



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII®  
SYSTEM

DEPT. COMM. NO. 371  
David Lassner  
President

February 2, 2023

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 2022 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 black ink that reads 'David Lassner'.

David Lassner

Enclosure

c: Legislative Reference Bureau Library

2444 Dole Street, Bachman Hall  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96822  
Telephone: (808) 956-8207  
Fax: (808) 956-5286

An Equal Opportunity/Affirmative Action Institution



**RCUH**

Research Corporation  
of the University of Hawai'i

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

2022

ANNUAL REPORT

# WELCOME



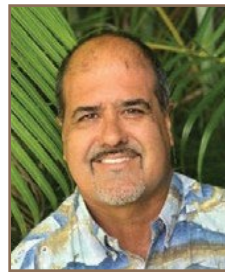
With the end of a year comes the promise of a new beginning. This year marked the beginning of a new five-year strategic plan for the Research Corporation of the University of Hawai'i (RCUH). Our work is guided by its four goals:

1. Evaluate & implement recommendations from the RCUH Task Force.
2. Clarify RCUH's identity with the University of Hawai'i (UH) and the State.
3. Reform RCUH's internal operations.
4. Increase engagement & outreach to clients.

In 2022, we focused on updating the UH/RCUH Internal Agreement, collaborating with UH in an effort to reduce information technology (IT) costs, ensuring that stakeholders understand RCUH's role and limitations, identifying and implementing efficiencies in RCUH's operations, ensuring IT and data systems are secure and in compliance with applicable policies and regulations, and strengthening relationships with Principal Investigators (PIs), Fiscal Administrators (FAs), and Project Staff.

Our major achievements in calendar year 2022 include:

- Evaluating and maintaining the UH/RCUH Internal Agreement.
- Onboarding a new HR Director and IT System/Security Administrator.
- Revising internal HR procedures to transition to 100% electronic processing.
- Implementing system features for external users to expedite transactions and increase efficiency (e.g., telework code in eTimesheet, eUpload feature in the HR Portal, Job Description Library).
- Increasing retention of RCUH core staff.



Leonard Gouveia, Jr.  
*Executive Director*



Eugene Bal III  
*Board Chair*

This year also saw us continue to be responsive to a fluid public health climate. At times it felt like two steps forward and one step back, but when it was safe to do so, we started to entertain some in-person functions that were a mainstay in the past. In October we honored 16 exemplary employees at our first in-person awards luncheon in three years. The newly renovated UH Manoa Campus Center Ballroom was the perfect venue to accommodate nearly 100 employees, principal investigators, and staff for the special celebration.

We are grateful to the research community for allowing us to serve them and to share in their achievements. It is always a joy to read, see, or hear about a project that we supported and the impact it has made on others. It is also extremely important for us to recognize and commend the 30-plus women and men on the RCUH corporate staff who work tirelessly to help others advance research, training, and development in Hawai'i and beyond. A project's successes would not happen without you!

Finally, we wish to acknowledge and thank the RCUH Board of Directors for their support and guidance throughout the past year. We look forward to working closely with them as we make further progress on our strategic plan goals. We hope that you find this annual 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](http://www.rcuh.com).

Cover photo by Zach Pezzillo; back cover photo courtesy Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit, Ko'olau Mountains Watershed Partnership

# 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.



Eugene Bal III  
*Board Chair*



Kelli Goodin  
*Vice Chair*



Ken Hayashida



David Karl



Jaret KC Leong



Diane Paloma



Taryn Salmon



Vassilis Syrmos

### ALOHA 'OE!

Mahalo to our two outgoing board members who completed their term in 2022. You'll be missed!



