



# HAROLD L. LYON ARBORETUM

University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

## STRATEGIC PLAN

2018 - 2023



# THE LYON ARBORETUM

## ***A BRIEF HISTORY***

The 193-acre Harold L. Lyon Arboretum was established in 1918 as a means to control erosion and runoff in the upper Mānoa watershed. In 1953 it was acquired by the University of Hawai‘i, and starting in 1972 Lyon Arboretum began offering educational programs for all ages, special events, tours, and other amenities typical of a public garden. Today the Arboretum is home to a living collection of more than 5000 taxa, making it one of the most unique collections of pantropical flora in the world. Lyon Arboretum is also home to the Hawaiian Rare Plant Program, which utilizes micropropagation, seed banking, and greenhouse propagation as tools for plant germplasm conservation of native taxa. More than half the flora of Hawai‘i, many of which are critically endangered, are housed in this *ex situ* conservation program.





## **MISSION**

**To inspire and cultivate the conservation of tropical plant biodiversity,  
and connect it to Hawai‘i’s culture through education and research**





# VALUES

- **Research and Conservation** – *innovative research that furthers our ability to conserve biodiversity*
- **Education and Outreach** – *experiential learning to connect communities to nature and Hawai‘i’s culture*
- **Hawaiian Cultural Values** – *a sense of place and respect for traditional practices*
- **Aesthetics** – *beauty and healing in a lush environment*
- **Sustainability** – *commitment to a practice that leaves a small footprint*
- **Location** – *an accessible, unique oasis from urban surroundings*





## **STRATEGIC FOCI**

Taking into account our mission and values, the following six core goals form the strategic foci for 2018-2023



# 1. Build and curate our world-class plant collections and inform people of their unique importance



- Increase collections, especially for rare and threatened species of the world, placing a particular emphasis on native Hawaiian plant taxa and culturally significant introduced species
- Conduct a comprehensive inventory of the grounds collection to assess their status and inform future directions
- Design interactive databases for each of our collections to enhance curation and increase visibility to stakeholders
- Develop interactive displays that showcase our unique collections
- Make the arboretum more accessible to visitors by establishing designated trails, and improving informational resources



## 2. Increase and broaden research to further engage the scientific and conservation community at large



- Increase *ex situ* conservation research that addresses the rescue, recovery, preservation and ultimately restoration of threatened species of the world, especially native Hawaiian plant taxa and introduced but culturally significant plants
- Develop cryogenic and/or breeding programs for seed and tissue cultured propagules with limited storage capability
- Encourage research that utilizes the grounds collection and the Ala Wai watershed
- Cultivate, propagate, and breed plants to the highest horticultural standards to serve as a resource and model for students, researchers, and the horticulture industry
- Grow our scientific presence by engaging with departmental faculty, and by attracting post-doctoral scholars, graduate student research, internships, and visiting researchers
- Increase scientific publications (peer-reviewed and general audience); encourage staff to analyze and interpret existing data
- Expand collaboration with key state and non-governmental organizations to further regional conservation efforts



### 3. Strengthen community relationships through education and outreach

- Cultivate the next generation of environmentally informed youth through place-based learning
- Develop an exemplary inquiry-based STEM and cultural education program
- Foster and sustain a viable volunteer program that actively involves and engages the community
- Strengthen public events and activities, especially workshops and community classes
- Increase exchange programs with other conservation and non-governmental organizations for all relevant departments

