, Russell has been instrumental in sustaining the 'Ōlelo project at KCC, which broadcasts academic courses and campus activities on the 'Ōlelo channel. Russell works closely with KCC faculty to adapt their classroom curriculum for distance learning and also develops, conducts, and supervises the training of faculty and staff on the video production process.

MAHALO TO THE 2024 SELECTION COMMITTEE!

- **Ken Kawahara**, President, Akinaka & Associates; RCUH Board Member
- **Howard Lao**, Vice President & Manager, Commercial Deposit Dept, First Hawaiian Bank
- **Jody Shiroma**, Vice President, Communications, PBS Hawai'i

FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



**RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
STATE OF HAWAII
Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2024 and 2023 and 2022**

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, 2024, 2023 and 2022 are summarized below:

	2024	2023	2022
Current assets	\$ 54,549,261	\$ 50,412,810	\$ 52,652,187
Capital assets	3,842,885	3,431,018	2,429,469
Total assets	<u>58,392,146</u>	<u>53,843,828</u>	<u>55,081,656</u>
Deferred outflows of resources	<u>34,712</u>	<u>81,799</u>	<u>86,456</u>
Total assets and deferred outflows of resources	<u>\$ 58,426,858</u>	<u>\$ 53,925,627</u>	<u>\$ 55,168,112</u>
Current liabilities	\$ 40,852,629	\$ 37,954,343	\$ 40,419,330
Noncurrent liabilities	3,841,661	4,219,642	4,207,587
Total liabilities	<u>44,694,290</u>	<u>42,173,985</u>	<u>44,626,917</u>
Deferred inflows of resources	<u>929,478</u>	<u>782,871</u>	<u>968,928</u>
Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources	45,623,768	42,956,856	45,595,845
Net position			
Net investment in capital assets	3,726,351	3,144,620	2,172,035
Unrestricted	<u>9,076,739</u>	<u>7,824,151</u>	<u>7,400,232</u>
Total net position	<u>12,803,090</u>	<u>10,968,771</u>	<u>9,572,267</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and net position	<u>\$ 58,426,858</u>	<u>\$ 53,925,627</u>	<u>\$ 55,168,112</u>



To view RCUH's complete audited financial statements for FY 2024, please visit <https://www.rcuh.com/rcuh-fy-2024-audited-financial-statements/> or scan the QR code with your smartphone.

**RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII
STATE OF HAWAII
Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2024 and 2023 and 2022**

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, 2024, 2023 and 2022 are summarized as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Operating revenues			
University of Hawai'i	\$ 7,482,045	\$ 7,338,439	\$ 6,705,099
Other sponsor agencies	<u>574,892</u>	<u>555,513</u>	<u>732,743</u>
Total operating revenues	8,056,937	7,893,952	7,437,842
Operating expenses			
Personnel costs	4,206,023	4,048,929	3,778,162
Data processing services	1,532,546	1,477,290	1,171,655
Depreciation and amortization	737,381	840,329	897,037
Insurance	632,582	586,066	574,374
Professional and technical support	176,827	215,117	261,613
Office and equipment rental	2,122	113,925	179,901
Other expenses	<u>649,211</u>	<u>403,076</u>	<u>506,720</u>
Total operating expenses	<u>7,936,692</u>	<u>7,684,732</u>	<u>7,369,462</u>
Operating income (loss)	120,245	209,220	68,380
Nonoperating revenues			
Intergovernmental (Federal awards)			
Revenue	74,791	102,251	349,424
Expense	(74,791)	(102,251)	(349,424)
Interest Income	1,628,977	1,186,970	167,550
Unrealized gain (loss)	<u>85,097</u>	<u>314</u>	<u>(144,386)</u>
Increase in net position	1,834,319	1,396,504	91,544
Net position			
Beginning of year	<u>10,968,771</u>	<u>9,572,267</u>	<u>9,480,723</u>
End of year	\$ <u>12,803,090</u>	\$ <u>10,968,771</u>	\$ <u>9,572,267</u>

**RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I
STATE OF HAWAI'I
Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2024 and 2023 and 2022**

Condensed Statements of Cash Flows (Unaudited)

The Corporation's statements of cash flows for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2024, 2023 and 2022 are summarized as follows:

	<u>2024</u>	<u>2023</u>	<u>2022</u>
Operating activities			
Cash received from operations	\$ 8,175,419	\$ 7,763,869	\$ 7,857,216
Cash payments for operations	(7,821,305)	(6,946,897)	(6,302,378)
Project expenditures and reimbursements, net	<u>(10,193,220)</u>	<u>3,057,987</u>	<u>(3,697,056)</u>
Net cash provided by (used in) operating activities	(9,839,106)	3,874,959	(2,142,218)
Capital and related financing activities	(1,330,298)	(993,220)	(238,250)
Investing activities	<u>3,263,601</u>	<u>11,858,920</u>	<u>1,860,202</u>
Increase (decrease) in cash	(7,905,803)	14,740,659	(520,266)
Cash, cash equivalents, and restricted cash			
Beginning of year	<u>35,969,798</u>	<u>21,229,139</u>	<u>21,749,405</u>
End of year	\$ <u>28,063,995</u>	\$ <u>35,969,798</u>	\$ <u>21,229,139</u>



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