Michael Maberry

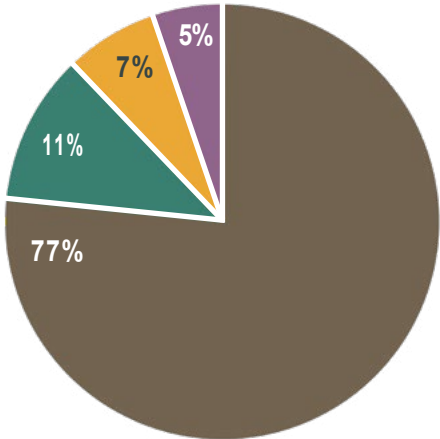


Joseph Pickard

# FINANCIAL & HR REPORT



## VOLUME OF BUSINESS BY PROJECT TYPE



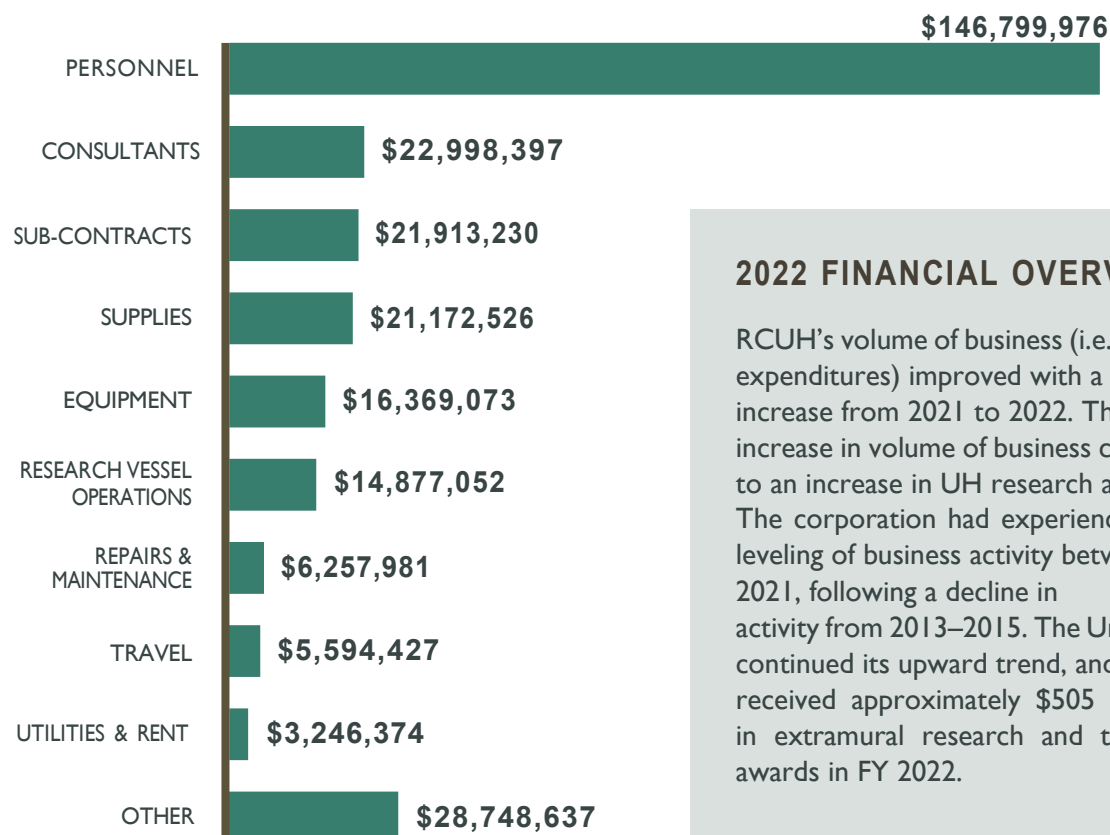
**TOTAL VOLUME OF BUSINESS:**  
**\$287,977,672**

- **UH EXTRAMURAL PROJECTS (\$220,558,687)**  
 Externally sponsored federal and non-federal contracts, grants, and other agreements
  
- **UH REVOLVING PROJECTS (\$32,732,567)**  
 Self-sustaining, income-generating projects established to support a specialized service activity, a recharge center, or other sales and service activities
  
- **DIRECT PROJECTS (\$19,819,260)**  
 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 INTRAMURAL PROJECTS (\$14,867,158)**  
 Internally sponsored programs or activities funded with UH Research and Training Revolving Funds (RTRF) or Tuition and Fee Special Funds (TFSF)

## PROJECTS BY COUNTY

COUNTY	NO. OF PROJECTS	NO. OF EMPLOYEES	VOL. OF BUSINESS
HONOLULU	3,500	1,623	\$240,668,024
HAWAI'I	404	542	\$29,209,577
MAUI	124	270	\$16,852,041
KAUA'I	17	70	\$1,248,030
STATEWIDE	4,045	2,505	\$287,977,672
OTHER (Continental U.S. + International)		161	

## FY 2022 FINANCIAL EXPENDITURES



### 2022 FINANCIAL OVERVIEW

RCUH's volume of business (i.e., project expenditures) improved with a 10% increase from 2021 to 2022. The increase in volume of business correlates to an increase in UH research awards. The corporation had experienced a leveling of business activity between 2016–2021, following a decline in activity from 2013–2015. The University continued its upward trend, and received approximately \$505 million in extramural research and training awards in FY 2022.

## TRANSACTIONS BY FISCAL YEAR

TRANSACTIONS	FY 2022	FY 2021	FY 2020
TIMESHEETS/eTIMESHEETS	57,367	57,379	56,089
VENDOR PAYMENTS	33,814	29,981	42,381
NON-PO PAYMENTS	18,688	16,983	25,381
PURCHASE ORDERS	11,186	9,997	12,711
TRAVEL REQUESTS/COMPLETIONS	7,572	3,256	14,178
CASH RECEIPTS	8,832	6,316	9,176
W-2'S ISSUED *	3,527	3,574	3,385
TERMINATIONS	1,497	1,445	1,388
NEW HIRES	1,520	1,633	1,375

\* Data reported based on calendar year

# 2022 YEAR IN REVIEW



RCUH had ambitious goals for Year 1 of its 2022–2026 Strategic Plan and although not all targets were met, a solid foundation was laid for the next four years. 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.

### Update the UH/RCUH Internal Agreement.

After discussions in March between UH President David Lassner, VP for Research & Innovation Vassilis Syrmos, UH Board of Regent/RCUH Board Chair Eugene Bal, and Executive Director Lenny Gouveia, all parties agreed that the current Internal Agreement should remain in place with no modifications. The group also agreed that the 10% cap on RCUH's management fee would be removed from UH Executive Policy 12.216.

### Determine the appropriate level of and proper use of RCUH's reserves, line of credit.

RCUH provided a presentation to the Board of Directors at the December 6, 2022 meeting to begin the discussion on the appropriate level of the corporation's working capital reserves. This topic will be discussed at the March 2023 meeting and a formal policy will be proposed.

### Collaborate with UH in an effort to minimize IT costs.

RCUH has worked closely with UH VP of Information Technology and Chief Information Officer Garret Yoshimi to determine whether future IT initiatives can be integrated within UH's existing systems/plans. For example, RCUH assessed the possibility of merging UH and RCUH users for the implementation of a Multi-Factor Authentication system, however, the price point would have been costly for the University. Ultimately it was determined that it would be best for both parties if RCUH had its own plan.

