

State of Hawaii  
**Performance Report**

**Capital Projects Fund**  
2024 Report

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## Executive Summary

*Provide a high-level overview of the Recipient's actual uses of funding and progress made during the reporting period towards objectives stated in the approved Program Plan(s). The Executive Summary should also include an overview of key outcomes and any noteworthy challenges or opportunities identified during the reporting period.*

Since July 2023, the University has officially begun work on the Hawaii Subsea Middle Mile Program. In August 2023, the University re-released the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the State of Hawaii Inter-island Submarine Fiber Cable System to maximize visibility and engagement with the RFP. This RFP was a follow-up to the Desktop Study (DTS) for an Inter-island submarine cable network in 2022, awarded to Ocean Networks, in which the University requested responses from qualified Offerors to propose a cost model for a public-private partnership to permit, construct, operate and maintain the northern Inter-island submarine cable path as designed in the DTS.

In a major step forward for this program, in January 2024, the University announced a partnership with Ocean Networks to construct the Hawaiian Islands Fiber Link (HIFL), a carrier-neutral, open-access system with landing sites on O'ahu, Hawai'i, Maui, Kaua'i, Lāna'i and Moloka'i. HIFL is the first of two proposed subsea interisland systems and the State's northern inter-island fiber path system connecting the islands to be partially funded through the CPF Program. Once the permitting process is complete, system construction can begin. Permitting and construction will take approximately three years, including constructing "front haul" facilities (i.e., where submarine fiber meets land). The new fiber system will be ready for service in late-2026.

As of June 2024, work towards a few project milestones is well underway, with anticipated completion in quarter 3 of 2024, due to strategic delays to better align the deployment of HIFL with the Google undersea fiber projects coming to Hawaii and expected ready for service in concurrence with HIFL. This includes delays and minor alterations to route design and configuration (e.g., final landing stations), and pre-permitting tasks (e.g., consultations and route/environmental surveys). With an anticipated finalization to route and system design in August, permit acquisition will be the next major task on the table for the Hawaii Subsea Middle Mile Program.

The Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) Connections Program, to date, funding has not yet been expended on this program. In June 2024, the Request for Proposals (RFP) for the HPHA Connections Program was under review by the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii (RCUH), the administering entity of the State of Hawaii CPF programs. Pending approval, the RFP is expected to be released this month, July 2024, with a November start date to program implementation.

## Uses of Funds

*Provide a short narrative describing the intended and actual use of funds and the performance of each Program Plan. Recipients should reference the objectives and activities outlined in the approved Program Plan(s). The narrative should also explain the data, including performance indicators, submitted via the Project and Expenditure Reports during the reporting period and must address the following topics:*

- *Activities implemented over the reporting period, including summaries of key milestones achieved, outputs produced, and outcomes achieved;*
- *Activities planned for the next reporting period;*
- *Narratives about individuals/households benefiting from CPF funds, including information about methods used for collecting and measuring success;*
- *Notable challenges and the status of each challenge;*
- *Overview and outcomes of ancillary costs incurred to support bringing the capital asset(s) into full use (e.g., focused advertising to increase broadband subscriptions in high-need communities, digital literacy training to support device loan programs, community engagement to support successful operations, etc.)*

*If appropriate, include information on your jurisdiction's use (or planned use) of other federal funds including other programs under the American Rescue Plan, such as the State and Local Fiscal Recovery Fund, and those under the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act, including the Broadband Equity, Access, and Deployment program.*

*Note: Through the Performance Report, recipients are encouraged to link to public documents, including, but not limited to, legislation, dashboards, survey results, community engagement reports, and equity frameworks to support the Performance Report narrative. Treasury recommends that Recipients make use of infographics, tables, charts, pictures, case studies, and other explanatory elements in describing their programs.*

