



# Harold L. Lyon Arboretum

University of Hawai'i at Manoa

Strategic Plan 2024-2028



# 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 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*



# Our 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

# Our Values



## 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

**In consideration of  
our mission and  
values, the  
following six core  
goals form the  
strategic foci for  
2024-2028**



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, especially native Hawaiian plants and culturally significant introduced species

Conduct regular inventories of the grounds, greenhouse, and laboratory collections to assess their status and inform future directions

Improve interactive databases for all 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 improving designated trails, and developing new 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, especially native Hawaiian plants and culturally significant introduced species

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, as well as *ex situ* collections

Cultivate, propagate, and breed plants to the highest horticultural standards to serve as a resource and model for students, researchers, and the horticulture industry

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Cya slup.






2

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

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 governmental, non-governmental, and international organizations to further regional conservation efforts

A woman in a pink shirt is standing in a lush garden, gesturing as she speaks to a group of people. The background shows green hills and a blue sky. The foreground shows the backs of several people listening, including one with a yellow shirt that says 'HAWAII, OAHU, HONOLULU' and another with a white shirt that says 'LONG'.

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

Develop and implement a plan to open the arboretum to the public on some weekend days

3

**Strengthen community relationships through education and outreach**



4

## Increase collaboration and recognition within the UH system

Offer guest lectures and seminars on campus to foster connections with students and faculty

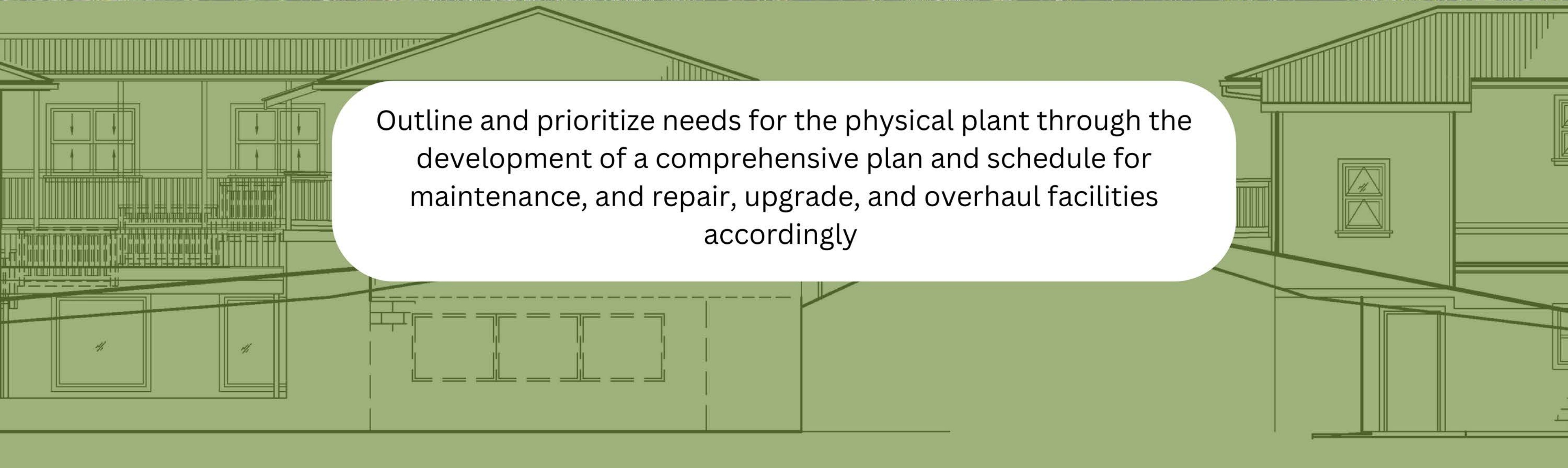
Hold periodic seminars to increase participation from campus, engage the scientific community, and create a forum for the dissemination of research activities at Lyon

Foster collaborations with the 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



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 plan and schedule for maintenance, and repair, upgrade, and overhaul facilities accordingly



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 and add positions to help maintain the grounds and facilities

Enhance fundraising efforts with support from the Friends of Lyon Arboretum and UH Foundation to meet operational needs

Participate in 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

# Contact and Communication

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