RCUH continues to work with VPIT Yoshimi to determine ways to minimize IT costs. He has provided valuable feedback as RCUH finalizes the procurement of new software to replace the aging AS 400 accounting system that serves as the backbone for RCUH's Financial Portal.

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

### Clearly define RCUH's role and relationship with UH, State of Hawai'i.

RCUH has met with numerous stakeholders to discuss and evaluate the existing Master Agreement. An internal review is ongoing. RCUH has also communicated established guidelines on RCUH's scope of work relating to Direct Project inquiries.

### Ensure stakeholders understand RCUH's role and limitations.

RCUH developed an "Introduction to RCUH" presentation that provides a comprehensive look at RCUH's history and operations. This presentation will be used to onboard new board members and can be modified depending on the target audience.

## NEW DIRECT PROJECTS IN CALENDAR YEAR 2022

- **Dept. of Health - Adult Mental Health Division Project (est. budget: \$3.5 million)**  
The project will conduct research of new evidence-based programs and translational research of existing evidence-based programs for use in Hawai'i and develop and maintain a robust data system that links to appropriate evidence-based clinical care.
- **Dept. of Health - Development Disabilities Division Project (est. budget: \$3.1 million)**  
This project will focus on the development of a training and certification framework for workforce development of Direct Support Professionals and research analytics for critical incident response and continuous quality improvement.
- **Local 2030 Islands Network (est. budget: \$3 million)**  
The Local 2030 Islands Network coordinates island members to support green growth, sustainable development, and climate resilience.
- **Hawaii Library Access & Mobile Clinic (est. budget: \$2.2 million)**  
This project strives to improve access for underserved communities to online health information and telehealth services through state libraries, improve access to preventive health services using mobile clinic vans statewide, and establish a data collection and reporting system to catalog data.
- **Dept. of Agriculture - Produce Safety Program (est. budget: \$360,000)**  
This alliance of federal-state cooperators should result in on-farm consistencies that will meet the expectations of the Produce Safety Program and signifies progress toward improved food safety.
- **Dept. of Health - Microbiologist Training Program (est. budget: \$352,000)**  
RCUH will provide administrative support to this program that will help individuals qualify for the State of Hawaii Department of Health Clinical Laboratory Personnel License as a Clinical Laboratory Specialist in Microbiology/Molecular Biology.
- **Two-Line Spittlebug Management & Control (est. budget: \$300,000)**  
The scope of this project is to create a reimbursement program to address the cost to ranchers for the impacts of the highly invasive two-lined spittlebug as set forth in Act 137 Session Laws of Hawaii 2021.
- **Hawaii Local2030 Hub (est. budget: \$80,000)**  
The Hawaii Local2030 Hub is a public-private partnership and a United Nations Local2030 Hub that is committed to advancing economic, social, and environmental goals.
- **Dept. of Land and Natural Resources - Hawaii Freshwater Public Fishing Area Resource Monitoring Project (est. budget: \$65,000)**  
This DLNR project will educate and engage local and visiting communities in pono fishing practices and conduct research to help facilitate management of PFAs in Hawai'i.



## GOAL #3: REFORM RCUH'S INTERNAL OPERATIONS.

### Identify and implement efficiencies in RCUH's operations.

HR Director Kira Higa conducted an organizational evaluation during the first six months in her new role. During this evaluation period, she focused on hiring and retaining high-quality contributors. After aligning the roles and responsibilities of current staff, she identified and addressed gaps in training/development and staffing needs.

RCUH also worked towards centralizing its operations on the Mānoa campus. RCUH anticipates moving all staff from the Mānoa Innovation Center (MIC) to East-West Center's Burns Hall in February 2023.

In terms of developing a formal remote work policy, RCUH released a memo to project staff that aligns with UH's Telework Policy. To ensure accurate reporting, HR also developed a new code in the eTimesheet to track telework hours.

### Invest in development of RCUH core staff.

During Director Higa's evaluation of her department, she worked with individual staff to create custom career maps with actionable goals. These plans should help increase the retention of core staff, which has already improved with six less terminations than the previous year. Staff have also completed professional development sessions with the Hawaii Employers Council, American Payroll Association, and other HR-related institutions.

### Ensure systems are secure and in compliance with applicable policies, regulations.

RCUH hired an IT System/Security Administrator in October 2022 to maintain RCUH's computer systems. In just three months, he has evaluated and implemented recommendations for RCUH's IT infrastructure at MIC. This includes deploying an internal vulnerability scanner to detect security issues, deploying a backup system for full system restores, and documenting RCUH's inventory of servers, equipment, network, etc.

Additionally, RCUH has also begun to implement Multi-Factor Authentication for several internal systems, such as webmail and PeopleSoft. Testing is underway for the Financial Portal with an anticipated systemwide rollout in 2023.

### Reduce the administrative burden for researchers.

In an effort to ease the administrative burden for researchers and their staff, RCUH:

- Consolidated the annual performance evaluation to a single two-page form.
- Implemented an eUpload feature in the HR Portal and Employee Self-Service that provides a secure method to upload documents with sensitive information to HR.
- Developed a Job Description (JD) Library to assist projects with job description management. It provides quick access and centralized storage for all established JDs unique to each project.
- Enabled a security question feature for password resets in the HR Portal and Employee Self-Service.
- Revised a policy to give PIs and FAs the ability to approve certain terms and conditions for purchases below \$25,000.