### **Hawaii Subsea Middle Mile**

The state re-issued a Request for Proposals for the State of Hawaii Inter-island Submarine Fiber Cable System (RCUH RFP #103543) in August 2023. Information about the RFP is available at [www.hawaii.edu/broadband/request-for-proposals/](http://www.hawaii.edu/broadband/request-for-proposals/). Following the review period of the received RFPs in September 2023, RCUH officially selected and awarded the contract to Ocean Networks in January 2024, obligating a significant portion of the CPF program funds to our contractor. Since award date, funding has been used to support pre-permitting tasks (e.g., route and environmental surveys). Completed surveys, as well as additional milestones and important procurements are detailed below:

#### Surveys Completed:

- Marine route: Big Island (Partial), Molokai, Lanai
- Environmental: Molokai, Big Island

Milestones Achieved:

- Project Management and Quality Plan (03-2024)
- Landing Site Construction Invitation to Tenderers (ITT) Issued (04-2024)

Key Procurements:

- Permit Acquisition contractor acquired (02-2024)
- Marine Route Survey contractor acquired (04-2024)

There are no challenges of note. However, delays in processes have occurred this reporting period to better align the deployment of HIFL with the Google undersea fiber projects coming to Hawaii and expected ready for service in concurrence with HIFL. This includes delays and minor alterations to route design and configuration (e.g., final landing stations), and pre-permitting tasks (e.g., consultations and route/environmental surveys) as a result of discussions between both entities to determine the best courses of action.

The next reporting period will see the completion of all relevant studies/surveys prior to construction (e.g., geophysical, terrestrial biological, marine, archaeological inventory, cultural impact) and the start of permit acquisition, a necessary step before construction may begin.

**Hawaii Public Housing Authority (HPHA) Connections Program**

The University of Hawaii Broadband Office completed drafting of the Request for Proposals for the HPHA Connections Program and has submitted the RFP for internal review as of June 2024. The state team worked with the HPHA staff to coordinate the RFP with the capital construction program by HPHA announced during the last reporting period. Timing of the HPHA Connections Program must be synchronized with the HPHA capital construction program in order to ensure maximum benefits to HPHA residents.

The program envisions fully enabling 100Mbps symmetric access for all residential units of HPHA owned facilities, and to connect and equip about half of the facilities with common use community digital hubs (in BEAD terms, aka Community Anchor Institutions) with gigabit access.

The RFP for the HPHA Connections Program is expected to be released in July 2024, with an anticipated start date in November. All effort to date has been supported by a combination of CPF administrative funds, University institutional support, and collaboration with HPHA staff. No program funds have been obligated or expended to date.

## Promoting Equitable Outcomes

*Treasury encourages uses of funds that promote strong, equitable growth, including racial equity, in communities with a critical need, such as high-poverty and rural areas. For the purposes of CPF, equity and underserved communities are defined in the Executive Order 13985 On Advancing Racial Equity and Support for Underserved Communities Through the Federal Government, as issued on January 20, 2021 (EO 13985). Treasury additionally supports “equity for all, including people of color and others who have been historically underserved, marginalized, and adversely affected by persistent poverty and inequality” EO 13985 at 7009.*

*Each Performance Report must provide an update, using qualitative and quantitative data, on how the Recipient achieved or promoted equitable outcomes and addressed critical needs or progressed toward equity objectives during the reporting period, and any constraints or challenges related to increasing equity.*

*Please describe how the Recipient considered and measured equity and addressed critical need at various stages of the Program during the reporting period, including:*

- *Objectives: Based on your definition of communities with critical need, are there particular historically underserved, marginalized, or adversely affected groups, including those living in rural areas and/or high-poverty areas, that the capital assets being funded by CPF are designed to serve? Include the definition of critical need used for each Program Plan.*
- *Awareness: How equal and practical was the ability for members of these communities, including households, businesses, and other organizations, to become aware of the services funded by CPF?*
- *Outcomes: What progress has the Program made toward addressing critical need(s) identified in targeted communities, such as closing gaps, reaching universal levels of service, or disaggregating progress by race, ethnicity, and other equity dimensions that are relevant to the policy objective? What methods (e.g., surveys, interviews) are being used (if applicable) to quantify and qualify Project and Program outcomes?*

