RTRF generation at the University of Hawaii Hilo and its uses in FY18

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.
FY 2018 RTRF allocations were adjusted systemwide to reflect a large decline in RTRF earnings which occurred over the past five (5) years, as well as an overall assessment on the Risk Management Fund due to an increase in legal fees.

UH Hilo generated $1,691,621 of overhead in FY 2018 of which $330,586 went to the UH System for taxes and $104,400 for Risk Management funds. Due to the decrease in overhead funds generated by UH Hilo, we were charged an additional $94,423. This brought the total revenue to $1,162,212. Carry forward and contingencies from the previous fiscal year were $207,149. This left $1,369,361 under UH Hilo control in FY18.

**2018 RTRF was distributed in the following manner:**

**VC Administrative Affairs** $295,000
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** $100,000
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 2018, the Research Council expended $29,300 on 14 travel grants, $16,716 on 2 Seed Grants, and $12,586 on 3 Research Relations Grants for a total of $58,602. The remaining $41,398 was carried over to the next fiscal year to help offset future deficits after a small amount 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)** $13,879
A portion of RTRF is returned directly to grant PI to either use on current research projects or to fund new research investigations.
Library **$54,000**
RTRF funding has been provided to the library to help offset the costs of research-related journal subscriptions, data bases and book purchases. In FY18, RTRF supported subscriptions for a number of the library’s research-related electronic resources, including Project Muse, CAB Abstracts, OVID Technologies and large ejournal sets from SagePremier and Springer.
https://hilo.hawaii.edu/library/guides/

Research Labs (TCBES supported) **$200,000**
*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 **$200,000**
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.

MAGIC **$33,632**
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.

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.

TIG Services **$25,000**
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.
Research & Community Partnerships       $175,605
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 `aina-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 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 FY18 funding amount included funding to sustain operations for 4 months into FY19.

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. http://hilo.hawaii.edu/research/documents/ORS_HSC.OR._8.18.pdf

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.

Research Office Administration/Contingency       $4,158
A reserve to help deal with unexpected research-related costs.

TOTAL RTRF DISTRIBUTED FY 2018       $1,369,361