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

To promote internal efficiencies, HR implemented automatic email notifications for terminations, position selections, and closed recruitments. These were previously manual processes that took up many work hours.

On the Finance side, RCUH has had many discussions with IT vendors, as well as UH ITS, to determine the most appropriate platform to replace the AS 400. DataHouse presented a proposal at the December 6, 2022 Board of Directors meeting that was approved on the condition that the procurement process is vetted by RCUH's assigned Deputy Attorney General.

## ADDITIONAL ACCOMPLISHMENTS & ENDEAVORS IN 2022

### Recruiting & Onboarding New HR Director

After serving as RCUH's Director of Human Resources for more than 30 years, Nelson Sakamoto retired in May 2022. RCUH's Leadership Team worked with an executive recruiter to find a successor and were pleased to welcome Kira Higa as the incoming HR Director. She previously worked at the Office of Hawaiian Affairs and has held various roles at Hawaiian Telcom for the past 13 years, most recently as HR Director.

### DCSA Security Review

The Defense Counterintelligence Security Agency conducted a security review of RCUH in September 2022. RCUH received a Satisfactory Security Rating with one administrative finding, two follow-up actions, and one serious vulnerability, which RCUH respectfully disagreed with. Appropriate action was taken on all items and have been resolved.

### Legislative Activity

There was significant activity in the 2022 legislative session with two bills that would alter RCUH's statute and impact its operations. RCUH submitted written and oral testimony in opposition to SB2304 and SB3267 since many of the concerns were already addressed in the UH Task Force Report that was submitted prior to the 2022 session. Both bills passed through the Senate with amendments, despite receiving opposition from researchers and administrators, however, they failed to pass after the first crossover to the House.

### Transition of Revolving Accounts to UH

RCUH collaborated with UH's Office of Research Services, Fiscal Department and IT on the transition of UH's Revolving Accounts from RCUH's Financial System to UH's Kualii Financial System. The targeted date to complete this transition is July 1, 2023.

## GOAL #4: INCREASE ENGAGEMENT AND OUTREACH TO CLIENTS.

### Strengthen relationships with PIs, FAs, and Project Staff.

In October 2022, a gathering of nearly 100 individuals celebrated the accomplishments of 16 exemplary RCUH employees at the annual RCUH Awards Luncheon. The in-person event was brought back for the first time in three years and was held at the newly renovated UH Mānoa Campus Center Ballroom.

RCUH's Board of Directors reinstated funds to support its Tuition Expense Reimbursement program for eligible RCUH employees. The funds were cut by 50% for the previous two years and during that period RCUH received many messages of support for this employee benefit.

### Improve external communications to projects.

The pandemic persuaded many professionals to elect for an early retirement, including a large number of prominent researchers at the University of Hawai'i. In response to this exodus, RCUH held a virtual Q&A forum "Pathways to Research Success: Lessons Learned" to provide an opportunity for up-and-coming researchers to hear from some of the most experienced and successful UH Principal Investigators and learn from their experiences. Nearly 100 individuals participated in the webinar, which provided the ability to pose questions to panelists in real-time. A [report and recording](#) were also made available on RCUH's website for those who weren't able to attend.

# PROJECT SPOTLIGHT



## WATERSHED PARTNERSHIPS BRING LANDOWNERS TOGETHER TO PROTECT HAWAI‘I’S NATURAL RESOURCES

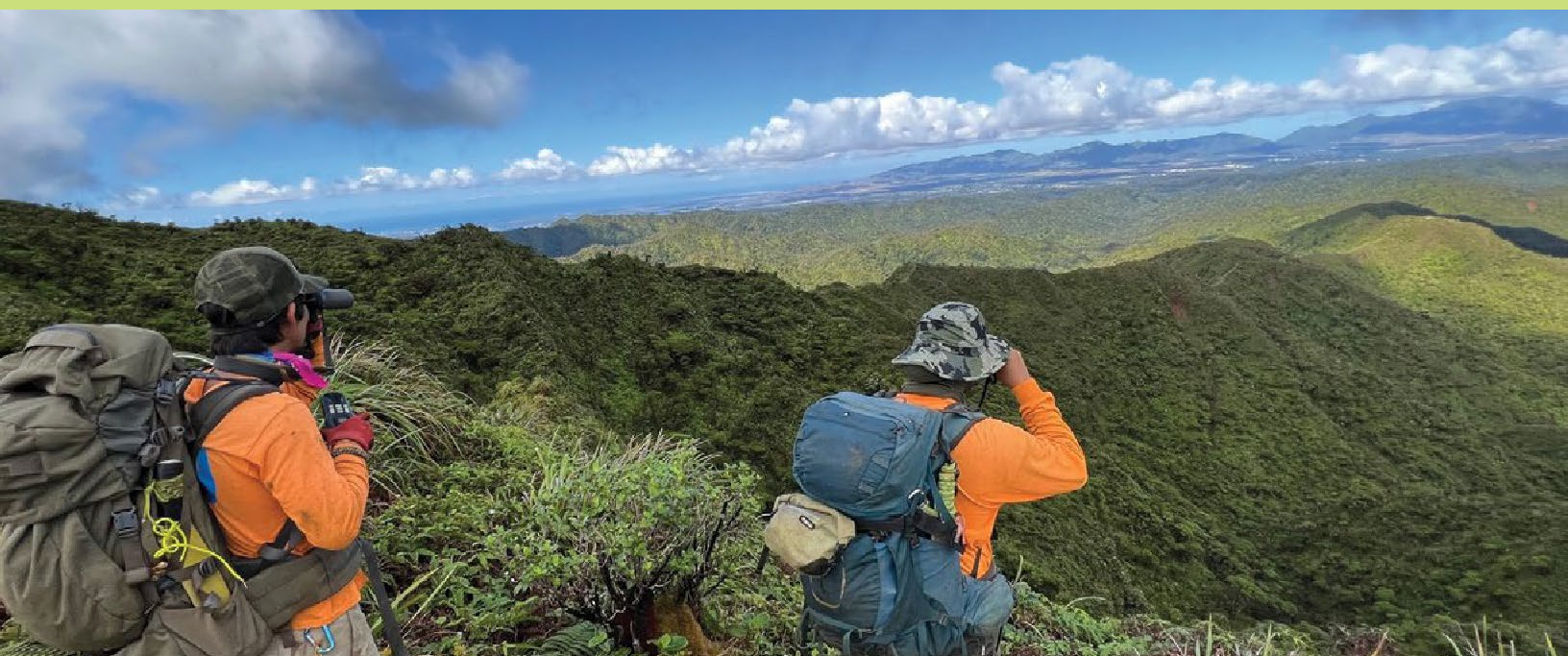
With the Red Hill water crisis receiving prominent coverage in the media in 2022, the safety of O‘ahu’s drinking water has been brought to the forefront. Besides the obvious danger of fuel leaks, there are many other threats to the island’s water supply, such as invasive species, development, and climate change. The [Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit](#) at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa supports seven watershed partnerships across the state to combat these threats. Their focus is to reintegrate native species into forests, stabilize Hawai‘i’s unique ecosystems, and provide a sustainable water supply for our isolated island state.

