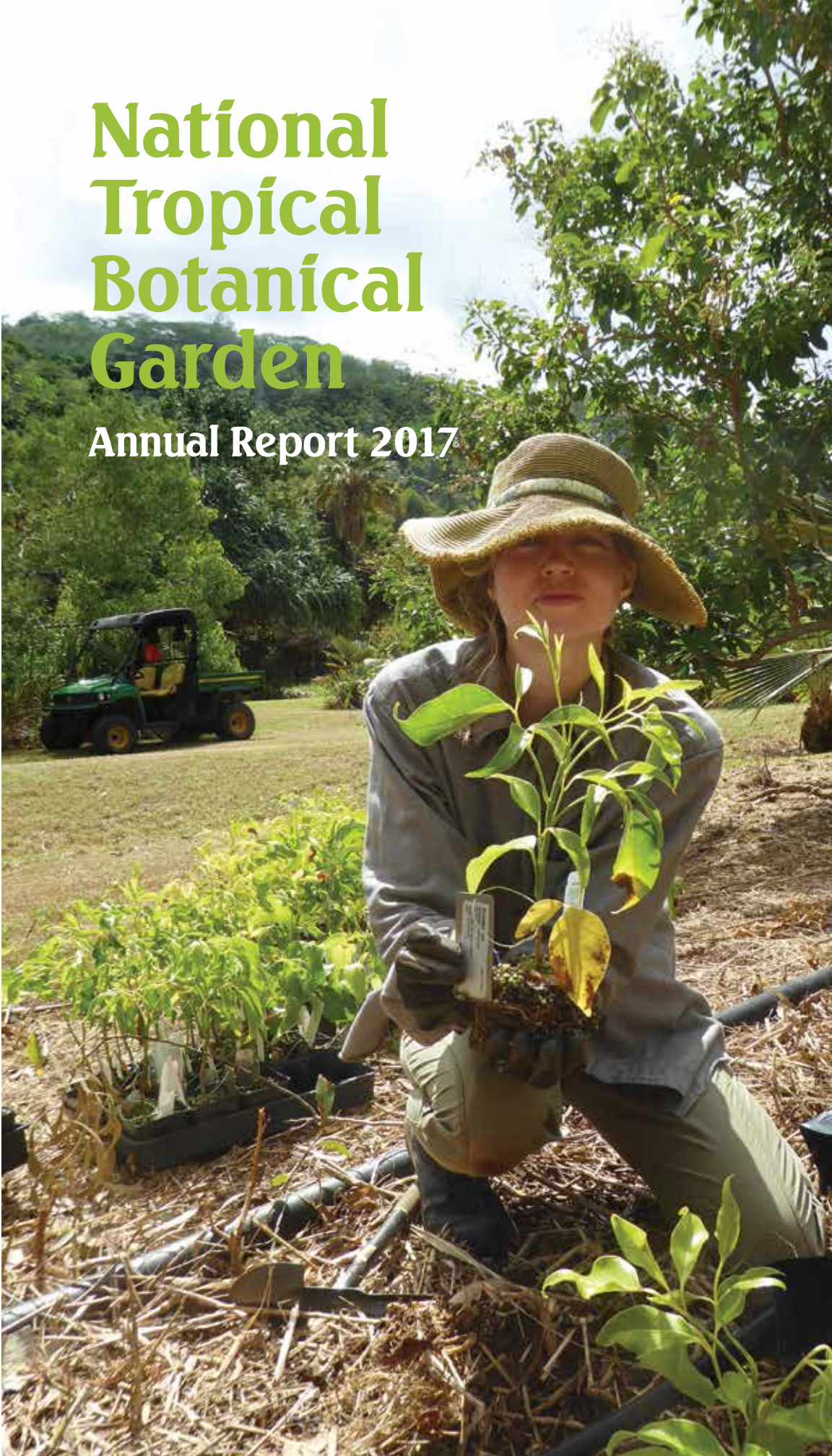


National Tropical Botanical Garden

Annual Report 2017





ON THE COVER: NTBG'S 2017 FALL INTERNSHIP PROGRAM INCLUDED OUTPLANTING CRITICALLY ENDANGERED *POLYSCIAS BISATTENUATA* COLLECTED AS WILD SEED AND GROWN IN NTBG'S CONSERVATION AND HORTICULTURE CENTER. PHOTO BY JON LETMAN

THIS PAGE: *BRIGHAMIA INSIGNIS*, ENDEMIC TO KAUAI



Message from Thomas D. Hewitt

Aloha!

