

National Tropical Botanical Garden

Impact Report 2021

OUR MISSION The mission of the National Tropical Botanical Garden is to enrich life through discovery, scientific research, conservation, and education by perpetuating the survival of plants, ecosystems, and cultural knowledge of tropical regions.

NTBG is the only botanical garden chartered by the United States Congress. Established in 1964, the Garden is dedicated to the preservation and survival of tropical plants, emphasizing rare and endangered species. NTBG is a 501 (c)(3) nonprofit corporation. We are not operated or subsidized by the federal government, and we rely on the much-appreciated support of members and donors like you to fulfill our mission.

OUR SENSE OF PLACE NTBG began with a single site on Kaua'i and has grown into a network of five gardens and five preserves, encompassing nearly 2,000 acres in Hawai'i and Florida. McBryde Garden and Lāwa'i Preserve and Allerton Garden are in the Lāwa'i Valley on Kaua'i's south shore with Limahuli Garden and Preserve on the north shore. Kahanu Garden and Preserve is located along east Maui's rugged coast in Hāna. The Kampong, once the home and private garden of botanist David Fairchild, is in Coconut Grove, south Miami, Florida.

NTBG's Ka'ūpūlehu Preserve and Awini Preserve are both located on Hawai'i Island. NTBG's Breadfruit Institute manages its primary conservation collection at Kahanu Garden and a Regenerative Organic Breadfruit Agroforest demonstration in McBryde Garden. In 2008, the Juliet Rice Wichman Botanical Research Center opened on Kaua'i and in 2019, NTBG broke ground on the International Center for Tropical Botany at The Kampong.

OUR IMPACT For nearly 60 years, NTBG has been discovering, collecting, and protecting rare, endangered, and well-known plants to ensure the survival of tropical species, ecosystems, and Indigenous cultural knowledge. NTBG's work is rooted in the preservation of native and introduced heritage plant species that represent countless centuries of stewardship and evolution.

NTBG's work saving plants has had a major impact in Hawai'i, Florida, and around the world. Together, with volunteers, interns, fellow conservationists and horticulturists, botanists, and scientists, NTBG is playing a leading role in conserving the Hawaiian flora, a unique group of plants that is globally recognized as a prime example of adaptive radiation with an exceptionally high rate of endemism.

While relatively small compared to the world's oldest and best-known botanic gardens, NTBG has grown in influence by adopting values based on Native Hawaiian core principles and practices, working in collaboration with partners locally, nationally, and internationally. NTBG continues to educate and inform students, teachers, and professionals through its diverse and ever-evolving public outreach, education, and professional development programs.

Among its peers in the scientific and conservation communities, NTBG is a steadfast partner and leader in supporting and advancing critical initiatives such as the Hawai'i Strategy for Plant Conservation, the International Center for Tropical Botany at The Kampong, and the University of Hawai'i's Plant Extinction Prevention Program.



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Saving Plants, Saving People

EDUCATION

“NTBG’s well-maintained collections of kalo, hala, ‘ohé, wauke, ‘ōlena, and other ‘canoe plants’ offer essential lessons in Hawaiian culture. The Garden is important not just for Hawai‘i, but for the planet, and it’s my favorite classroom in the world.”

— Sabra Kauka, Hawaiian studies teacher, Kumu Hula



In 2021, NTBG received accreditation from Botanic Gardens Conservation International as an Advanced Conservation Practitioner, BGCI’s highest level. NTBG’s top level IV accreditation was also renewed by the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program.



BREADFRUIT INSTITUTE

“We think the world of NTBG. We admire what they do and we’re happy to collaborate with them. We couldn’t do what we’ve done if they hadn’t helped us so much when we got started.”

— Mike McLaughlin, Trees That Feed Foundation Co-founder

The Regenerative Organic Breadfruit Agroforest demonstration completed its fourth year growing nearly 14,000 lbs. of produce (including almost 10,000 lbs. of breadfruit). Half of the harvest was donated to the Kaua‘i Independent Food Bank.

