



MAUI NUI BOTANICAL GARDENS

Summer 2011 . Newsletter . Volume 33

‘A‘ohe hana nui ke alu ‘ia – No task is too big when done by all.

It's a Kākou Thing!

by Joylynn Paman

With only thirteen adult plants presently existing on Lāna‘i and one on O‘ahu, the endangered nānū (*Gardenia brighamii*) has a long road ahead. But with the help of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, our partners, and our partners' partners, we're helping to make strides toward its recovery.

Several years ago, MNBG was entrusted by Plant Extinction Prevention Program (PEPP) Coordinator, Hank Oppenheimer, with a handful of endemic nānū seeds. Soon, the seeds germinated. By 2009, we provided Hank with over 200 seedlings which he and his partners outplanted on Lāna‘i. Two years have since passed and although it has been a struggle to keep these seedlings alive, Hank says, "we are optimistic that many of the plants that we put on Lāna‘i will reach maturity." In 2011, MNBG continues to partner with PEPP and many others to keep precious endangered species like the nānū alive.

It is because of our active working partnerships that MNBG has become the success it is today.

Government Partners

Over the years, MNBG's most valuable partner has been the **County of Maui**. Whether it be the **Mayor and his staff**, individual departments or the County nursery workers next door, the County of Maui is the reason why we are able to exist. In particular, the **Department of Parks**

and **Recreation** is the landowner of the nearly seven acre property that MNBG is situated on. Through formal agreements, the Department allows us to utilize this site as a botanical garden and community resource. Just as important is the **Office of Economic Development** and the **Department of Water Supply**. Both have generously provided MNBG with hundreds of thousands of dollars over the years to employ knowledgeable staff at MNBG. Also, as strong supporters of water conservation, we feature xeriscaping techniques and distribute educational materials and native plants to encourage landowners to use water wisely.

On a State level, we partner with the **Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR)**. Within Kanahā, the **Division of Forestry and Wildlife** allows us to collect species for the garden and we provide seeds for their native plant projects. We also grow natives for enclosure areas within the **Natural Area Reserves Systems**.

Conservation Partners

MNBG works regularly with conservation programs throughout Maui Nui such as the **Plant Extinction Prevention Program**. MNBG provides seeds, seedlings, cuttings, and genetic banking for restoration projects. We are also an *ex-situ* site for endangered plant populations found within **State Forest Reserves** and **Watershed Restoration Partnership** areas. By



MNBG partners with Maui Electric Company to put on the annual Arbor Day 1,000 Hawaiian Tree Giveaway, set for Saturday, November 5th, 2011.

doing this, we are protecting the remaining genetic diversity of certain endangered species within a controlled environment in hopes that representative populations of these plants can be eventually returned to the wild and begin a new healthy population.

In addition, we work with **Kaho‘olawe Island Reserve Commission** to care for endangered plants found on Kaho‘olawe.

continued on pg 2

Inside this issue:

- pg 1,2 It's a Kākou Thing!
- pg 3 With Gratitude
- pg 4 Garden News
- pg 5 Plant Sale Ad
- pg 6 Garden View
- pg 7 Volunteer Central
- pg 8-9 Membership
- pg 10 Support the Gardens

info@mnbg.org

Layout Editor . U'i Naho'olewa

We do all we can to ensure these important plants survive to return home some day. We are also growing kākū (Eragrostis variabilis) plants for the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust. In turn, they are using these plants to grow additional plants to restore portions of the Waihe'e Dune as a native seabird nesting habitat.

Members of the **Taro Task Force** periodically visit MNBG to check up on over 70 varieties of kalo (Colocasia esculenta). In the upcoming years, you'll see this collection get a facelift. This is due to a recent grant awarded to our partner, the Hawai'i Land Restoration Institute, which included us in a multi-agency kalo project.

Maui Eko Compost is MNBG's largest provider of mulch and compost for all garden projects. We are truly grateful for their generosity through the years.

Outreach and Education Partners

For our annual Arbor Day 1,000 Hawaiian Tree Giveaway, we can't grow 1,000 trees alone. We just don't have the space! That's where **Maui Electric Company** comes in. They help us promote the event and provide 50% of the trees that are given away to the community each November. The other 50% are grown right here with the long-time financial support from DLNR's **Kaulunani Urban Forestry Program**.

