Q: The RFP requests 6 GPU nodes with 4 x Nvidia V100 GPUs each. Do you require the GPU nodes to have Nvidia NVLink for the V100 GPUs? If so, do you require that the storage system supports Nvidia GPUDirect Storage and Nvidia Magnum IO?

A: Yes, the V100 GPU nodes should be NVLink capable. Nvidia GPUDirect Storage and Nvidia Magnum IO are both very desirable features. If there were costs associated with these particular features, we would like to see line items for each.

Q: Do you require the storage system to support RDMA?

A: Yes, the storage system should support RDMA.

Q: Could RCUH please clarify whether exceptions will automatically disqualify a bid, or if exceptions will be considered? (The rest of this question follows the current provisional answer).

A: We have requested clarification from RCUH on the following question regarding legal/procedural sections of the RFP. We do not yet have a time frame for getting a definitive answer to this question, but we can not further delay posting the answers to all of the other questions. I would encourage all interested vendors to bid. Thanks for your patience.

Please see highlighted text below which we are seeking to clarify. Section 1.15 of the RFP says that “an Offeror shall be disqualified and its proposal automatically rejected if... the proposal has any provision reserving the right to accept or reject award, or reserving the right to enter into a contract pursuant to an award, or has any provision contrary to those required in the solicitation”. However, Section 1.15 also states that “any other set of terms and conditions contradictory to those in the RFP may be disqualified...”. Additionally, the language in Section 1.19 and Modifications to Agreement clause suggest that exceptions will be considered/negotiated.

- **1.15 DISQUALIFICATION OF PROPOSALS**
  The RCUH reserves the right to consider as acceptable only those proposals submitted in accordance with all the requirements set forth in this RFP, and which demonstrate an understanding of the scope of work. Any proposal offering any other set of terms and conditions contradictory to those included in the RFP may be disqualified without further notice.
  - An Offeror shall be disqualified and its proposal automatically rejected for any one or more of the following reasons:
    - The proposal shows any noncompliance with applicable law.
    - The proposal is conditional, incomplete, or irregular in such a way as to make the proposal indefinite or ambiguous as to its meaning.
    - The proposal has any provision reserving the right to accept or reject award or reserving the right to enter into a contract pursuant to an award, or has any provision contrary to those required in the solicitation.
    - The Offeror is debarred or suspended. Entities that are currently debarred or suspended from federal procurement transactions are listed in the Excluded Parties Listing System.
  - A search can be performed at [www.sam.gov](http://www.sam.gov) to determine whether an entity has an active exclusion.

- **1.19 PROCESS FOR NEGOTIATIONS**
The RCUH will attempt to negotiate with the selected Offeror a mutually acceptable Agreement for Services. If this cannot be accomplished within 21 calendar days after initial Selection, the RCUH reserves the right to terminate contract negotiations with the first-ranked Offeror, and may select the second-ranked Offeror for negotiation of a potential award. This process may continue in order of Offeror ranking until a mutually acceptable Agreement for Services is achieved with the RCUH and an award is made to a selected Offeror.

- Modifications of Agreement. Any modification, alteration, amendment, change, or extension to any term, provision, or condition of this Agreement shall be made only by written amendment to this Agreement, signed by CONTRACTOR and RCUH. No modification, alteration, amendment, change or extension to any term, provision, or condition of this Agreement, signed by any persons, including the University of Hawaii, shall be binding on RCUH unless signed by an authorized official of RCUH.

RCUH Response: see revision above in red. Article 1.15 Disqualification of Proposal, second bullet, third sub-bullet has been revised to read as follows: "The proposal has any provision reserving the right to accept or reject award or reserving the right to enter into a contract pursuant to an award."