



**PRESS RELEASE**  
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**DEPARTMENT OF PARKS AND RECREATION**  
**DIVISION OF URBAN FORESTRY**  
**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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**Honolulu Botanical Gardens awarded with Level III Accreditation by ArbNet**  
*Garden system joins three other Hawai'i arboretums/gardens for international designation*



*Reflections of the Ko'olau Mountains from Loko Waimaluhia at Ho'omaluhia Botanical Garden*

HONOLULU – The Department of Parks and Recreation is proud to announce that Honolulu Botanical Gardens (HBG) have been awarded a Level III Accreditation by the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program for achieving standards of professionalism important for arboreta and botanical gardens around the world. The ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program is the only global initiative to officially recognize arboreta at various levels of development, capacity, and professionalism.

HBG's five botanical gardens (Foster, Lili'uokalani, Ho'omaluhia, Koko Crater, and Wahiawā) represent four ecological settings covering 650-acres around O'ahu. The plant collections include approximately 5,000 taxa of trees and plants from around the world with an emphasis on Hawai'i's rare flora. This allows HBG to fulfill its mission of curating, maintaining, and studying

documented collections of tropical plants in an aesthetic setting for the purposes of conservation, botany, horticulture, education, and recreation.

In addition to cultivating magnificent gardens, HBG's plant collections and staff expertise have been instrumental in studying, exchanging, and researching plant and environmental-based initiatives for decades. Working with botanical, horticultural, pathological, and conservation researchers from government and non-profit organizations, these efforts have benefited local and international research of invasive species (such as the coconut rhinoceros beetle and gall wasp), plant diseases (such as rapid 'ōhi'a death), pollinator populations (such as the 'ōpe'ape'a), and plant propagation.

“We are so honored to receive this global recognition as a Level III accredited arboretum from ArbNet,” said Joshlyn Sand, director of Honolulu Botanical Gardens. “As the environmental contribution of trees becomes crucial worldwide, it is vital for arboreta to collaborate and harness the benefits of working together. We look forward to being an active partner in this important global initiative that defines industry standards, fosters partnerships, and promotes development and professionalism. A big mahalo and congratulations to the hardworking staff at the gardens for reaching this milestone for the first time.”

HBG is also now recognized as an accredited arboretum in the Morton Register of Arboreta, a database of the world's arboreta and gardens dedicated to woody plants. Other accredited arboreta/gardens in Hawai'i include the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa Arboretum, Harold L. Lyon Arboretum, and the National Tropical Botanical Garden on Kaua'i.

ArbNet is an interactive, collaborative, international community of arboreta which facilitates the sharing of knowledge, experience, and other resources. This helps arboreta meet their institutional goals and works to raise professional standards through the ArbNet Arboretum Accreditation Program. The four levels of accreditation recognize arboreta based on various degrees of development, capacity and professionalism. Standards include planning, governance, public access, programming and tree science, and planting and conservation. More information is available at [www.arbnet.org](http://www.arbnet.org)

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