The National Tropical Botanical Garden is now more than half a century old. Formally established on August 19, 1964, through the passage of a Congressional Charter, NTBG has a history of positively impacting the world of plant science, conservation, and education through our many programs, collaborations, and initiatives.

The year 2017 was one of challenges and achievements, but an exciting year to be sure, in which NTBG's vital groundbreaking work – saving, studying, and growing some of the world's rarest plants – made important strides forward.

As Chairman of the Board of Trustees, I am pleased to report that NTBG management is embarking on a new paradigm and course. In January 2019, our beloved CEO and Director, Chipper Wichman, will step down as CEO and will retain his role as President. In his capacity as President, he will continue working to advance NTBG's core mission. Chipper also will serve as a direct link with the world, fostering relationships – new and old – and he will continue to connect NTBG with like-minded individuals who share our values and understand the importance of plant discovery, research, conservation, and education.

Chipper has been, and will continue to be, an outstanding representative of our organization locally, regionally, and globally.

One of the most important tasks that the Board of Trustees must undertake is to ensure that steps and a protocol are in place for an orderly succession of senior management. Specifically, the charter of the NTBG Governance Committee states that it will “develop a process for identifying succession protocols for the CEO.” The Board of Trustees, after examining the recommendation from the Governance Committee, has resolved to name Janet Mayfield, our COO and CFO, the new CEO of NTBG, starting on January 1, 2019.

As Chairman, I have found Janet to be a strategic thinker and problem solver who has an appreciation for the complexity and intricacies of our organization, and a fervent commitment to our mission and our staff.

NTBG is now 54 years old and the only botanical garden chartered by the U.S. Congress. We would not be able to provide our sustained excellence in education, research and conservation without the critical support of our loyal staff, volunteers, Trustees, Fellows and Members. I wish to thank you for your support. You are the life blood of our beloved Garden. Without you, our work and the positive impact we're having on the world would not be possible.

Mahalo nui loa,

Thomas D. Hewitt
Chairman, Board of Trustees
National Tropical Botanical Garden



Message from Chipper Wichman

As I reflect on 2017, I am very proud of the many accomplishments achieved by our incredible, talented staff. The National Tropical Botanical Garden continues to excel as a leader in plant conservation, botanical research, and

environmental education across our five gardens and five preserves. At the end of 2017 we completed the year-long process of preparing a new five-year strategic plan. This comprehensive plan is designed to align with frameworks like the Global Strategy for Plant Conservation and the International Union for Conservation of Nature's "Hawai'i Commitments." Charting the course for NTBG's near future, both staff and Trustees are excited to implement this bold plan.

Thanks to the generous support of Patagonia and the Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, in 2017 we began the development of an exciting regenerative-organic breadfruit agroforest demonstration project in McBryde Garden. Designed to inform our visitors as well as farmers interested in growing breadfruit more sustainably, this project is transforming part of our global breadfruit collection in McBryde Garden into a food forest that will increase production of multiple crops, while improving the vigor of our heritage breadfruit tree collection. The agroforestry demonstration is already serving as an important resource for farmers in Hawai'i and beyond.

Last year's back-to-back hurricanes in the Gulf of Mexico underscored the threat of climate change as Hurricane Irma devastated our beloved Kampong in Miami on September 10. Irma's sustained winds of 100 miles per hour for 12 hours left a swath of destruction, unseen since Hurricane Andrew in 1992. The Kampong saw more than 260 trees impacted. (Sixty-eight were uprooted but survived, 146 suffered serious structural damage, and 24 were killed.)

After the storm, our heroic staff began the job of saving dozens of historic trees and cleaning up all that was destroyed. Equally amazing was the response from our generous donors who, within days, donated the critical funds that enabled The Kampong's recovery to proceed quickly. In rebuilding, we remain focused on making all of our gardens more resilient and better prepared for the impacts of climate change.

