



# *Loulu - Hawai'i's Native Palm*

By: Robert W. Hobdy, MNBG Board member

Loulu is the Hawaiian name referring to all of the palm species of the genus *Pritchardia* found throughout the Hawaiian Islands. This collection of loulu are the only truly native palms in Hawai'i. These graceful palms form a distinctive element in our wet to mesic forests, mostly between the elevations of 2,000 to 3,000 feet. They range from small plants that cling to steep, wet, windy slopes to towering 80 foot tall giants that rise above the forest canopy.

Loulu are "fan palms" with broad round leaves that are deeply pleated and have narrowly pointed leaf tips that are either stiffly erect or drooping. Flowers are borne on stalks that range from 2 feet long to as much as 10 feet long in some species where they arch gracefully out beyond the leaves. The fruits can be oval to spherical and range from .75 inches to over 2 inches in diameter and are shiny black when ripe.

There is much diversity in the genus *Pritchardia* throughout Hawai'i. As presently understood there are 24 separate species occurring on 8 different islands, with 6 of these species occurring on 2 islands and the rest being single island endemics. Kaua'i has 7 species, O'ahu, Maui and Hawai'i each have 5, Moloka'i has 4, Lāna'i



*Pritchardia munroi*, native to Maui and Moloka'i.

has 2 and Ni'ihau and Nihoa each have 1. On each island most species occupy different areas that don't overlap. For instance, Maui has *Pritchardia arecina* on the windward slopes of east Maui, *P. woodii* on the east end above Maka'alae. West Maui has *P. glabrata* on its eastern slopes in Nā Wai 'Ehā, *P. forbesiana* on the western and northern

slopes from Haelā'au to Honokōhau, and *P. munroi* on the southern slopes above Ukumehame and Mā'alaea. The 3 West Maui species also occur on Moloka'i or Lāna'i.

Loulu, like most other native plant species, were well known to the Hawaiians and were assessed for useful qualities. Loulu leaves, with their broad pleated surfaces, were found to make excellent thatch for roofs and were used like shingles that lasted longer than grass thatch. These sturdy leaves were also used as makeshift umbrellas and could be woven into excellent hats as well. The green sub-mature seeds, which were called hāwane or wāhane, were considered a delicacy when cracked open and the soft white meat was said to taste somewhat like niu haohao, the soft meat of the green coconut.

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*Layout Editor, U'i Naho'olewa*

A small red and grey native bird from Hawai'i Island called 'ula 'ai hāwane was said to have made such regular use of the nectar of the hāwane (an alternative name sometimes used for the loulu) that it was given this name which means "the red bird that feeds on the hāwane". This bird is now extinct.

Two species of loulu still occur along the coasts of Hawai'i and Moloka'i, and it has long intrigued botanists as to why more loulu don't occur in the lowlands below 2,000 feet elevation where most of the species currently occur, especially since these upland species usually thrive when planted in the lowlands. It could be that this pattern of occurrence is the result of a long period of overharvesting of loulu in the lowlands where they were once readily available.

Present threats to our loulu species, 9 of which are now on the Endangered Species list, include goats, deer, pigs and cattle which eat the young plants, and rats and pigs that eat the seeds.

Many of these loulu palm species, including many of the rare species, are now in cultivation and some of their habitats are now being protected. It is an important goal that none of these species be lost.



In September, the Merwin Conservancy introduced us to Dr. John Dransfield, former head of palm research at Royal Botanic Gardens, Kew, England. Dr. Dransfield and his wife came at our request to advise us on a method of hand pollinating an endangered Maui Nui loulu, *Pritchardia munroi*. This loulu, planted at MNBG in the early 1980's, had only a single known wild tree on

Moloka'i when it was listed as endangered in 1992. Since then a few individuals have been discovered in West Maui and at a second location on Moloka'i, but it remains critically endangered. All Hawaiian loulu species are in high demand for landscaping. Wild populations, threatened by rat predation and invasive species, can be further threatened by over-collection of seeds for landscaping. The best way to produce seeds for landscaping are in cultivation. However, gardens with several different loulu species like MNBG run the risk of producing hybridized seeds, because the flowers can be pollinated by both wind and insects. Seeds in cultivation must be bagged and hand pollinated to prevent hybridization.

Dr. Dransfield examined our *P. munroi* in flower and instructed us in methods that will help us ensure that future seeds from this tree have not crossed with other nearby loulu species. We can now more confidently experiment with methods to produce loulu seeds that are true to species from the cultivated trees in our collection. Our thanks to Dr. Dransfield for his time and to the Merwin Conservancy for introducing us!

## Save the Date

### **Saturday, October 22, 9 AM to 4 PM: Gourd Carrying Net Making with Lisa & Lei**

Learn the traditional method of tying a gourd for carrying with Kumu Lisa Schattenburg-Raymond & Lei Ishikawa. Students from previous cordage classes will have the skills to create their own cord of native plant materials.