“These watershed partnerships play an integral role by striving to maintain healthy forests where our rainwaters can be absorbed into the ground, rather than run-off, and restore the water table that is so vital to our living on these islands,” said Principal Investigator Cliff Morden.

According to Dr. Morden, close to 50% of Hawai‘i’s native forests have been lost and those that remain are threatened by invasive species. The watershed partnerships continually propagate native plant species, including rare and endangered species, which is vital to restore these habitats.

### What is a Watershed?

According to the Board of Water Supply, it’s “an area of land, encompassing a mountain or valley, that catches and collects rainwater.” An ahupua‘a is the Hawaiian equivalent of a watershed as it includes land from mauka to makai.



## PCSU-Supported Watershed Partnerships

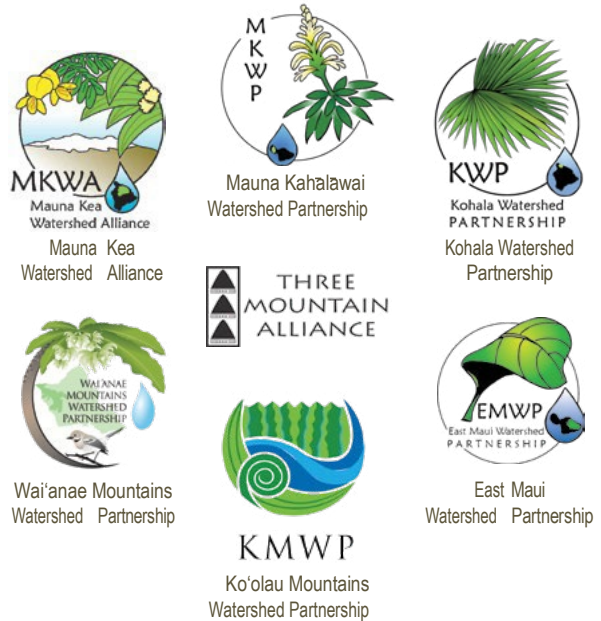
Staff collect and store native plant seeds that can later be grown in greenhouses and evaluate the best methods for their reintroduction into their natural habitats. With 60% of Hawai'i's native flora in danger of becoming extinct, the work of these watershed partnerships are as important as ever. Watershed staff have built miles of fencing on several islands to combat non-native hoofed animals, such as wild pigs, goats, mufflon sheep, and axis deer. These feral ungulates destroy native vegetation, spread invasive weeds, accelerate erosion, and pollute waterways with disease.

Because each watershed is so different geographically, from dryland forests to tropical rainforests, each partnership has different research and management methods, while sharing the same goal of protecting Hawai'i's ecosystems. For example, the Wai'anae Mountains Watershed Partnership takes a holistic management approach by incorporating 'Ōlelo noeau (Hawaiian proverbs or poetical sayings), mo'olelo (Hawaiian stories, myths, and legends), ahupua'a (traditional Hawaiian land division system), and Hawaiian moon phase concepts in their activities, attempting to find a balance between modern science and ancient Hawaiian practices and culture.

Regardless of their methods or geographic terrain, one thing these watershed partnerships all have in common is their ability to bring together federal, state, county, and private landowners and organizations to protect the state's natural resources. The State set a goal to protect 30% of remaining watershed forests by 2030 and progress can be tracked here: <https://alohachallenge.hawaii.gov/pages/nrm-02-watershed-forest-areas>.

Photo on left: A crew from the Ko'olau Mountains Watershed Partnership uses binoculars to survey for invasive species in the area.

Photo courtesy the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit



### 3 WAYS YOU CAN HELP

#### VOLUNTEER

Volunteer days with projects make a tremendous impact on what can get done in a very short time. Opportunities can range from field work, such as seed cleaning, weed control, and plant identification, to office-based work. Private group opportunities may also be arranged.