Sponsored by the **Hawai'i Tourism Authority**, MNBG offers a series of Hawaiian Cultural Workshops throughout

2011 where **Hawaiian cultural practitioners** and **kumu hula** share their skills and talents with participants and inspire them to learn more about our host culture.

In the education world, the **University of Hawai'i – Maui College's** Department of Agriculture and Natural Resources brings ethnobotany students here on field trips. The Cooperative Education, Internships & Workforce Readiness Center supplies us with interns who perform service learning projects in exchange for class credit.



AmeriCorps Summer 2011 volunteers, Hinano Tangaro & Shad Hanohano.

Community Partners

Have you heard us on the radio lately? KPOA 93.5 FM has been instrumental in helping us reach the local Maui community. From promoting our docent tours, plant sales and workshops to our Facebook Plant of the Day, KPOA regularly highlights the Gardens and gets the word out!

Meeting faithfully for two hours every Wednesday morning, our energetic **Weed and Pot Club** volunteers are the reason we have such a well-manicured garden. They

not only meticulously weed sections each week, but they also help out in the nursery. Being in the hot sun each day can make our volunteers thirsty. **Hawaiian Springs** quenches their thirst with fresh water to drink while they work to conserve native species.

In addition to those listed above are many many other partners who are making a positive impact at MNBG this year. We would also like to mahalo: the **numerous grantors** who have contributed hundreds of thousands of dollars to our programs; other **botanical gardens, schools and community organizations** who volunteer their time to help around the garden and make it a more beautiful place; internship programs such as **AmeriCorps, Kamehameha Schools' Ka'imi Internship Program** and **SNAP** which offers individuals outdoor work experience while helping us do the day-to-day duties in the Gardens; **Kaunoa Senior Center** which helps us reward our senior volunteers for their great work; and many many more.

As you can see, it truly is a "Kākou Thing" meaning, "it takes all of us," working together, to make Maui Nui Botanical Gardens a great success! Mahalo nui partners. We couldn't have done this without you!

E holo mua kākou,
Joylynn Paman . Executive Director

Calendar of Events

Free Guided Tours:

Mondays, Tuesdays & Fridays at 10:00 am
(by appointment only)

Enjoy a guided tour of the Gardens! Tours cover the natural history, conservation and ancient uses of Native Hawaiian and Polynesian-introduced plants. Tours are complimentary but donations to put toward the Gardens' non-profit mission are always welcome. Call (808) 249-2798 to make a reservation.

Arbor Day 1,000 Hawaiian Tree Giveaway:
Saturday, November 5th, from 9-12 pm

Arbor Day is a day to celebrate trees! MNBG partners with Maui Electric Company, DLNR Kaulunani, and the County of Maui Department of Water Supply to give away 1,000

Hawaiian trees, free, to anyone willing and able to care for them (1 plant per person, any age). Also take a tour of the Gardens to discover other useful Hawaiian plants and find the perfect tree for your backyard!

Celebrating Native Plants in Song:
Saturday, November 19th, from 10-12 pm

Join Kumu Hula & Nā Hōkū Hanohano Award winner, Cody Pueo Pata, for a morning of nahenahe (serene) Hawaiian music as he serenades you with mele (songs) about the always inspiring native plants of Hawai'i. A registration fee will support the work at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. Email info@mnbg.org to request a registration form.

With Gratitude from Our Garden

China Kapuras for delivery services, Cindy Singer for blank t-shirts and a new external hard drive, Jennifer Rose for clippers and sickles, Fleming Arboretum at Pu'u Mahoe for *Hibiscus waimeae* cuttings and halapepe seeds for Arbor Day 2011, Terry Thomas for Mushrooms of Hawai'i book, Janet & George Allan for *Hibiscus sp.* propagation material and original paintings, Lorna & Jack Hazen for plant propagation material, Fern Duvall for alahe'e seedlings, JN Construction Inc. for mulch delivery, Reeny Seavey for volunteer snacks, and an extra special mahalo to Lesley & Paul Czechowicz for the purchase of new signage for MNBG's sugarcane collection!