Despite the challenges, with your support NTBG's work continues to have a positive impact. For that I am grateful. Mahalo!

Aloha,

Chipper Wichman
President, CEO and Director
National Tropical Botanical Garden

Introduction

Aloha and mahalo (thank you) for taking time to review some of NTBG's highlights and achievements in 2017. In addition to a summary of who we are and what we do, this report includes key financial data and our organization's fiscal activities and assets, as well as the names of our dedicated Board of Trustees, Council of Fellows, and our many supporters and partners who play a vital role in our work.

As the only Congressionally Chartered botanical garden in the United States, and as a non-profit organization charged with the mission of enriching life through discovery, scientific research, conservation and education, we rely not only on our generous supporters, but a diverse team of committed staff, volunteers, individual and institutional partners, and like-minded organizations with whom we collaborate.

Saving plants is central to our mission and permeates every aspect of our work, from rough-terrain field botany and seed banking to rare-plant collection, habitat restoration, and a new and innovative breadfruit agroforestry demonstration. Our Science and Conservation team is playing a critical role in helping stem the tide of plant extinction, while working with an array of partners to identify, monitor, and limit or stop threats to species vital to healthy ecosystems.

Through our public outreach and education programs that benefit K-12, undergraduate, and graduate students, as well as professionals, we are having an outsized impact in our communities, our region, and around the world.

Whether you are learning about our work for the very first time today or have been an NTBG supporter for years, we thank you for your interest in our work and for all you do to ensure that together, we can continue to save plants.

With deep gratitude and appreciation, mahalo.

Science and Conservation



The bulk of NTBG's Science and Conservation (Sci-Con) work centers on plants of the Pacific, but extends to tropical species from around the world. They are collected in the field and studied, grown, and kept in various forms (dried or frozen DNA, preserved Herbarium vouchers, stored in the Seed Bank, living propagules in the Nursery, in situ in preserves, ex situ plantings, etc.).

Our Science and Conservation department is under the Direction of Dr. David Lorence. The Sci-Con staff's efforts in exploration, discovery, documentation, and research are consistent with the Garden's Strategic Plan. Their activities in 2017 included the following:

- Final editing for publication of the Flora of the Marquesas, to be followed by work on the Flora of Samoa, in collaboration with partners;
- Ongoing risk assessment of native Hawaiian plants to be included in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species;
- Collaboration with Florida International University to develop the International Center for Tropical Botany's post-doctoral projects involving plant exploration, conservation, and management in Florida and beyond;
- Publishing scientific papers in a range of peer-reviewed journals and other publications, including Phytotokeys, Ecosystem Services, Pacific Science, Forest Ecology and Management, and others;
- Field collection and conservation of *Hibiscus waimeae* subsp. *hannerae* for DNA research of wild-collected and nursery-grown material. The project is a partnership with researchers at Northwestern University;

- Growing native Hawaiian plants for our partners' successful translocation of endangered ground-nesting seabirds into Kaua'i's only predator-proof fenced preserve area;
- Preparing and returning seeds collected by NTBG on Kaho'olawe island –dating back to the 1990s – to partners at Kaho'olawe Island Reserve Commission (KIRC). After years of storage in NTBG's seed bank, KIRC will grow and outplant the four native species at restoration sites on the environmentally compromised island;
- Conducting rare-plant surveys using unmanned aerial vehicles (UAVs, also called drones) to search cliff habitat that is otherwise inaccessible. Utilizing high-resolution cameras and GPS technology, Sci-Con staff have discovered and documented previously unknown rare-plant populations, offering new hope of discovering critically endangered plants
- Continuing conservation work at Kahanu Garden and Preserve in Hana, Maui, protecting the coastal forest habitat, and preserving heritage plant collections vital to Hawaiian culture;
- Ongoing seed storage (7.7 million representing 673 taxa) and germination trials, including testing for viability of seeds under a variety of conditions in a new minus 80°C freezer;
- Increasing NTBG's herbarium specimen collection to more than 85,000.



Living Collections and Horticulture

With nearly 2,000 acres of gardens, preserves, and research facilities in Hawai'i and Florida, NTBG has the capacity to collect, curate, and manage living collections that include taxa representing thousands of species from around the tropical world — some of which are extinct in the wild.

