

Dear UH Research Community,

In FY 2024, University of Hawai'i faculty, staff, and students have again helped to set another extramural funding record with \$615.7 million in total awards, marking the third consecutive year that we have topped over half-a-billion dollars in sponsored research funding. This important funding fuels our continuing goal to create a diversified, knowledge-based economy and workforce through basic research that is transformed into innovations of applied research to help make our islands and world a better place.

However, we are slowly beginning to receive informal communications from sponsoring agencies referring to the possible issuance of "stop work orders" and cancellations of advisory council meetings on certain federally funded research and education programs. The Office of the Vice President for Research and Innovation (OVPRI) is in the process of inquiring with our federal contacts to help assess the overall impact this will have on UH's federally supported programs. Unfortunately, there is considerable uncertainty at this time surrounding the federal budget and its potential impact on research funding at UH and other institutions.

At this juncture, it is important to not overreact to the unknown and to "stay the course" until the situation unfolds. Most of the current freezes are only expected to be temporary as the new administration gets staff into place. Faculty are encouraged to continue to prepare and submit their federal proposals as usual until more information becomes available. To help our researchers and staff stay informed and up to date on this ever-evolving situation, we have created a page on the OVPRI website at <https://research.hawaii.edu/new-administration-federal-funding-updates/>.

We would also like to ask our PI's to report any information that they receive from federal agencies that impacts their programs to Victoria Rivera, Assistant Vice President for Research Administration and Compliance, at [riveravg@hawaii.edu](mailto:riveravg@hawaii.edu). As we work together to navigate this uncertain and challenging federal funding landscape, our combined and coordinated efforts will help to maintain and advance the dedicated efforts of the UH research enterprise.

Sincerely,  
Vassilis L. Syrmos  
Vice President for Research and Innovation