RTRF generation at the University of Hawaii Hilo and its uses in FY15

Extramural grants received by the University of Hawaii and other research institutions generally contain overhead funds to reimburse institutions for the costs associated with research activity (utilities, renovations, data bases, scholarly journals, compliance with state and federal regulations, faculty start-up packages, administrative staff and laboratory technicians). These funds are returned by the state to the University of Hawai‘i, at the system level, to facilitate research. The returned funds are called RTRF (Research, Training, and Revolving Funds) at UH, and are used to support research throughout the system.

UH SYSTEM SUPPORT OF RESEARCH AT UH HILO

The UH system receives 25% of the RTRF and 75% flows to the institution where the funds were generated. The UH System uses RTRF to fund pre-award functions via ORS and MyGrant. General post-award accounting at UH Hilo is supported by the UH System.

The Office of the University of Hawaii Vice President of Research provides SYSTEM RTRF funds to support faculty actively writing research grants and mentoring graduate students in research learning experiences. Course releases to faculty active in competing for extramural funds were awarded by the UH Hilo VCAA in response to nominations by graduate program directors.

RESEARCH ADMINISTRATION AT UH HILO

RTRF Funds allocated to UH Hilo are generally placed in an RCUH account (Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii) and are distributed by the Chancellor through the Vice Chancellor of Academic Affairs (VCAA), in consultation with the Research Council. The VCAA has responsibility for research at UH Hilo but has delegated significant administrative oversight to Dr. Bruce Mathews, Interim Dean of CAFNRM. More information about Research Administration can be found at: http://hilo.hawaii.edu/research.
The amount of RTRF generated by sponsored grant activity over the past 7 years is shown in the graph below.

![Graph showing annual RTRF generation from FY09 to FY15.](image)

Please note that RTRF comes to the UH Hilo Office of Research the year *after* grant funds are expended by Principal Investigators, not at the time of the original award. UH Hilo generated $2,246,026 of overhead in 2015 of which $561,507 went to the UH System. Carry forward and contingencies from the previous fiscal year was $325,000. After receiving recovered indirect of $188,199 on sub-awards from UH Manoa, **$2,197,718** of RTRF was managed by UH Hilo in FY15.

**2015 RTRF was distributed in the following manner:**

**VC Administrative Affairs**  
$320,000  
These funds are used to offset the basic costs of research space on campus such as electricity, air-conditioning, maintenance, and minor remodeling (keep in mind that electricity is the single highest non-salary cost at UHH).

**Research Council**  
$220,000  
The UH Research Council uses RTRF to fund (a) faculty and staff travel to conferences and workshops where they can present their findings to their peers and learn of the latest research in their disciplines, and (b) small grants to faculty to initiate research projects which will produce the data needed to submit competitive, extramural grant proposals. Funding has also been provided for Grant Development Programs and Grant Workshops where faculty and students can learn best practices in formulating competitive grant proposals.
In 2015, the Research Council expended a total of $217,000. The remaining $3,000 was used for RCUH account fees. See:
http://hilo.hawaii.edu/research/researchcouncil.php
http://hilo.hawaii.edu/research/SeedMoneyGrants.php
http://hilo.hawaii.edu/research/ResearchRelationsFund.php

The Research Council also serves as the faculty/staff advisory committee to central administration on matters pertaining to research, institutional grant submissions, and distribution of RTRF funds.

**Principal Investigators (PI) $130,258**
A portion of RTRF is returned directly to grant PI to either use on current research projects or to fund new research investigations.

**Deans $102,696**
A portion of the RTRF generated by faculty and staff within their unit is also returned directly to the deans. These funds can be used for research-related projects at the discretion of the deans. Some examples are support for research equipment, to provide start-up funding for new researchers, or to provide bridge funding for researchers between grants.

**Departments $51,347**
A portion of the RTRF generated by faculty and staff within their unit is also returned directly to the departments. These funds can be used for research-related purposes similar to the deans or in ways the individual departments feel best supports their research efforts.

