RTRF generation at the University of Hawaii Hilo and its uses in FY17

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 are general funds returned by the state to the University of Hawai‘i, at the system level, to make research possible. The returned funds are called RTRF (Research, Training, and Revolving Funds) at UH, and are used to support research throughout the system.

The UH system receives 25% of the RTRF and 75% flows to the institution where the funds were generated. The UH System uses its share of RTRF to fund pre-award functions via ORS and MyGrant. General post-award accounting at UH Hilo (Paula Gealon’s office) is also funded by the UH System. 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, 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.

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 $2,368,861 of overhead in FY 2017 of which $592,215 went to the UH System for support. The total new revenue was $1,776,646. Carry forward and contingencies from the previous fiscal year were $493,051. UH Hilo also received an additional $100,000 from the system to support Faculty Research. This left $2,369,697 under UH Hilo control in FY17.

**2017 RTRF was distributed in the following manner:**

**VC Administrative Affairs**  
$366,000  
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**  
$120,000  
The UH Research Council uses RTRF to fund Travel Grants, Research Seed Money Grants, and Research Relations Grants for faculty and staff. Funding has also been provided for Grant Development Programs and Grant Workshops in the past. The Research Council also serves as the faculty/staff advisory committee for matters pertaining to research, institutional grant submissions, and distribution of RTRF funds. In 2017, the Research Council expended $55,000 on 27 travel grants, $59,163 on 6 Seed Grants, and $4,560 on 1 Research Relations Grant for a total of $118,723. The remaining $1,277 was used for RCUH fees.  
See:  
http://hilo.hawaii.edu/research/researchcouncil.php  
http://hilo.hawaii.edu/research/SeedMoneyGrants.php  
http://hilo.hawaii.edu/research/ResearchRelationsFund.php

**Principal Investigators (PI)**  
$34,811  
A portion of RTRF is returned directly to grant PI to either use on current research projects or to fund new research investigations.

**Deans**  
$29,009  
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 $14,504
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.

Chancellor $160,000
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.

Library $65,000
RTRF funding has been provided to the library to help offset the costs of research-related journal subscriptions, data bases and book purchases. In FY 2017, RTRF supported subscriptions for a number of the library’s research-related electronic resources, including Project Muse, CAB Abstracts, Aquatic Sciences & Fisheries Abstracts and large ejournal sets from the BioOne Complete Journal Collection, SagePremier and Springer. https://hilo.hawaii.edu/library/guides/

Research Labs (TCBES supported) $279,861
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. Core Genomics Facility (http://hilo.hawaii.edu/depts/epscor/)
Analytical Laboratory (http://hilo.hawaii.edu/~analab/)

Pharmacy Research and Lab Support $212,960
Support for research laboratories and laboratory managers to maintain research equipment and infrastructure. Some funds were also used to directly foster research to support grant applications.
**System Support for Faculty Research $100,000**
The University of Hawaii Vice President of Research Vassilis Syrmos provided RTRF funds to support faculty actively writing research grants and mentoring graduate students in research learning experiences.

**MAGIC $39,016**
RTRF that was earned by the Marine Algae Industrialization Consortium (MAGIC) grant was returned to CAFNRM to help meet fishery needs at PACRC and the UH Hilo Farm with priority to aquaculture.

**PACRC $35,071**
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 animal research.

**Research & Community Partnerships $297,590**
The university utilizes this office to focus efforts closely tied to the collaboration, diversity and community goals of UH Hilo’s strategic plan. RTRF supported 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 Hawai‘i 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 Hawai‘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. The FY17 funding amount included funding to sustain operations for 4 months into FY18.

**Sea Grant Support $52,788**
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 $40,968
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 $158,171
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 $68,948
Proposal Development staff 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.

TIG Services $50,000
The Implementation Group (TIG) provides grant proposal review and editing services that are extremely important in supporting UH Hilo’s capacity to submit competitive grant proposals.

DLIR - Hilo Processing Center $25,000
Funding was provided for the Department of Labor and Industrial Relations (DLIR) to partner with UH Hilo to conduct and complete a feasibility study and develop a Request for Proposal (RFP) for a multi-purpose processing facility that would advance manufacturing and technology for industries on the Island of Hawaii.

Research Office Administration/Contingency $220,000
A reserve to help deal with unexpected research-related costs.

TOTAL RTRF DISTRIBUTED FY 2017 $2,369,697