#### PROMOTE CONSERVATION EFFORTS

Monitor your water use and recycle the water you use for other purposes. Support quarantine and invasive species prevention initiatives and programs. Prevent the spread of weeds by checking your clothing and boots after hiking.

#### VOICE YOUR SUPPORT

Contact your elected officials to support or oppose bills impacting watershed health. Share the importance of protecting our local watersheds with your families and friends, or schedule a presentation on watersheds for your colleagues.



Staff participate in training during the Phase II kickoff of the PhilAWARE Campaign in October 2022. PhilAWARE is a custom version of PDC's DisasterAWARE platform and has already made an impact since its deployment in late 2021. The system has helped the Philippines Office of Civil Defense monitor and respond to Super Typhoon Rai and numerous landslides caused by Tropical Storm Agaton. Photo courtesy Pacific Disaster Center

## PACIFIC DISASTER CENTER EXPANDS ITS REACH, IMPACT, AND INTERNATIONAL PARTNERSHIPS

Natural hazards occur every day around the world. As rapid population growth and with climate change increase the frequency and intensity of these hazards, threatening more lives and livelihoods, it is more critical than ever to work to reduce disaster risks. A powerhouse when natural disasters come calling is the [Pacific Disaster Center](#) (PDC), a University of Hawai'i applied science and research center, located in Kihei, Maui.

After Hurricane Iniki's devastating effects in 1992, the late U.S. Senator Daniel K. Inouye conceived PDC as a hub to advance use of science, information, and technology for disaster prevention at home and beyond. The Center opened in 1995 and at its earliest inception was focused on support to Hawai'i's own emergency management and disaster management agencies, as well as to inform

policymakers with the best science and information.

Today, PDC serves a global audience, helping communities across the world to increase disaster management capacity and embolden more effective, evidence-based risk reduction decisions, policies, and actions for a safer world. PDC has completed projects in Hawai'i, North America, and more than 70 countries, and equipped nations across Asia Pacific, Latin America, the Caribbean, Africa, and Eastern Europe with the most advanced technologies and best practices.

Technology advancements, innovation, and agility, along with a very forward-leaning vision of what is likely needed by future decision makers drive PDC's services and reach. Their DisasterAWARE platform is used by

tens of thousands of disaster management and humanitarian assistance practitioners across the globe. The platform provides multi-hazard early warning, hazard monitoring, and risk intelligence for effective disaster preparedness, recovery, and mitigation. Additionally, DisasterAWARE provides access to the largest, high-resolution, scientifically-vetted big data catalog, along with real-time information, precision modeling, and artificial intelligence (AI)-based advanced analytics. Disaster Alert, PDC's public mobile app, has been downloaded by more than two million people.

International partnerships with the United Nations, World Food Program, U.S. Geological Survey, NASA, and the International Federation of Red Cross, among others, provide critical information and data that improve PDC's ability to anticipate hazard impacts to populations and infrastructure. A new life-saving technology developed in partnership between PDC and NASA has just been released—providing the world's first global flood detection capability to help reach 50% of the world's population which currently lack adequate early warning.

## 2022 PDC HIGHLIGHTS

- Four national baseline assessments for Guyana, Palau, Djibouti, and Nepal.
- Nearly \$1 million in funding support from USAID for a major expansion to PhilAWARE early warning system.
- All 192 societies of the International Federation of Red Cross granted direct access to PDC life-saving early warning and hazard impact information.
- First global gender trend analysis of “Women, Peace and Security” to improve gender-based resilience, peace, and security worldwide.
- First multi-hazard Climate Risk Analysis, comparing impacts of numerous weather-related hazards between 2000 and 2050 within the Asia Pacific region.

## UNITED NATIONS RECOGNIZES PDC WITH SASAKAWA AWARD

The Pacific Disaster Center was honored with the Sasakawa Award, a once-in-a-lifetime achievement award granted every three years by the United Nations to recognize excellence in reducing disaster risk for a more inclusive and sustainable world—leaving no one left behind.

PDC was nominated for its national baseline assessment program which helps countries put risk information into action and operationalizes the goals of the United Nations Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction. It was also nominated by the AHA Centre for its nearly two decades of work with the ASEAN (Association of

Southeast Asian Nations) region to build multi-hazard warning and advanced disaster management capacity.

Following the award announcement, PDC Executive Director Ray Shirkhodai said, “Pacific Disaster Center is honored and humbled by the recognition we’ve received from the United Nations and our partners for our efforts to help create safer, more disaster-resilient communities. We share this award with all like-minded, hard-working humanitarians with a passion for helping the vulnerable among us and reducing disaster risk to make life better for all citizens.”

# OUTSTANDING EMPLOYEES



After a three-year hiatus due to the COVID-19 pandemic, RCUH recognized 16 exemplary employees at the 2022 RCUH Awards Luncheon. Nearly 100 individuals attended the event held at the renovated UH Mānoa Campus Center Ballroom. Each employee received a certificate and cash award; first-place awardees received \$1,000 (shared equally among team members) and second place awardees received \$500.

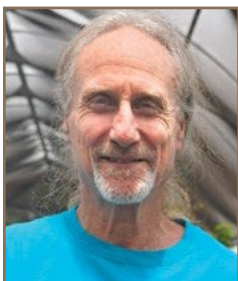


## RESEARCH/PROJECT MANAGER CATEGORY



**1st Place:** [Cris Milne](#), UH John A. Burns School of Medicine

Cris has served as a Research Nurse Practitioner at the Hawai'i Center for AIDS for more than 25 years. Cris and five other nurses were presented with the 2021 Suzanne Richmond-Crum Award for their outstanding contributions in providing HIV/AIDS services to the community. Dr. Dominic Chow said that Cris truly embodies the mission of the center as a tireless advocate for quality medical care, research, and education for health professionals.