Mahalo to our Interns & Volunteers:

Shadrach Hanohano, Hinano Tangaro, Jacob Collins, Pebbles Manuel-Dizon, William Sing, Kathy Ki'ili, Lane Nichols, Kaimalu Stanich, Palani Hassett, Sandra Alvestad, John Rawling, Robert Cisneros, John Garso, Renee Borges-Latu, Willette Auwelo, Todd Yoshioka, Jupiter Nielson, Alex & Patty Bevil, Rachael Cabanting, Greta Sagario, Anthony Occhinerio, Chris Sardinha Jr, Jayden Pacheco, Deborah Kimura, Kalani Fontes, Colton Rishord, Dan Bocher, Lindsay Grier, Marlene Belschner, and Tiara Matsui.

MNBG Community Contributions

Pā'ia School ('ulu, 'uala & niu), Montessori School Kihei (nānū & hāhā), Lahainaluna High School ('uala, kō, wauke), Hawaiian Canoe Club (naupaka kahakai, pā'ū o hi'iaka, 'ilima papa), Haleakalā Waldorf School ('uala), UH-MC AG (mai'a & noni roots), Hui Mālama Learning Center ('uala starts), Hawaiian Islands Land Trust (kāwelu & 'ilima), Maui Economic Opportunity (ipu).

Wish List

- Paint Rollers
- Paint Brushes
- Paint Trays
- Tablecloths
- Mulch
- Chainsaw with 24-inch blade or longer
- Small tractor
- Wood chipping services
- Dump truck services
- Garden gloves (all sizes)
- Sickles
- Volunteer snacks
- Reusable water bottles
- Large ceramic planter pots from Indolotus in Kihei
- High resolution digital camera
- Outdoor tables & chairs

If you would like to contribute to the purchase of one or more of the items listed, please call 249-2798.

LOCATION & HOURS

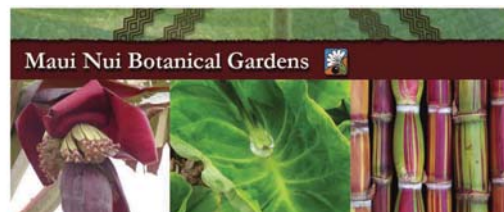
150 Kanaloa Avenue
Keōpūolani Park, Kahului
Across from the War Memorial Sports Complex
Monday-Saturday
8:00 am - 4:00 pm*
Free Admission
Closed Sundays & Major Holidays
*Weather permitting

GROUP RESERVATIONS

Reservations are required for group activities.

CONTACT INFORMATION

Mailing: P.O. Box 6040
Kahului, HI 96733
TEL: (808) 249-2798 FAX: (808) 249-0325
Email: info@mnbg.org



NEW! Give Online

MNBG is now able to accept donations online!
Make a donation, pledge or renew your membership by visiting www.mnbg.org and clicking on "make a donation".

SAVE A TREE!

If you would like to receive your newsletters via email, please email us at info@mnbg.org. You may also view them on our website at www.mnbg.org.

Garden News



Before

In partnership with the County of Maui Department of Water Supply, MNBG has gone digital! Automatic timers have been installed throughout the original garden built by Rene Sylva in the 1980's. This allows us to have our old-fashioned sprinklers on at night, instead of during the day, which means we lose less of our precious water to wind and sun. This is a big step in water conservation for the Gardens.



After



The MNBG Board & Staff would like to send a special mahalo to all who attended and shared suggestions at the Gardens' community brainstorming meeting held on April 7th, 2011. Attendees were asked to share ideas regarding the future of the Gardens. The ideas collected will be developed into the basis for a new Master Plan for Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, with the goal of integrating its landscape design with the Gardens' current conservation and education programs. This plan will reflect MNBG's continued commitment to conserve Maui Nui's native plants, and to preserve and appreciate Hawaiian culture.