In 2017, NTBG outplanted more than 5,000 plants, nearly half of which were threatened and endangered. In total, NTBG propagated 28,500 plants and seeds for our own living collections, restoration projects, collaborations, and public outreach. By year's end, NTBG's nursery inventory had surpassed 355,800 plants and propagules.

Highlights of NTBG's Living Collections in 2017:

- Successful collaboration with State of Hawai'i Plant Extinction Prevention Program (PEPP), working closely to support the collection, propagation, and outplanting of "PEP" species, which are those with less than 50 individuals left in the wild;
- Development and execution of a curation plan for all of our institutional collections. The process includes updating living collections maps for all five gardens;
- Building strong partnerships with Pacific Rim Conservation and the Kilauea Point National Wildlife Refuge, to restore degraded habitat by providing native material for outplanting;
- Incorporating volunteers, interns, and students into NTBG's daily work schedule, to provide an opportunity for a wide range of individuals to gain meaningful skills and experience, while they also add to productivity organization-wide;
- Sharing important botanical and horticultural findings through staff presentations at the American Public Gardens Association, Hawai'i Conservation Conference, Hawai'i Botanical Forum, Smithsonian Museum of the American Indian, Xishuangbanna Tropical Botanical Garden, and elsewhere;
- Improving database management; streamlining collections mapping; and updating living collections policies;
- Providing the public a place to interact with, and learn about, a botanical garden's many functions from plant collection and propagation to research, storage, outplanting, and curating collections.



Breadfruit Institute

Since 2003, NTBG's Breadfruit Institute (BFI) has promoted the conservation, study, and use of breadfruit for food and reforestation. The institute has assembled the largest, most diverse heritage breadfruit collection in the world — more than 300 trees representing 150 varieties on Maui and Kaua'i. Under Dr. Diane Ragone, the Breadfruit Institute has forged strategic partnerships around the world and become a global research center for breadfruit.

To date, BFI has helped distribute more than 100,000 breadfruit trees to 45 countries and territories around the world. In 2017, the institute increased its influence by:

- Working in partnership with Patagonia Provisions, the State of Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, and Agroforestry Net to develop and implement a Regenerative Organic Breadfruit Agroforestry Demonstration in McBryde Garden. The project includes developing certification protocols, providing training in agroforestry design and management, and installation of demonstration plantings in the breadfruit research orchard;
- Presenting workshops on breadfruit varieties and identification, as well as offering breadfruit agroforestry workshops on Kaua'i, Maui, O'ahu, and Hawai'i Island for small-scale producers, farmers, and gardeners, and publishing a Breadfruit Agroforestry Guide;
- Partnering with the Africa Breadfruit Initiative, Global Breadfruit and First Avenue International, offering support for seminars, workshops, and other breadfruit-related projects in five African nations, and collaborating with the Global Hunger Alliance;
- Perpetuating the genetic diversity of NTBG's breadfruit repository by improving resilience within the collection at Kahanu Garden, and using regenerative management practices to duplicate select accessions in McBryde Garden;
- Introducing new organic management strategies for the Kahanu Garden collection to improve soil conditions for healthier, more productive trees, some of which date back to the 1970s;
- Supporting the grass-roots community organization Melai Mai to distribute more than 400 trees representing four varieties to remote islands of Yap in the Federated States of Micronesia to improve sustainability;
- Expanding the Global Hunger Initiative with the goal to distribute 200,000 trees by 2020, which will significantly help improve global food security and reforestation.





Education

With a broad range of programs that cater to K-12 school children, graduate and undergraduate students, science educators, interns, artists, farmers, working professionals, and others, NTBG provides quality educational opportunities for both formal and informal instruction.

NTBG fulfills its educational mandate by utilizing its wealth of resources and staff, as well as more than 700 dedicated volunteers, and by partnering with public and private schools, including the University of Hawai'i system, Florida International University, the International Center for Tropical Botany, and other educational institutions locally, nationally, and internationally.