**Library $195,128**
RTRF funding has been provided to the library to help offset the costs of research-related journal subscriptions, data bases and book purchases. In FY2015, RTRF supported subscriptions for a number of the library’s research-related electronic resources, including Web of Science, PsycINFO, Aquatic Sciences & Fisheries Abstracts and large ejournal sets from JSTOR Arts & Sciences, SagePremier and SpringerLink.

http://guides.library.uhh.hawaii.edu/content.php?pid=316144&sid=5640599

**PACRC $29,974**
Emergency funding was provided to UHH’s Pacific Aquaculture and Coastal Research Center (PACRC) to maintain infrastructure to prevent fish fatalities. The improvements were critical and necessary for UH Hilo to remained certified to conduct all forms of animal research.

**Chancellor** 
$46,246
The Chancellor receives RTRF as PI of institutional grants and uses this funding to support existing research or create innovative new programs to spur new research venues at UH Hilo.

**Research Labs** 
$205,032
*The UHH Core Genomics facility* promotes research and assists faculty, undergraduate and graduate students, and US Federal and State of Hawaii agencies by offering genomics technical training sessions and access to a wide variety of equipment, and by providing laboratory support to researchers doing preliminary research to help with grant applications. Support also includes DNA sequencing and genotyping (Sanger), and next generation sequencing services for a fee.

*The UH Hilo Analytical Laboratory* supports ecological research and water quality studies. The lab provides analytical services (nutrients, organic carbon, nitrogen, stable isotopes, and elemental analyses) for researchers throughout the University of Hawaii System as well as Federal and state agency research projects in the State of Hawaii.

*The SDAV lab* provides limited geospatial technical support for faculty and students on an ad hoc basis, loaning out GPS units for data collection and providing computer support and specialized software programs for geospatial analyses. The lab also produced critical digital datasets for lava flow hazards in Pahoa, dry land forest health, and Mauna Kea erosion studies.

Analytical Laboratory ([http://hilo.hawaii.edu/~analab/](http://hilo.hawaii.edu/~analab/))
Spatial Data and Analysis Lab ([http://spatial.uhh.hawaii.edu/](http://spatial.uhh.hawaii.edu/))

**Research & Community Partnerships** 
$260,611
The university utilizes this office to focus efforts closely tied to the collaboration, diversity and community goals of UH Hilo’s strategic plan. RTRF supports staff in
two areas: 1) Staff to work with faculty, student groups, and community groups, to coordinate university engagement in community ‘āina-based efforts, including developing ‘āina-based service-learning opportunities for faculty and student groups with local schools, coordinating the Hawaii Island Science Olympiad for island middle and high school students, and linking high school students to the university through summer programming, and 2) Staff to coordinate UHH’s participation in the Hawai‘i Cooperative Studies Unit (HCSU), the UHH component of the Pacific Island Climate Science Center, the Hawaii‘i Conservation Alliance, the Pacific Island Climate Change Cooperative, the USGS Hawaii Fishery Cooperative Research Unit and the Hawai‘i-Pacific Islands Cooperative Ecosystems Studies Unit (HPI CESU). RTRF generated from those partnerships covered 60% of staffing costs.

**Sea Grant Support** $50,000
RTRF support was used to collaborate with a network of communities on Hawaii Island and throughout the state that live sustainably, that support best practices in coastal resource use and management, and to build leadership in these areas for future generations.

**Biostatistician Support** $35,000
Part-time senior biostatistician to teach PharmD and PhD students biostatistics courses in the College of Pharmacy, and to support and grow the research enterprise through faculty mentorship and collaborations on research grants and publications.

**PI Support** $226,171
The PI Support team assists with overall grant management and initiating procurement, personnel and travel transactions on behalf of PIs. Support is provided for single investigators who receive smaller extramural grants without administrative support, RTRF returned to PIs, Deans, Dept. Chairs, and PIs, as well as the Research Council’s grant programs.


**Proposal Development** $74,940
OR personnel assist PIs with a variety of services including editing proposals for readability and responsiveness to the RFP, offering help with developing and
modifying budgets and their accompanying justifications, initiating proposals in
the UH Hilo-internal myGRANT system (including the Intent to Apply form), and
assisting with uploads to both Grants.gov and NSF FastLane. OR personnel work
with PIs and their co-PIs to ensure such elements as BioSketches, Data
Management Plans, Post-Doc Mentoring Plans, and other required elements of
proposals are compliant, and that the Project Summary and Description are
included and properly worded.

FY15 RTRF - Allocations

RTRF Generated (Post-System Tax & MyGrant
recovered indirect) - FY 2015