

PRESS RELEASE

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**University of Hawai‘i Economic Research Organization
Unveils Free Online Data Resource**

Bank of Hawaii Provides Lead Support for Redesigned UHERO Data Portal

(Honolulu, Hawai‘i) – The University of Hawai‘i Economic Research Organization (UHERO) unveiled its redesigned *UHERO Data Portal*, a free online resource that provides access to the most up-to-date information on a wide array of economic and social indicators for the state and county economies. The completely revamped design, made possible by generous support from Bank of Hawaii, provides improved navigation, expanded functionality, and an attractive, graphically rich user interface. The new improvements make it even easier for users to spot emerging trends in key economic indicators, compare information across counties, and access additional analysis provided by UHERO.

“We are excited to offer this comprehensive economic *Data Portal* to the public. The *Data Portal* serves a wide range of users from local high school students and teachers, to nonprofit organizations, construction companies and financial institutions,” said Dr. Carl Bonham, executive director of UHERO. “The *Data Portal* is the first of its kind in Hawai‘i and serves as a one-stop shop for the public to access free information on the local economy.”

The database not only provides current information on economic indicators, but it also tracks information from previous years, allowing users to view monthly, quarterly and annual statistics. Users can also choose to examine historical trends and make comparisons across counties and individual indicators. The *Data Portal* is continually expanding, and it currently contains historical data on more than 1,600 economic indicators.

The redesigned *Data Portal* was made possible through lead sponsorship from Bank of Hawaii. The bank's three-year pledge to UHERO totals \$120,000.

“UHERO has done an excellent job in developing this unique and significant resource,” said Peter Ho, Bank of Hawaii chairman, CEO and president. “The recent economic

conditions reinforce how vital it is to have reliable and timely economic data and analysis. There is tremendous value in being able to share economic and financial information with the public and we're pleased to be able to support this ongoing effort."

"We are grateful for Bank of Hawaii's generous donation and its commitment to supporting programs that educate the local community about financial and economic issues that are critical to our state," added Bonham. "The *Data Portal* is foremost a public service, and due to private support – such as Bank of Hawaii's – UHERO is able to continually improve the *Data Portal*, update the data more frequently, and work to maintain our leadership role in economic research for Hawai'i."

The *Data Portal* was a part of UHERO's recent launch of its redeveloped website, and can be accessed at www.uhero.hawaii.edu.

In addition to the *Data Portal*, UHERO offers regular economic forecasts and a wide range of scholarly studies on important local issues. UHERO also sponsors local events and conferences that benefit Hawai'i and its people.

UHERO relies heavily on corporate and private support to continue to provide research and educational programs, to maintain forecasting and data services, and to provide outreach to the community. Sponsors of UHERO receive a variety of benefits, ranging from the most current Hawai'i forecast reports to personalized presentations and consultations with UHERO fellows.

Contributions to UHERO can be made online at <http://www.uhfoundation.org/UHERO> or please contact Lori Admiral at (808) 956-5747 or Lori.Admiral@uhfoundation.org.

UHERO, a unit of the Social Science Research Institute in the UH Mānoa College of Social Sciences, is the premier resource for economic information and analysis on Hawai'i, its communities, industries and environment. UHERO is a leader in independent scholarly economic analysis that is both globally relevant and central to challenges facing Hawai'i and the Asia-Pacific region. Scholars and stakeholders can readily obtain UHERO research expertise and results through peer-reviewed publications, accessible news releases and policy briefs, outreach and consultation, and targeted educational programs. www.uhero.hawaii.edu.

The University of Hawai'i at Mānoa serves approximately 20,000 students pursuing more than 225 different degrees. Coming from every Hawaiian island, every state in the nation, and more than 100 countries, UH Mānoa students matriculate in an enriching environment for the global exchange of ideas. For more information, visit manoa.hawaii.edu.

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