As NTBG's President and CEO Chipper Wichman says, "We grow people, as well as plants." In 2017, a selection of NTBG's educational efforts included:

- E-STEM (Environment, Science, Technology, Engineering, and Math) at NTBG via STEP (Science Teacher Enhancement Program), the college level three-credit two-week immersive program focused on tropical biology, equips teachers with innovative techniques using an inquiry-based approach;
- GAC (Garden as Classroom) is tailored to K-12 students in all NTBG locations and aligns with State Department of Education standards. NTBG partners with a

host of educational institutions to provide youths the chance to grow and learn in indoor and outdoor classrooms;

- University and college students and researchers visiting NTBG sites in Hawai'i and Florida participate in a diverse range of programs covering everything from botany, horticulture, and botanical garden management to learning about medicinal plants, conservation and restoration;
- The Environmental Journalism Program, which offers a one-week intensive program for print, broadcast, and online journalists who cover science and the environment for major outlets around the world;
- The Botanical Illustration Course and the NTBG Florilegium Society welcomes botanical artists from around the world to study, illustrate, and present their works to the public with a series of workshops in Hawai'i and Florida;
- Afterschool and summer programs provide young children the opportunity to learn about, and interact with, plants and nature in a safe, fun, and stimulating environment;
- Internships allow NTBG to mentor trainees in multiple programs ranging in duration from one month to one year at locations on Kaua'i, Maui, and Florida; more than 20,000 intern hours were logged in 2017;
- Public outreach activities include free lectures on a range of topics related to plants, conservation, and the environment at multiple locations in Hawai'i and Florida.



NTBG Gardens and Preserves

As a botanical garden, NTBG is unique in that it is comprised of five distinct garden sites and five preserves on three Hawaii islands and in southern Florida. The diversity of these locations ranges from montane mesic and wet native forests (3,356 ft./1,023 m.) to a sheltered bay where threatened green sea turtles nest, to a coastal pandanus forest, and carefully maintained gardens that are home to archaeological and historically significant sites. NTBG gardens and preserves:

McBryde Garden and Lāwa'i Preserve is comprised of NTBG's 200-acre flagship McBryde Garden and the adjacent 50-acre Lāwa'i Preserve, which provide safe havens for rare and endangered plants as well as expansive living collections of great scientific, cultural, educational, and conservation value; in 2017, the newly designed Hawaiian-Life Canoe Garden was completed;

Allerton Garden sprawls 80-plus acres along the lower Lāwa'i Stream on Kaua'i's South Shore in a garden established in the 1930s by Robert Allerton, a founding NTBG Trustee, and John Gregg Allerton. The garden is a masterpiece of landscape design, incorporating historically significant plant collections, architectural structures, and breathtaking vistas of Lāwa'i Kai, a sheltered bay designated as a Special Subzone by Hawai'i's Department of Land and Natural Resources.

Limahuli Garden and Preserve is located on the North Shore of Kaua'i in a deep, rugged valley considered to be home to some of the greatest concentration of biodiversity in the Hawaiian Islands. In addition to a thriving tour visitor program, Limahuli plays an important role in community outreach in terms of perpetuating culture, community, and education, while the 987-acre Limahuli Preserve is a critical site for native forest restoration, rare plant conservation, and research.

Kahanu Garden and Preserve in Hāna, Maui, showcases native Hawaiian and Polynesian-introduced "canoe plants" and other important Pacific Island heritage species, including the world's most extensive breadfruit conservation collection. (Canoe plants are those brought by early Polynesian navigators in their canoes.) Kahanu Garden is the site of the Pi'ilanihali Heiau which is recognized as one of the largest ancient man-made structure in Polynesia. In 2017, Kahanu Garden continued to host cultural and educational programs while working to complete a new Visitor/Education Center.





The Kampong was established as the residence and private garden of 19th Century botanist and plant explorer David Fairchild on Biscayne Bay in Coconut Grove, South Miami, Florida. The garden was badly damaged by Hurricane Irma in September 2017, but restoration and recovery work to The Kampong's heritage collection of tropical trees continues. The residence, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, was not damaged.

