The University of Hawaii was founded in 1907 as a land grant College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts in Hawaii, becoming the University of Hawaii in 1920. It occupies 300 acres in the Manoa Valley of Honolulu, Hawaii about 85 ft above sea level with a rainfall range (30 year average) of between 40 and 60 inches per year (seaward and mountain-ward edges of the campus). Winter low temperatures occasionally drop into the low 60s (ºF), while summer high temperatures average about 85ºF. Day lengths average 12 hours. The growing season is about 300 days long.

The University of Hawaii as an Arboretum

Richard Criley¹, Andrew Kaufman¹, Roxanne Adams²

1 Tropical Plant & Soils Sciences, 2 Superintendent of Grounds
The University of Hawaii, Honolulu, Hawaii

**The University of Hawaii was founded in 1907 as a land grant College of Agriculture and the Mechanic Arts in Hawaii, becoming the University of Hawaii in 1920. It occupies 300 acres in the Manoa Valley of Honolulu, Hawaii.**

In 1914, botanist, Dr. Joseph F. C. Rock, was charged with the establishment of a 20-acre arboretum on the campus. In the four years, Rock planted more than 500 species of plants from Hawaii, the tropics and subtropics, some of which remain many decades later. A partial listing of his plantings can be found at [www.hawaii.edu/bgm/landscaping/historical/Chancellor.pdf](http://www.hawaii.edu/bgm/landscaping/historical/Chancellor.pdf).

**One of Dr. Joseph Rock’s legacies was a collection of palms, originally numbering more than 60 species, adjacent to the original administration building of the campus, Hawaii Hall. Plans are underway to re-establish the collection in honor of recent Interim Chancellor for the UHM campus, Dr. Denise Konan.**

**A recent grant to the University of Hawaii from the Getty Foundation has enabled cataloging of the historic buildings and landscapes of the campus. The existing plant materials have been identified and their condition assessed, and the loss of plants has been recorded through comparison with early campus plant maps.**

Native plants with ornamental and cultural value have been added to the campus landscapes. The Sherman Hall courtyard won a Second Hawaii landscaping award in 2006 for its design and installation of native species, while the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii established Hawaiian ornamentals in a garden fronting its student recreation building. Exceptional trees and tree groupings are recognized as Exceptional Trees. The University of Hawaii campus hosts a number of such trees. Memorial trees dot the campus, recognizing famous visitors and public figures as well as well-loved faculty and staff. A listing of these trees is also found at: [www.hawaii.edu/bgm/landscaping/](http://www.hawaii.edu/bgm/landscaping/).

**Through a program of the City & County of Honolulu, exceptional trees and tree groupings are recognized as Exceptional Trees. The University of Hawaii campus hosts a number of such trees. Memorial trees dot the campus, recognizing famous visitors and public figures as well as well-loved faculty and staff. A listing of these trees is also found at: [www.hawaii.edu/bgm/landscaping/](http://www.hawaii.edu/bgm/landscaping/).**

**A recent grant to the University of Hawaii from the Getty Foundation has enabled cataloging of the historic buildings and landscapes of the campus. The existing plant materials have been identified and their condition assessed, and the loss of plants has been recorded through comparison with early campus plant maps.**

Native plants with ornamental and cultural value have been added to the campus landscapes. The Sherman Hall courtyard won a Second Hawaii landscaping award in 2006 for its design and installation of native species, while the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii established Hawaiian ornamentals in a garden fronting its student recreation building.

**The Sherman Hall courtyard won a Second Hawaii landscaping award in 2006 for its design and installation of native species, while the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii established Hawaiian ornamentals in a garden fronting its student recreation building.**

**A fence along a parking lot serves as support for vines used in an ornamental plant identification class, while the Botany Department maintains a courtyard of plant materials that support their classes.**

**A fence along a parking lot serves as support for vines used in an ornamental plant identification class, while the Botany Department maintains a courtyard of plant materials that support their classes.**

**In brief, the University of Hawaii at Manoa campus fulfills many of the same preservation and educational functions of botanical gardens and arboretum. It offers a pleasant, shaded environment that encourages and fosters positive academic and social interactions.**

**Students also recognize the atmosphere of a green campus environment. When a particularly attractive flowering tree near the main library was threatened with removal, a student petition movement gathered more than 500 signatures to request that it not be taken out. On the other hand, some trees with “stinky odors” have been the target of student outcry for their removal.**

**Early campus maps to the plant materials provided common and botanical plant names keyed to numbered signs on the trees. Additional labeling was undertaken by botanist Ruth Gay, with a major effort in 2002-2005 to map and label campus plants by Dr. Gerry Carr, a taxonomist in the Botany Department.**

**The University of Hawaii offers great opportunities to study a wide range of tropical and subtropical plants. Students also recognize the atmosphere of a green campus environment.**

**Students also recognize the atmosphere of a green campus environment. When a particularly attractive flowering tree near the main library was threatened with removal, a student petition movement gathered more than 500 signatures to request that it not be taken out. On the other hand, some trees with “stinky odors” have been the target of student outcry for their removal.**

**Early campus maps to the plant materials provided common and botanical plant names keyed to numbered signs on the trees. Additional labeling was undertaken by botanist Ruth Gay, with a major effort in 2002-2005 to map and label campus plants by Dr. Gerry Carr, a taxonomist in the Botany Department.**

**The University of Hawaii offers great opportunities to study a wide range of tropical and subtropical plants. Students also recognize the atmosphere of a green campus environment. When a particularly attractive flowering tree near the main library was threatened with removal, a student petition movement gathered more than 500 signatures to request that it not be taken out. On the other hand, some trees with “stinky odors” have been the target of student outcry for their removal.**

**The Sherman Hall courtyard won a Second Hawaii landscaping award in 2006 for its design and installation of native species, while the East-West Center at the University of Hawaii established Hawaiian ornamentals in a garden fronting its student recreation building.**

**A fence along a parking lot serves as support for vines used in an ornamental plant identification class, while the Botany Department maintains a courtyard of plant materials that support their classes.**

**A fence along a parking lot serves as support for vines used in an ornamental plant identification class, while the Botany Department maintains a courtyard of plant materials that support their classes.**

**In brief, the University of Hawaii at Manoa campus fulfills many of the same preservation and educational functions of botanical gardens and arboretum. It offers a pleasant, shaded environment that encourages and fosters positive academic and social interactions.**

**The University of Hawaii offers great opportunities to study a wide range of tropical and subtropical plants. Students also recognize the atmosphere of a green campus environment. When a particularly attractive flowering tree near the main library was threatened with removal, a student petition movement gathered more than 500 signatures to request that it not be taken out. On the other hand, some trees with “stinky odors” have been the target of student outcry for their removal.**

**Early campus maps to the plant materials provided common and botanical plant names keyed to numbered signs on the trees. Additional labeling was undertaken by botanist Ruth Gay, with a major effort in 2002-2005 to map and label campus plants by Dr. Gerry Carr, a taxonomist in the Botany Department.**

**The University of Hawaii offers great opportunities to study a wide range of tropical and subtropical plants. Students also recognize the atmosphere of a green campus environment. When a particularly attractive flowering tree near the main library was threatened with removal, a student petition movement gathered more than 500 signatures to request that it not be taken out. On the other hand, some trees with “stinky odors” have been the target of student outcry for their removal.**