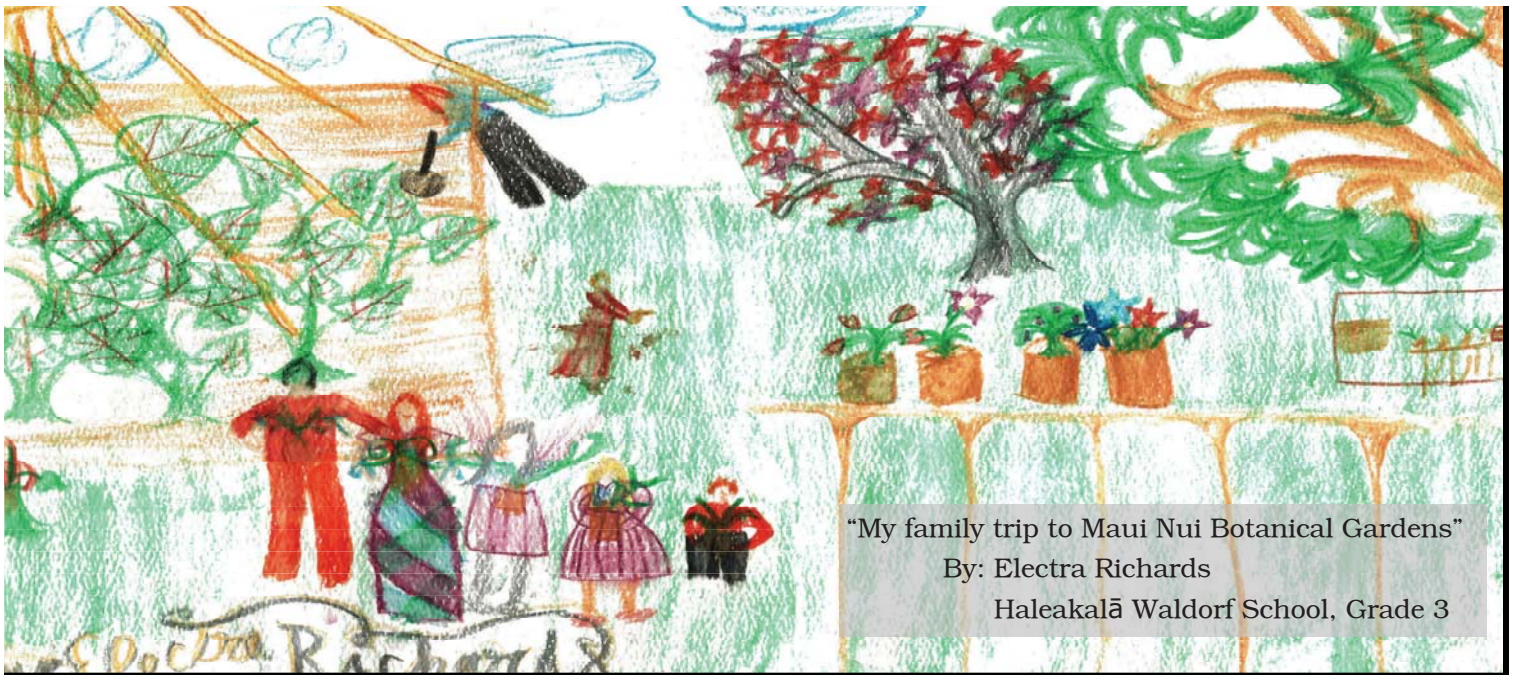
Maui Nui Botanical Gardens is the proud recipient of the 2011 Scenic Hawai'i Betty Crocker Landscape Award of Honor for our work on the Wallace G. Sanford Memorial Garden. Mahalo to Alaka'i Paleka for the nomination, MNBG's Weed & Pot Club for the hours of maintenance and to Mary Cameron Sanford for underwriting this project.



Maui Nui Botanical Gardens has begun selling a limited selection of Hawaiian plants on our office deck! Head to the Gardens (Monday - Saturday, 8am-4pm) to check out our current selection!



MNBG's volunteer docents hosted guided tours of the Gardens' Native Hawaiian & Polynesian-introduced plant collection for many schools and organizations this season. These include Kamehameha Preschool-Paukukalo, Kamehameha Middle School, Haleakalā Waldorf School, Montessori Kihei, Hui Mālama Learning Center, Maui Economic Opportunity, Kihei Youth Center, Alu Like, Lāna'i Youth Center, Kama'āina Kids, Queen Lili'uokalani Children's Center and the Haleakalā National Park Pohai Maile Program.