Both of the State’s program plans broadly support all residents of Hawaii. The Hawaii Subsea Middle Mile Program will primarily and directly benefit all residents of the neighbor islands, i.e. all islands except Oahu, through the addition of significant capacity and resilience to the brittle existing inter-island middle mile infrastructure. Of note, with the anticipated landing of new trans-Pacific capacity on the island of Kauai (and potential future systems landing on Hawaii Island) additional global route resilience benefits for Oahu are supported in addition to the statewide interconnectivity supported by the system. Additional benefits accrue to the state as a whole by reducing the barriers to landing future trans-Pacific submarine cables in Hawaii, to address both future capacity and overall resilience for the state’s telecommunications infrastructure.

The HPHA Connections Program is specifically designed to benefit all residents of HPHA owned facilities throughout the state. All residents of HPHA facilities are low-income families and represent a high need segment of the population. A majority of the HPHA residents do not currently have meaningful access to the Internet - the combination of 100% residential unit

access with the addition of new shared-access community digital hubs in the HPHA facilities, will help to significantly increase both access to high-speed Internet service, as well as wrap-around services to support the effective and meaningful use of the service. Successful implementation of both of the State's programs will deliver 100% support for high-speed Internet access across these communities of need and help to ensure our statewide population is well connected into the future.

## Labor

*Describe workforce practices on any Broadband Infrastructure and/or Multi-Purpose Community Facility projects being pursued. How are projects using strong labor standards to promote effective and efficient delivery of high-quality projects while also supporting the economic recovery through employment opportunities for workers? For example, report whether any of the following practices are being utilized: project labor agreements, community benefits agreements, prevailing wage requirements, and/or local hiring.*

All labor practices under our two RFP efforts will be structured to include standard in-state labor practices, to be consistent with fair labor practices, encourage local hiring, and support investments in local workforce development. We also expect that the completion of the two capital projects will establish the basis for further increases in business opportunities and expansion of existing business activities supported by lowering capital cost hurdles and increasing competitive opportunities in the state.

## Community Engagement

*Please describe how the Recipient incorporated or plans to incorporate feedback from communities, organizations, and constituents when selecting CPF Projects and how the Recipient plans to address feedback received during project construction and/or implementation.*

*Recipients should report on (and include quantitative information, such as counts) about the following activities related to community engagement in support of the implementation and operations of each Program and related Projects:*

- *Community engagement efforts and activities that occurred with and/or in communities served by the Program. Recipients should include information about the types of organizations (such as training providers, community colleges, libraries, churches, and community-based groups) and, where possible, names of organizations and communities the Recipient and Subrecipient(s) were engaged with to support the implementation and operations of Projects;*
- *Outreach, advertising, and translation activities and services deployed to reach communities the Program is designed to serve; and*
- *Languages used in community outreach efforts and materials for people with limited English proficiency, and other approaches taken to solicit feedback from underserved communities. If relevant, Recipients must report on how funds will build the capacity of community organizations to serve people with significant barriers to services, including people of color, people with low*

*incomes, populations with limited English proficiency, and other traditionally unserved or underserved groups.*

*Recipients should also outline any plans to sustain, improve, and or grow community engagement efforts in the subsequent performance year.*

In November 2023, the State of Hawaii announced the Connect Kakou initiative, “dedicated to providing all residents with affordable high-speed broadband internet” ([connectkakou.org](https://connectkakou.org)). Connect Kakou unifies all of the State-managed broadband efforts, including the CPF-funded programs managed by the University of Hawaii.

The live Connect Kakou website is not the final product but a placeholder for an updated site that will be published in the coming weeks and will be the **primary resource hub** for the public to learn more about all broadband programs in the state, program leads, and access official news releases on all programs, including both CPF-funded programs for Hawaii. Fully built out content work is nearly complete for the Connect Kakou website, with expected release in early August.

The public communications effort will include multi-language support, in particular to support Polynesian and Pacific Island languages that are unique to Hawaii’s population.