**2nd Place:** [Hank Oppenheimer](#), UH College of Natural Sciences

Hank is one of the premier botanists in Hawai'i and has discovered six new and invasive plant species on Maui over the last 14 years. As the Maui Nui Coordinator for the Plant Extinction Prevention Program, Hank strives to protect and save Hawai'i's rarest plants using a variety of methods, including fencing, rat trapping, and weed control. Because of his efforts, there are currently restored populations of native plants that would have otherwise gone extinct.



**Honorable Mention:** [Jesse Abdul](#), UH School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

As a Data Applications Developer with the Cooperative Institute for Marine and Atmospheric Research (CIMAR), Jesse works closely with NOAA and other stakeholders to help monitor the health of commercial fisheries around the Pacific. He recently developed and successfully launched a personal tracking system in just two months to ensure the health and safety of employees returning to the Inouye Regional Center on Ford Island.

## PROJECT SUPPORT STAFF CATEGORY



**1st Place:** [Kelsey McBeain](#), UH School of Ocean and Earth Science and Technology

As a Lab Research Technician, Kelsey is responsible for maintaining a unique collection of phytoplankton and virus cultures from the ocean waters around the Hawaiian islands. There are hundreds of strains that must be kept alive, which is no easy task. Kelsey has streamlined and reduced the time for culture maintenance procedures by nearly 50% so that it now takes less than a week per month.



**2nd Place:** [Naomi Moran](#), Subaru Telescope

With Naomi's help, accidents at Subaru Telescope have declined since 2018, however safety is a daily challenge. High altitude conditions can cause staff to lose awareness of their environment. Naomi provides on-site safety training for staff and conducts monthly inspections. She also took the lead in updating Subaru's COVID-19 guidelines and procedures, keeping pace with ever-changing local and federal guidance.



**Honorable Mention:** [Joanna Norton](#), UH College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

Cassava isn't a well-known food in the U.S., but this important crop is eaten by more than 500 million people in developing countries. Under a project funded by the Bill and Melinda Gates Foundation, Joanna has developed a successful breeding program in Hilo and has provided cassava seeds to partners around the world. Her work has produced some of the highest yielding cassava on the Hāmakua Coast.



[Click here](#) to view a video playlist featuring each Outstanding Employee nominee or visit: <https://www.rcuh.com/about/awards/>.

### MAHALO TO THE 2022 SELECTION COMMITTEE

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

- **Ken Hayashida**, President, KAI Hawaii; RCUH Board Member
- **Marie Kumabe**, Principal and Owner, Kumabe HR
- **Clyde Shiigi**, Chief Technology and Strategy Officer, DataHouse

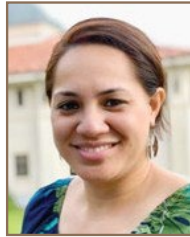


## TEAM CATEGORY

### 1st Place: [Telecommunications and Social Informatics \(TASI\)](#)



Umerang  
Imetengel



Ginger Porter



Alyssa Shimizu

This trio supports the Pacific Basin Telehealth Resource Center (PBTRC) and the Pacific International Training Desk. One of the team's largest PBTRC projects was its support of the American Samoa Repatriation Project, which was extremely complicated due to COVID-19 regulations. Ginger, Alyssa, and Umerang were also instrumental in maintaining disaster communications when the Kingdom of Tonga was struck by a volcanic eruption and tsunami in January. The team spent hundreds of hours sending and monitoring messages via Chatty Beetle, a portable satellite terminal used by the Pacific Desk.

### 2nd Place: [ITS Cyberinfrastructure](#)



Sean Cleveland



Jennifer Geis



Jared McLean



Maria Dumanlang



Michelle Choe

This team supports several research projects across the 10-campus UH system, including Hawai'i EPSCoR (Established Program to Stimulate Competitive Research), which recently received a \$20 million NSF award. Sean, Jennifer, Jared, Maria, and Michelle played a major role in developing EPSCoR's Hawai'i Climate Data Portal. This platform provides climate-related data and products for stakeholders in agriculture, energy, conservation, and disaster preparedness. The team also contributes to the Hawai'i Data Science Institute.

### Honorable Mention: [UH Cancer Center Shepherd Research Lab](#)



Nisa Kelly



En Liu

En and Nisa followed Principal Investigator John Shepherd across the Pacific when the Shape Up study moved from UC San Francisco to the University of Hawai'i in 2018. This duo helped implement the Shape Up! Keiki study, which focuses on children from birth to age five. In order to make these keiki feel at ease, En and Nisa transformed the research lab into a child-friendly playground.

