Campus Arboretum Plan

of the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

Summary: This Plan describes the historical background, mission, objectives, activities, and management of the Campus Arboretum at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa.

Version 1.1
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Introduction

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Historical background

A century has passed since the Board of Regents of the newly established College of Hawaii (later UH Mānoa) recommended, in the Arboretum section of their 1915 report to the legislature, the "unexcelled opportunity 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 who would be attracted by such a collection of properly labeled tropical species." Famed botanist Joseph Rock began planting the campus grounds in the same year, and many of those first trees remain on campus as the core of a remarkable collection. In 1975 the Ad Hoc Committee on Preservation of Campus Plantings, considering that the "old campus ewa of Hawaii Hall was designated an arboretum sometime in the second decade of the university," accepted a proposal "that the entire campus should be designated as the Rock Memorial Arboretum," but this was never formally implemented.

Mission statement

The Mission of the Campus Arboretum at the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa is to:

> Develop the landscape potential of unique woody flora of the tropics on the UHM campus by serving as a living laboratory for education and research, encouraging use by the broader community, and supporting service activities of the University of Hawai‘i.

Objectives

1. To preserve and care for the trees currently inhabiting the campus landscape.
2. To preserve and expand the species diversity represented in the campus landscape.
3. To maintain a succession plan for campus trees.
4. To continue and to improve the use of the campus as an arboretum for research, teaching and public education.
5. To increase the extent of the campus tree canopy to achieve aesthetic, design, and environmental benefits.
6. To celebrate trees through events within the campus arboretum and in the surrounding community.
7. To provide service learning opportunities for campus constituents.
8. To maintain documented academic collections over time.
9. To maintain records of all plants in the campus collection.
**Activities**

**TEACHING** — To provide an outdoor laboratory for use by faculty and students in College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, Botany, Biology, Environmental Studies, Hawaiian Studies, Museum Studies and other departments. The Arboretum is a unique and valuable academic resource and support facility for both teaching and research. The Arboretum is tasked with preserving and expanding the species represented to continue to provide this important educational resource.

**RESEARCH** — To support and conduct research in a broad range of subjects including botany, ecology, art, field biology, conservation, natural history, design and sustainability. Arboretum research emphasizes long-term studies.

**COLLECTIONS** — To maintain, develop and interpret well-documented plant collections for teaching, research, public education and enjoyment and provide an opportunity for documented academic collections to be maintained and studied for years to come.

**RECREATION** — To provide a place where people from the University and the community may gather and enjoy passive recreation, and where they may come to learn, reflect and renew themselves through contact with the natural world. The Arboretum enhances the quality of life both for the University and the citizens of Hawai‘i.

**PUBLIC EDUCATION** — To provide programs and publications about tree care, sustainability, conservation, horticulture, gardening, botany, design and natural history which enhance people’s understanding of the natural world and foster an understanding of the Arboretum’s mission.

**Management**

Arboretum development is to be overseen by the Campus Plants Collections Committee. Maintenance of the arboretum will be overseen by the University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa Buildings and Grounds Management Office. (BGM) The University will provide the necessary labor and staff. Volunteers will be used when needed and will be overseen by the Buildings and Grounds Management Office – Landscaping Section.

A catalog and geospatial inventory of arboretum trees is kept in a computer GIS database by BGM. This database documents many attributes of each tree — including species, approximate age, and condition — and links to permanent vouchered dried-plant, seed, and DNA tissue reference collections, maintained by the university's Joseph F. Rock Herbarium, which also manages the Hawai‘i Seed Bank, providing a permanent ex-situ repository for long-term storage and conservation of seeds for future replanting of species growing on the campus landscape. Documentation of the collection, including photography of the morphological characteristics of each tree species, is on-going, and plant records and photographs are accessible online from the Herbarium and through BGM’s interactive plant map. The database of living plants is updated as needed by the BGM and approved volunteers.

The Campus Plants Collections Committee, in partnership with the Landscape Advisory Committee (LAC), University of Hawai‘i Foundation (UHF) and the Office of Planning and Facilities (OPF), is responsible for providing and developing short-term and long-term operational plans for the Campus Arboretum. The plan may be adjusted as needed and be included in the University's Landscape Master Plan.