

**National Tropical Botanical Garden  
Biocultural Education Specialist & Guide  
Haena, Kaua'i**

## **JOB POSTING**

The National Tropical Botanical Garden has an immediate opening for a Biocultural Education Specialist & Guide at our Limahuli Garden & Preserve reporting to the Director of the Limahuli Garden and Preserve.

This is an hourly causal position (less than 20 hours per week)

### **Position Summary:**

As a Biocultural Education Specialist & Guide, you are far more than a narrator; you are a cultural practitioner, a storyteller, and a vital bridge between people and the sacred landscape of the *ahupua'a*. Operating within the foundational spirit of *mālama 'āina* (caring for that which sustains us), you will guide guests on a transformative journey through our lush botanical collections. By seamlessly weaving traditional Hawaiian knowledge (*'ike kupuna*) with modern conservation science, you will inspire audiences ranging from novice visitors to seasoned scholars, leaving them with a profound, lasting understanding of how human survival is inextricably linked to the health of our flora and intact ecosystems.

Your journey begins each day with the operational stewardship of your assigned transport vehicle, ensuring it is safe, prepped, and ready to welcome guests. Once loaded, you will provide exceptional customer service through an authentic expression of *aloha* and *ho'okipa* (hospitality) for the duration of the experience, whether guests are in transport or on foot. Utilizing a variety of dynamic interpretive techniques, you will customize your unique delivery style to both educate and entertain, keeping guests engaged through every step of the lush garden terrain.

The core of your role relies on a deep, expert knowledge of *'Ike Hawai'i* (Hawaiian culture and practices), allowing you to transform a standard garden tour into an immersive cultural demonstration. You will introduce visitors to the profound depth of **Lā'au Lapa'au**, explaining the protocols, identification, and healing properties of native medicinal plants. Furthermore, you will bring traditional material culture to life by sharing the intricacies of **Hana No'eau**—demonstrating how ancestral Hawaiians processed raw plant fibers into vital **cordage and rope** (*kaula*), and how they extracted vibrant organic **dyes** (*wai ho'olu'u*) from native bark, roots, and fruits to color their textiles.

**Essential Duties and Responsibilities** include the following (other duties may be assigned):

- Excellent communication and interpretive skills for all learning styles
- Excellent customer service and safety awareness
- Knowledge and Experience with cultural practices such as La‘au Lapa‘au, rope making, fibres, oli, mele, mo‘olelo Hawaii, and other
- Biocultural expert- blend science with Hawaiian culture
- Accurate interpretation of the garden, its features, history and programs
- Provide assistance, leadership and guidance to visitors at all times
- Act as lead guide for all available tours, from cruise ships to sunset dinners
- Transportation of visitors to and from the Gardens on UTV when necessary
- Assist with specialty groups and educational programming
- Assist in gift shop and other areas of the garden as needed
- Work effectively as an autonomous agent as well as in a team setting
- Posted schedule may be subject to change based on operational needs such as weather condition, guest attendance and department needs

**Skills/Qualifications/Experience:**

High School diploma or general education degree (GED), at least one year of guiding experience; or equivalent combination of education and experience. NAI Guide certification a plus.

**Pay Range:** \$22.52 – 26.01

Deadline to apply for this position: open until filled

Please submit résumé to:

**Limahuli Garden & Preserve  
5-8291 Kuhio Hwy, Hanalei, HI 96714**

**OR: [careers@ntbg.org](mailto:careers@ntbg.org)**

Phone: (808) 826-1053

Additional information available on our website: **[ntbg.org](http://ntbg.org)**

The mission of the National Tropical Botanical Garden is to enrich life by perpetuating tropical plants, ecosystems, and cultural heritage.

*NTBG is An Equal Opportunity Employer*