Message from NTBG Chair and CEO/Director

Charles Darwin wrote, “It is not the strongest of the species that survives, nor the most intelligent, but the one most responsive to change.” In 2021, NTBG demonstrated its responsiveness to change. Not to argue with Darwin, we believe a little intelligence helped along the way.

At the beginning of 2021, we continued to achieve a number of important objectives. We responded by adapting intelligently to different ways of working and living. Thanks to the innovative spirit of our Board, Staff, and Volunteers, we combined nearly 60 years of experience with new technology to better fulfill our mission.

While the pandemic was disruptive, climate change will be catastrophic. NTBG’s past and present accomplishments, and our future goals, have never been more relevant. From discovery, restoration, research, and education, to advancing sustainable growing techniques and improving food security, NTBG’s mission matters! In the 2021 Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) report, scientists described the climate crisis as “widespread, rapid, and intensifying.” The IPCC and numerous other scientific institutions have emphasized the importance of protecting natural habitats and, by extension, individual species.

In 2021, NTBG had an outsized impact: Garden staff collaborated with local and international partners using the latest drone and other emerging technologies to discover and collect populations of Critically Endangered plants; worked in collaboration with the Smithsonian Institution to publish the Flora of Samoa; expanded the availability of select varieties of breadfruit and knowledge of agroforestry; and laid the groundwork for educating the next generation of tropical botanists at the International Center for Tropical Botany at The Kampong in Miami.

At this critical time for our planet, one could easily be overwhelmed, feeling compelled to take on every problem, but we understand the importance of quality over quantity. If there is a silver lining to the last two years, it’s that we have learned to embrace adaptation and change. By staying true to our mission and building on our past, NTBG has plotted the course for future success. We invite you to learn more about our work in this 2021 Impact Report presented in a concise poster format.

As always, thank you for your partnership and continuing support.

Gordon Deane
NTBG, Chair

Janet Mayfield
Chief Executive Officer and Director

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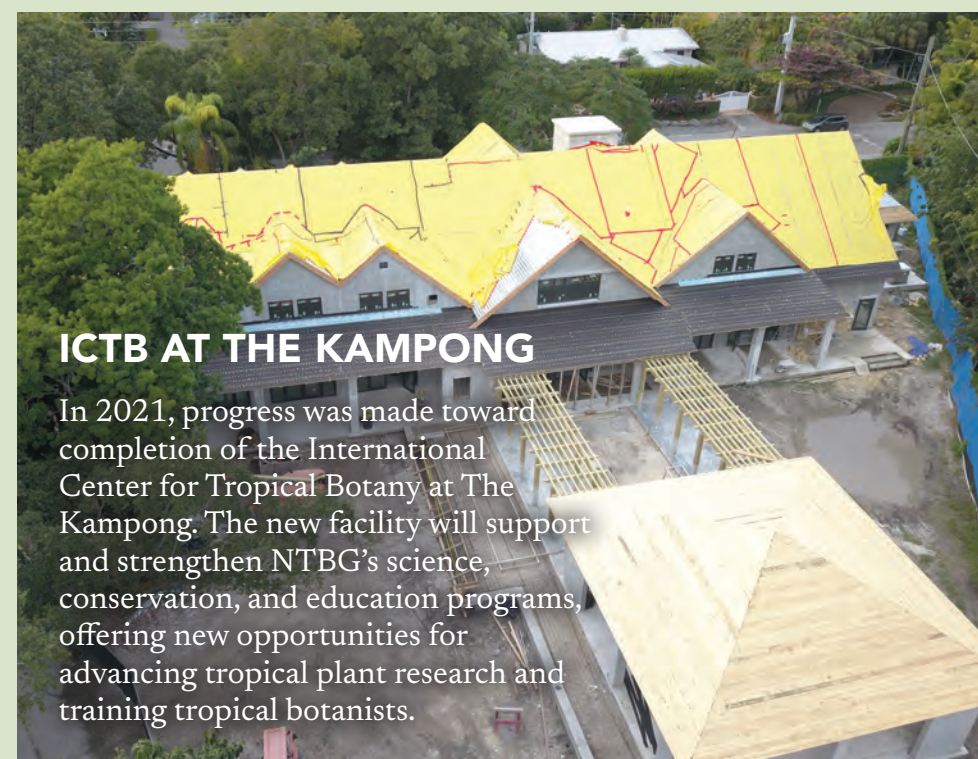
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KAHANU GARDEN AND PRESERVE

“Laulima (many hands) embodies the spirit of cooperation central to our work. Everything from our gardens and classrooms to the laboratory and the library is more successful because we work together.”

