Opportunities

There are various opportunities for those who would like to be involved with the Campus Arboretum, which has greatly benefited in the past from the work of student employees, interns, volunteers, and classes. This includes a number of research projects making use of the campus plants and landscape.

Campus Arboretum staff have worked with faculty in Botany, CTAHR, Geography, and Hamilton Library, to create exercises and customize maps for class use. We look forward to exploring options with other departments in the future. Please let us know if you would like help in setting up an exercise for your class.

Supporting the Arboretum

While basic operations are maintained by the University, many of our extra programs and activities can be supported through donations via the UH Foundation.
giving.uhfoundation.org/funds/12744204

For more information, contact:
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Mahalo Nui

University of Hawai‘i
Campus Arboretum

When the College of Hawai‘i was created a century ago, the grounds were planted as an arboretum to “establish here in Honolulu a collection of trees and shrubs of tropical and subtropical habit which would have great educational value and soon become an asset of great interest to resident and tourist alike” (Regents’ report 1915).

In 2016 the campus was formally accredited as an arboretum in the international ArbNet program. In the intervening century, academics, landscapers, students, staff, and visiting dignitaries added plants from throughout the Pacific and across the world. The UH Mānoa campus collection now includes over 5,000 plants in 800 taxa.

Sharing Aloha for Plants

The collection provides easily accessible resources for education, research, and enjoyment; and introduces people to the rewards of plant observation, which can be further explored in the remarkable ecosystems of Hawai‘i, and in the affiliated collections at the Lyon Arboretum a few miles away.
Learning from Trees

The purpose of the Campus Arboretum is the integration of the living landscape with the educational mission of the University. The landscape is an excellent outdoor laboratory for learning about botany, horticulture, tree care, ecology and conservation, field biology, geography, natural history, Hawaiian studies, art, landscape architecture, museum studies, design and sustainability, and more!

Interpreting the Collections

In order to make the value of the trees more accessible to the campus community, we have a rich (and growing) website about the campus plants, and the special collections to which they belong. These biogeographical, systematic, and ethnobotanical collections are also named on the new plant signs being installed, and we are working to develop more material, including walking tours and brochures, for particular collections.

Campus Arboretum Events

We celebrate trees throughout the year, but on special occasions we do a little more. If you would like to know about walking tours and tree plantings, please send us your contact info. Our biggest celebration is Arbor Day, when we plant and give away trees!

What is that tree?

Our online map shows the location of over 5,000 plants, identifies them by scientific and vernacular names, and provides information about their appearance, biogeography, cultural use, conservation status, and membership in special collections. If you are looking for a particular plant, the map may be searched by any of these characteristics. Additional resources are linked from the map.

The University as a Hawaiian Place of Learning

The Campus Arboretum is making this goal physically manifest in the landscape, as we increase the number and diversity of our native plants and Polynesian introductions.

Native and canoe plants may be found on the map using the menu in the upper right, or by searching any of their names at the bottom.

Best Practices for Tree Care

Along with our events, our carefully developed Tree Care Plan qualifies UH Mānoa as a Tree Campus USA, registered with the National Arbor Day Foundation.