"My family trip to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens"

By: Electra Richards

Haleakalā Waldorf School, Grade 3

Maui Nui Botanical Gardens' Hawaiian Plant Sale & Family Fun Day!

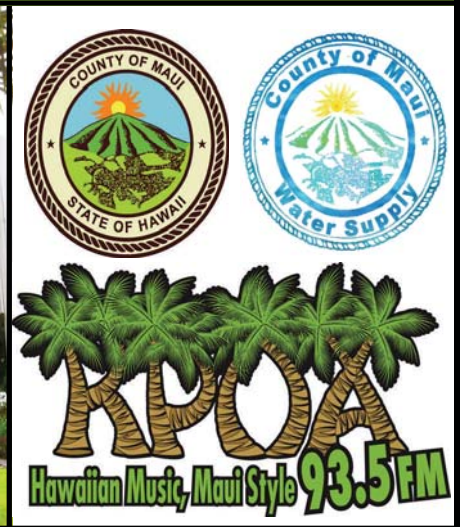
Saturday, August 27th, 2011 from 9am - 12pm

150 Kanaloa Avenue in Kahului
(Across from the War Memorial Stadium)

Purchase rare Hawaiian plants from various native plant nurseries, participate in *keiki* activities, enjoy great food, entertainment provided by KPOA 93.5 FM, and take a free guided tour of our native Hawaiian & Polynesian-introduced plant collection!

A benefit to support the programs and mission of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens

For more information or to make a donation, call 249-2798 or visit www.mnbg.org



Garden View

New funding awarded for Gardens' efforts to conserve Hawaiian kalo varieties

by Penny Levin

Each place around the world has a plant that became a staple food crop, one which created a profound relationship between its people and the land. In Hawai'i, that plant was taro (*Colocasia esculenta*), or kalo, in Hawaiian. Prior to the arrival of Captain Cook, researchers estimate that 300-400 distinct varieties of taro were present in the Islands. By 1939, only 84 taro cultivars were identified in the islands; 69 Hawaiian varieties and 15 from other parts of the Pacific. Today, the commercial taro standard has reduced diversity on the farm and in the poi bowl primarily to a single variety; a hybrid from the 1970's called Maui Lehua. Although we do not know the exact total, it is estimated that at least 50-60 of the old Hawaiian varieties continue to survive throughout the state. Maui Nui Botanical Gardens maintains a collection of 73 taro cultivars from Hawai'i and the Pacific.

Taro experts, Uncle Jerry Konanui and Penny Levin, have provided advisory assistance to Maui Nui Botanical Gardens in the management of its taro collection for several years. Over time, Uncle Jerry's mission to inspire people to grow more of Hawai'i's unique taro varieties and make their own poi has evolved into cultivar identification workshops, board and stone-making workshops (some of which have been held at the Gardens), a film, and assistance to dozens of projects. Together, Uncle Jerry and Penny



The kalo collection at MNBG is growing in raised beds because our sandy soil is very infertile; sand dunes were not traditionally used for farming. Areas that are used for crops like kalo benefit from being fallowed (rested), and the grant will allow us to move our collection to a new area of the garden.

have been on a quest to bring more resources to the protection of the Hawaiian taro varieties.

Last month, that effort came to fruition with an amazing gift from the Ceres Trust which will benefit taro collections at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens, the Moloka'i taro collection under Alton Arakaki, Amy Greenwell Ethnobotanical Garden and a new pilot huli bank project in Waihe'e.

Under a portion of the grant aimed at revitalizing taro collections and increasing distribution of the varieties to interested growers, MNBG will receive \$44,535 over two years to expand its current taro growing area and allow the existing beds to rest. The grant to MNBG will also support the development of taro education materials and allow the Gardens to host or participate in taro related events. Staff from each of the project sites will get to participate in training with Uncle Jerry and Alton Arakaki to improve collection management and variety identification skills.