—Mike Opgenorth, Kahanu Garden and Preserve, Director

In 2021, NTBG and its partners discovered and mapped previously unknown populations of an unprecedented 35 rare and endangered Hawaiian plant species. This includes 61 newly found locations of *Cyanea asarifolia*, *Kadua fluvia ilis*, *Lysimachia scopulensis*, and other taxa.



ICTB AT THE KAMPONG

In 2021, progress was made toward completion of the International Center for Tropical Botany at The Kampong. The new facility will support and strengthen NTBG’s science, conservation, and education programs, offering new opportunities for advancing tropical plant research and training tropical botanists.



SCIENCE AND CONSERVATION

In 2021, NTBG scientists used drones and spotting scopes to search for *Plantago princeps* var. *anomala* (left), Critically Endangered and endemic to Kaua‘i. These efforts led to a successful collection in Limahuli Valley, a modern first for botanists on Kaua‘i.



ALLERTON GARDEN AND MCBRYDE GARDEN



LIMAHULI GARDEN AND PRESERVE

NTBG staff, volunteers, and partners completed the Hā‘ena O‘opu Restoration Project at Limahuli Stream, clearing stream banks, removing invasive species, and planting over 4,700 native plants to reinvigorate one of Kaua‘i’s most biodiverse riparian ecosystems.



Hibiscus waimeae ssp. *hanneriae*



LIVING COLLECTIONS AND HORTICULTURE

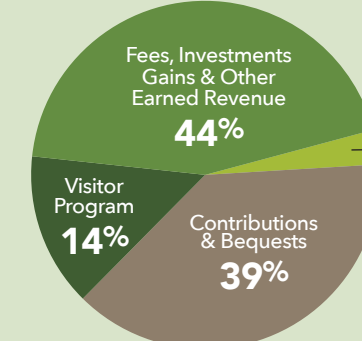
“NTBG is wholly committed to growing and conserving Hawai‘i’s rare native plants within our gardens and protected restoration sites. The conservation of this unique flora and ecosystems is critical to our future survival.”

—Mike DeMotta, Curator of Living Collections

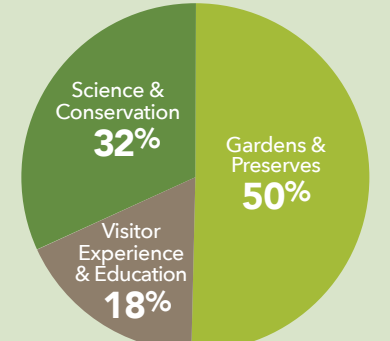
In 2021, over 350 Endangered and Critically Endangered endemic plants were grown for outplanting in the Limahuli Preserve for restoration, ex-situ conservation, and seed production, representing species of *Cyanea*, *Cyrtandra*, *Gardenia*, and *Polyscias*, among others.

Financials

Revenues & Support



Expenses



2021

ASSETS	\$ in 1,000s
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 5,380
Other current Assets	2,430
Fixed Assets	35,395
Assets held for preservation	10,780
Assets held for investment	29,555
TOTAL ASSETS	\$ 83,540

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES:	\$	
Current Liabilities	\$	1,253
Long-term Liabilities		785

NET ASSETS:	
Without donor restrictions:	
Undesignated	34,282
Designated by the board	1,580
With donor restrictions	45,640

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS	\$ 83,540
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CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEAR	\$ 7,329
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To review the National Tropical Botanical Garden’s 2021 Financial Statement, please visit our website at: <http://ntbg.org/about/financial-information>



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