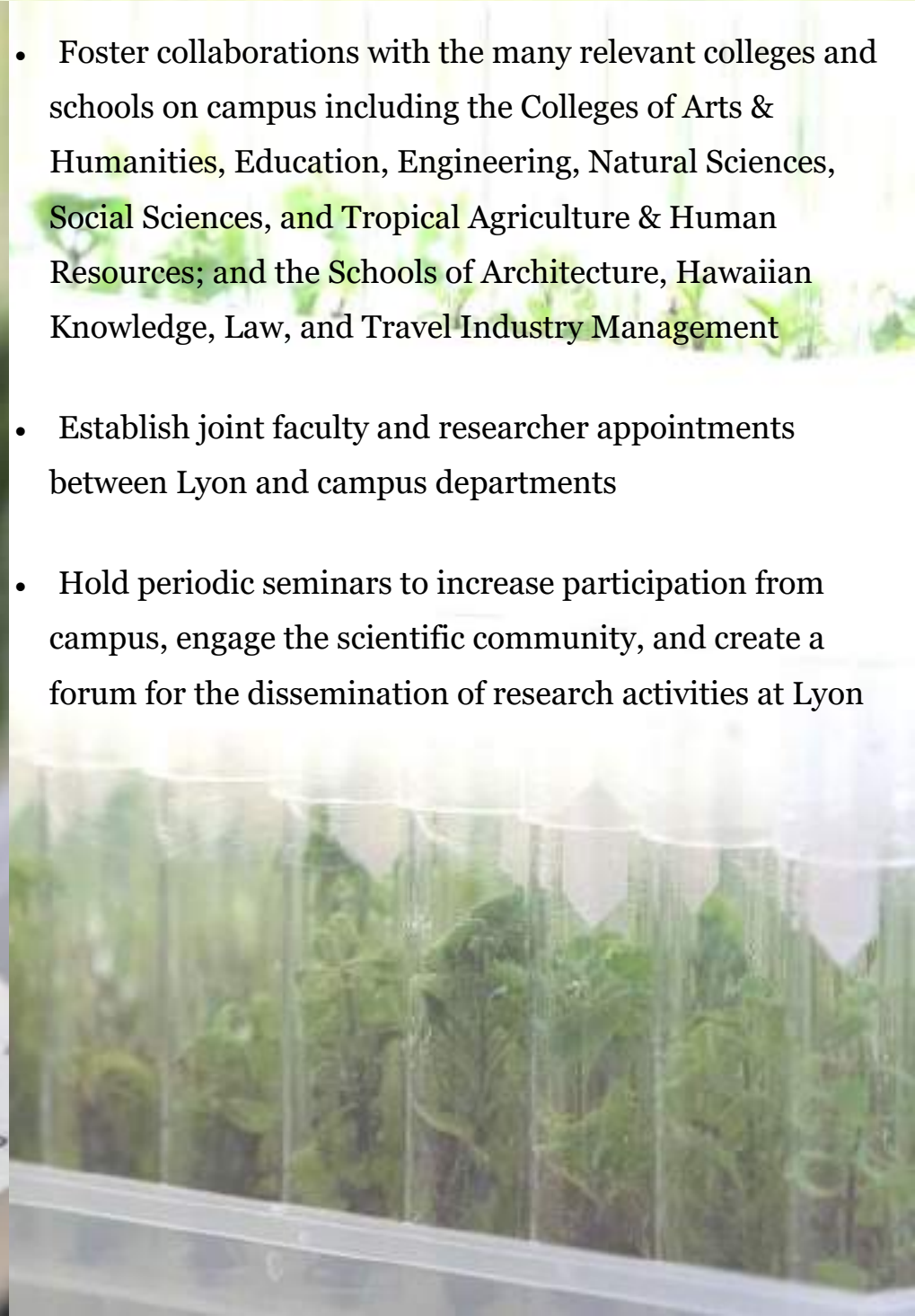




## 4. Increase collaboration and recognition within the UH system



- Foster collaborations with the many relevant colleges and schools on campus including the Colleges of Arts & Humanities, Education, Engineering, Natural Sciences, Social Sciences, and Tropical Agriculture & Human Resources; and the Schools of Architecture, Hawaiian Knowledge, Law, and Travel Industry Management
- Establish joint faculty and researcher appointments between Lyon and campus departments
- Hold periodic seminars to increase participation from campus, engage the scientific community, and create a forum for the dissemination of research activities at Lyon

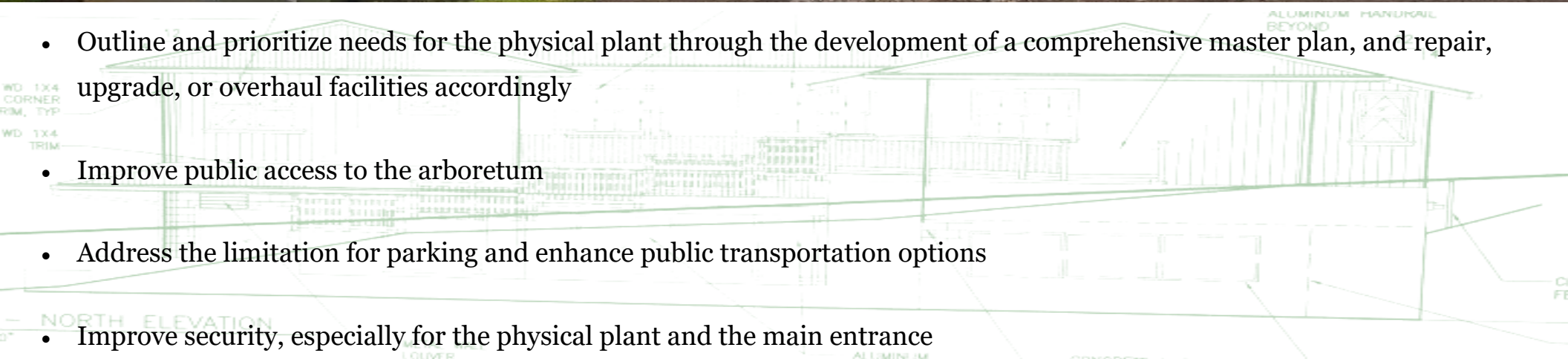




## 5. Ensure that facilities and infrastructure are capable of meeting the needs of the arboretum



- Outline and prioritize needs for the physical plant through the development of a comprehensive master plan, and repair, upgrade, or overhaul facilities accordingly
- Improve public access to the arboretum
- Address the limitation for parking and enhance public transportation options
- Improve security, especially for the physical plant and the main entrance





## 6. Increase financial and workforce stability and leverage funds to accomplish strategic foci

- Work with UH administration to move key soft money positions to permanent status
- Enhance fundraising efforts with support from the Friends of Lyon Arboretum and UH Foundation to meet operational needs
- Epitomize the UH campus-wide sustainable capital improvement project by installing energy-saving renewables (e.g., solar) and low-consumption equipment (e.g., Energy Star, LED lighting) in all new facilities, and by retrofitting older buildings







# Celebrating 100 Years

1918 — 2018

## **CONTACT AND COMMUNICATION**

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