Botanical gardens play an important role in efforts to protect and restore the taro cultivars (along with many other plants) and in helping to revitalize the use of Hawaiian crop plants in the community. The Hawaiian taro collection at the Gardens provides an opportunity for students, educators, residents and cultural practitioners, as well as visitors, to study and learn about the taro varieties and to marvel at the ingenuity of Hawaiian agriculturists and the gifts they left to feed us. Come visit the collection. You just might catch the scent of taro flowers blooming!



Uahiapele ("smoke of Pele") is one of the traditional varieties of kalo selected by ancient Hawaiians as suitable for particular regions and cultivation methods.

Volunteer Central



MNBG Volunteer Hero, Diana Schulte, with Executive Director, Joylynn Paman

MNBG would like to thank steadfast volunteers, Janet Allan & Diana Schulte, for their countless hours of service to the Gardens. Janet was selected as a nominee for the 2011 Mike Lyons Palaka Award given out by the Rotary Club of Kahului, and Diana was honored with a nomination by the County of Maui Volunteer Hero program. Congratulation, ladies! You truly deserve to be recognized for all you continue to do for Maui Nui Botanical Gardens.



Rotary Club of Kahului President, Leslie Mullens, with MNBG's Palaka Award Nominee, Janet Allan.



Mahalo Weed & Pot Club



Volunteers of the Weed & Pot Club: Isabelle Walker, Cherry Freeman, Stephanie Seidman (MNBG Nursery Manager), Janet Allan, Diana Schulte and Terry Thomas.

| | |
|-----------------|------------------|
| Gloria Adlawan | Jennifer Rose |
| Janet Allan | Diana Schulte |
| Linda Brady | Cindy Singer |
| Paul Kastner | Mike Smith Sr. |
| Phyllis Sato | Terry Thomas |
| Deborah Kremins | Isabelle Walker |
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| Kurt Shephard |
| Winnie Wagstaff |
| Raymond Higashi |
| Florence Shotts |
| Kella Tejeda-Figueroa |
| Casey Barrett |
| Kody Barrett |



MNBG appreciates Kaunoa's RSVP partnership for its support of our volunteers. Like MNBG, Kaunoa provides opportunities for people 55 and better to learn and grow through a variety of ongoing programs throughout Maui Nui. Call (808) 270-7986 for more information.



MAUI NUI BOTANICAL GARDENS

MISSION STATEMENT

The mission of the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens is to foster appreciation and understanding of Maui Nui's plants and their role in Hawaiian cultural expression by providing a gathering place for discovery, education, and conservation.

Check Out What's Blooming!

Pia

Tacca leontopetaloides

Pia tubers are valued for their starch and, with coconut cream, makes the Hawaiian delight haupia! Medicinally, early Hawaiians used pia to calm nausea and dysentery. This plant goes dormant in winter, and appears again in the summer season. Pia has just reemerged at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. Come take a look!



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Kī'ope Raymond &
Lisa Schattenburg - Raymond
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Grantors:

Cooke Foundation, Atherton Family Foundation, Ceres Trust,
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Economic Development, County of Maui Department of
Water Supply, Department of Land & Natural Resources/
Kaulunani, Hawai'i Community Foundation, Hawai'i Tourism
Authority PEP, Leiter Family Foundation, Lennox Botanical
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Melody Andreu
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Elizabeth Ayson
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Valerie Welker
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Judy White
Tina Whitmarsh
Michael Wierleski
Paul Wood
Champ & Michelle Wright
Francine Yagodich
Linda Yamada

In Memoriam

Akoni Akana
Ali'i Chang
Charles Ka'upu Jr.
George Schattenburg
Bob Wagstaff

We make every effort to assure an accurate membership list, however, if your name was omitted, please contact us at info@mnbg.org.

MAUI NUI BOTANICAL GARDENS
P.O. Box 6040
Kahului, HI 96733

Visit us on the web at: www.mnbg.org



'Ihi
Portulaca molokiniensis
PORTULACACEAE
Purslane family (ENDEMIC)

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Kupu means to sprout or grow. Just like the kupukupu ferns, you can help the Gardens grow through donations, memberships, bequests or by volunteering. Your contribution helps to ensure the survival and perpetuation of native Hawaiian plants and culture.

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