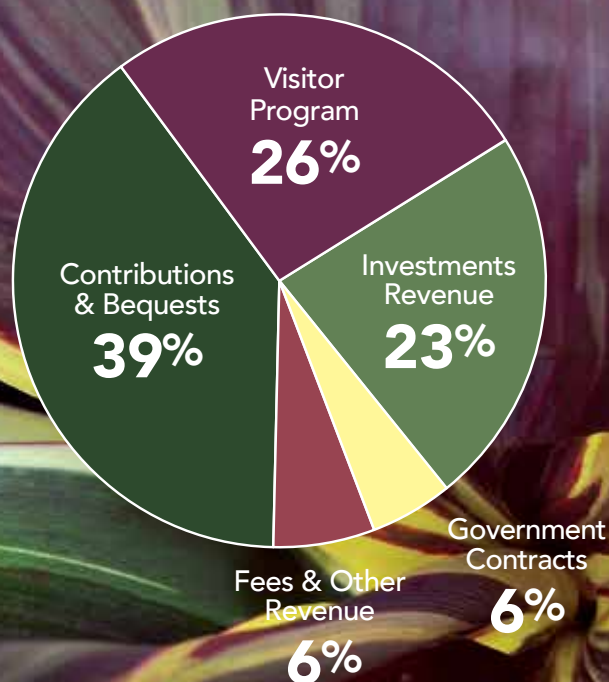
Ka'ūpūlehu Preserve is a nearly six-acre fenced enclosure on Hawai'i Island comprised of remnant dryland forest with high concentrations of endangered plants that has been managed under a lease by NTBG since the early 1970s.

Awini Preserve is in a remote area of the Awini Plateau in Hawai'i Island's Kohala Mountains accessible only by helicopter. Around 85 native and non-native species have been documented in this damaged wet forest where feral pigs, cattle, and invasive plant species are a threat.

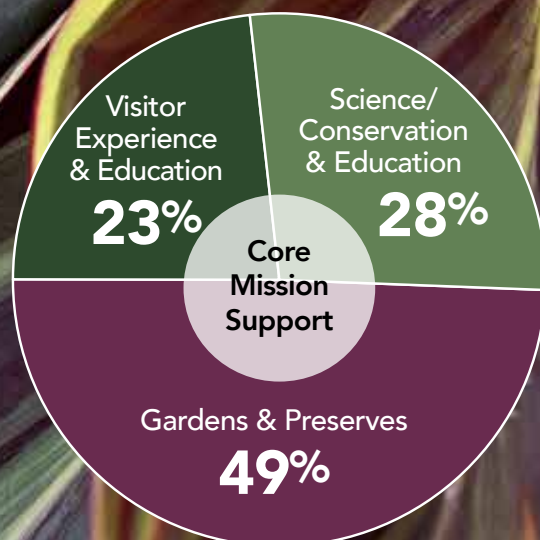
Financials

Audited December 31, 2017

Revenues & Support



Expenses



Core Mission Support represents the investment in key functions that are necessary, vital, and integral to delivering our programs. Each of our programs is built around, is supported by, and shares responsibility for Core Mission Support.

2017

ASSETS

	\$ in 1,000s
Cash and cash equivalents	\$ 2,105
Other current Assets	1,476
Fixed Assets	35,788
Assets held for preservation	10,780
Assets held for investment	20,807

TOTAL ASSETS

\$ 70,956

LIABILITIES AND NET ASSETS

LIABILITIES:

Current Liabilities	\$ 1,165
Long-term liabilities	951

NET ASSETS:

Unrestricted	28,678
Board Designated	1,098
Temporarily restricted	10,212
Permanently restricted	28,852

TOTAL LIABILITIES & NET ASSETS

\$ 70,956

CHANGE IN NET ASSETS FOR THE YEAR \$ 1,227

To review the national Tropical Botanical Garden's 2017 Audited Financial Statement, please visit our website at <http://ntbg.org/about/financial-information>

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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.

www.ntbg.org

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 by the federal government and rely on the much-appreciated support of members and donors like you to carry out our mission.



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National Tropical Botanical Garden

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ADENOPHORUS EPIGAEUS IS A TERRESTRIAL FERN
ONLY KNOWN FROM THE BOGS AND WET FOREST
SUMMITS OF KAUA'I. PHOTO BY KEN WOOD