# FINANCIAL STATEMENTS



**RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
STATE OF HAWAII  
Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2022 and 2021 and 2020**

**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, 2022, 2021 and 2020 are summarized below:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Current assets	\$ 52,652,187	\$ 43,570,646	\$ 40,880,000
Noncurrent assets	--	--	1,750,000
Capital assets	<u>2,429,469</u>	<u>2,830,822</u>	<u>3,260,152</u>
Total assets	55,081,656	46,401,468	45,890,152
Deferred outflows of resources	<u>86,456</u>	<u>138,003</u>	<u>189,550</u>
Total assets and deferred outflows of resources	\$ <u>55,168,112</u>	\$ <u>46,539,471</u>	\$ <u>46,079,702</u>
Current liabilities	\$ 40,419,330	\$ 31,596,937	\$ 31,291,424
Noncurrent liabilities	<u>4,207,587</u>	<u>4,826,947</u>	<u>4,919,604</u>
Total liabilities	44,626,917	36,423,884	36,211,028
Deferred inflows of resources	<u>968,928</u>	<u>634,864</u>	<u>453,086</u>
Total liabilities and deferred inflows of resources	45,595,845	37,058,748	36,664,114
Net position			
Invested in capital assets	2,172,035	2,830,822	3,260,152
Unrestricted	<u>7,400,232</u>	<u>6,649,901</u>	<u>6,155,436</u>
Total net position	<u>9,572,267</u>	<u>9,480,723</u>	<u>9,415,588</u>
Total liabilities, deferred inflows of resources and net position	\$ <u>55,168,112</u>	\$ <u>46,539,471</u>	\$ <u>46,079,702</u>



To view RCUH's complete audited financial statements for FY 2022, please visit <https://www.rcuh.com/rcuh-fy2022-audit/> or scan the QR code with your smartphone.

**RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
STATE OF HAWAII  
Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2022 and 2021 and 2020**

**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, 2022, 2021 and 2020 are summarized as follows:

	<b>2022</b>	<b>2021</b>	<b>2020</b>
Operating revenues			
University of Hawai'i	\$ 6,705,099	\$ 6,665,561	\$ 7,760,462
Other sponsor agencies	<u>732,743</u>	<u>552,855</u>	<u>593,243</u>
Total operating revenues	7,437,842	7,218,416	8,353,705
Operating expenses			
Personnel costs	3,778,162	4,098,339	4,673,097
Data processing services	1,171,655	1,139,123	1,609,753
Depreciation and amortization	897,037	873,309	764,318
Insurance	574,374	477,322	436,680
Professional and technical support	261,613	151,610	196,445
Office and equipment rental	179,901	291,077	288,606
Other expenses	506,720	297,194	578,994
Project development	<u>--</u>	<u>--</u>	<u>500,000</u>
Total operating expenses	<u>7,369,462</u>	<u>7,327,974</u>	<u>9,047,893</u>
Operating income (loss)	68,380	(109,558)	(694,188)
Nonoperating revenues			
Intergovernmental (Federal awards)			
Revenue	349,424	307,889	191,730
Expense	(349,424)	(307,889)	(191,730)
Interest Income	167,550	199,670	555,366
Unrealized loss	<u>(144,386)</u>	<u>(24,977)</u>	<u>--</u>
Increase (decrease) in net position	91,544	65,135	(138,822)
Net position			
Beginning of year	<u>9,480,723</u>	<u>9,415,588</u>	<u>9,554,410</u>
End of year	\$ <u>9,572,267</u>	\$ <u>9,480,723</u>	\$ <u>9,415,588</u>



To view RCUH's complete audited financial statements for FY 2022, please visit <https://www.rcuh.com/rcuh-fy2022-audit/> or scan the QR code with your smartphone.

**RESEARCH CORPORATION OF THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII  
STATE OF HAWAII  
Fiscal Years Ended June 30, 2022 and 2021 and 2020**

**Condensed Statements of Cash Flows (Unaudited)**

The Corporation's statements of cash flows for the fiscal years ended June 30, 2022, 2021 and 2020 are summarized as follows:

	<u>2022</u>	<u>2021</u>	<u>2020</u>
Operating activities			
Cash received from operations	\$ 7,857,215	\$ 8,235,545	\$ 7,605,984
Cash payments for operations	(6,302,378)	(6,558,201)	(8,192,458)
Project expenditures and reimbursements, net	<u>(3,697,056)</u>	<u>9,781,624</u>	<u>(7,919,874)</u>
Net cash provided by (used in)			
operating activities	(2,142,218)	11,458,968	(8,506,348)
Capital and related financing activities	(238,250)	(443,979)	(807,883)
Investing activities	<u>1,860,202</u>	<u>(4,565,164)</u>	<u>(3,367,382)</u>
Increase (decrease) in cash	<u>(520,266)</u>	<u>6,449,825</u>	<u>(12,681,613)</u>
Cash			
Beginning of year	<u>21,749,405</u>	<u>15,299,580</u>	<u>27,981,193</u>
End of year	\$ <u>21,229,139</u>	\$ <u>21,749,405</u>	\$ <u>15,299,580</u>



To view RCUH's complete audited financial statements for FY 2022, please visit <https://www.rcuh.com/rcuh-fy2022-audit/> or scan the QR code with your smartphone.



## GENERAL INQUIRIES

✉ [rcuh@rcuh.com](mailto:rcuh@rcuh.com)

🌐 [www.rcuh.com](http://www.rcuh.com)

📍 1601 East-West Road  
Burns Hall 4th Floor, Makai Wing  
Honolulu, HI 96848

## EXECUTIVE OFFICE

✉ [rcuhed@rcuh.com](mailto:rcuhed@rcuh.com)

☎ (808) 956-0503

## FINANCE

✉ [rcuhfiscal@rcuh.com](mailto:rcuhfiscal@rcuh.com)

☎ (808) 956-0500

## HUMAN RESOURCES

✉ [rcuhhr@rcuh.com](mailto:rcuhhr@rcuh.com)

☎ (808) 956-3100