Cost: \$125 (includes 1 yr. membership), or \$100 for current Garden Members. \*Participants may bring their own ipu, plastic containers, or purchase an ipu at the workshop.

### **Saturday, October 29, from 9 AM to 1 PM: Lā'au Lapa'au with Ki'i Kaho'ohanohano**

In old Hawai'i, trained practitioners used native plants to create countless traditional medicines. Practically every part of the honua (earth) is a lā'au (medicine): fresh water, sea water, trees, roots, shrub, plants on and in the land, plants on and in the ocean, sea and stream dwellers, rain water and mists are used for healing. Cultural practitioner, Ki'i Kaho'ohanohano, will share traditional Hawaiian healing remedies and practices using Hawaiian plants. Cost: \$50 (includes 1 yr. membership), or \$25 for current Garden Members.

### **Saturday, November 26, from 9 AM to 5 PM: Bailey House Museum Fundraiser**

The 15th annual E Pūlama Mau iā Maui is a fundraising event to benefit The Bailey House Museum. This event features beautiful Hawaiian music and hula, over 40 craft and food vendors, as well as cultural demonstrations, silent auction, and a special exhibition by the Maui Historical Society. Tickets are \$10 in advance or \$15 at the door, and are available at the Bailey House Museum and Native Intelligence. MNBG will be selling Hawaiian plants at this event.



## With Gratitude from Our Garden:

Ohana of Edward Tamayose for gardening gloves and sickles, Gloria Adlawan for drinking cups and 5-gal buckets, Connie Luk for 5-gal buckets, Alaka'i Paleka for colored pencils, Cindy Singer for volunteer refreshments, Maggie Sniffen for garden gloves, plates, pruners, clippers and Hawaiian Miles gift certificates, All Kine Electric for hula pā electrical work, Jeff Gray for dump truck services, all our wonderful Silent Auction donors, and a special mahalo to Haleakala Ranch Company, Ocean Vodka and Envisions Entertainment & Productions, Inc. for their sponsorship of *An Evening in the Gardens*, a benefit Fundraiser for Maui Nui Botanical Gardens.

## MNBG Community Contributions:

Market Street Merchants (ti), Ha'ikū Elementary School ('ōhelo kai, pōhuehue, 'ala 'ala wai nui, 'ihi, nehe, 'ewa hinahina, ko'oko'olau, kolomona, hunakai), Seabury Hall (kalo), Punana Leo O Maui (kalo), Kinship nonprofit ('ihi 'ihi lā'au, 'ihi, pā'ū o hi'iaka, 'ala 'ala wai nui wahine, 'awa, kō, 'uala, pōhuehue, 'ilima papa, 'ala 'ala wai nui, wauke), Kamehameha Schools Maui (ālula, 'ihi 'ihi lā'au, *Kokia drynariodes*, *Abutilon menziesii*, nānū, wauke) Kamehameha Preschool Paukukalo ('uala), Mahele Farms (kalo), Grow Some Good (pōhinahina, milo, 'ilima, 'uki'uki, ti, māmaki, koki'o ke'oke'o, ma'o, kou, hala, kupukupu, 'ape), Camp Maluhia (lama, 'a'ali'i, 'āweoweo), Lahaina Intermediate School (wauke, 'ohai), Princess Nahi'ena'ena School (kalo, 'ihi, 'ilima), Olowalu Cultural Reserve ('ākulikuli, 'ala 'ala wai nui wahine, 'ihi, 'ilima papa, ko'oko'olau, kūlu'i, naio, nehe, 'ōhelo kai), Aloha for Orlando (ti), Kamehameha Schools Alumni Association ('awapuhi, 'ilie'e, 'ākulikuli, 'ahu'awa, pia, 'ihi), Maui Ocean Center (koki'o ke'oke'o, māmaki, pā'ū o hi'iaka, 'ōhi'a 'ai, wauke, ti, naio, 'āweoweo, 'olena, 'ākulikuli, kō, 'uala), DLNR Natural Area Reserve Systems ('āwikiwiki, *Bonamia menziesii*), Hawaiian Islands Land Trust (hala, kupukupu, naupaka, pōhuehue, keahi).

## Mahalo to our Interns & Volunteers:

Kaleb Souza, Mat Frank, Ana Lilis, Tzarina Akahi, Matthew Mendiola, Phillip Ngalu, Jesse Amaral, Stephanie Kowalski, Keiki O Ka 'Āina and Pauahi Keiki Scholar Volunteers, Kamehameha Schools Maui National Honor Society, MEO Americorps Workers Karen Pollard and Joseph Riley, MEO Youth Prevention Program Participants, and Hui Kapehe.

## Wish List

- Garden gloves (all sizes)
- 100 sturdy plastic chairs
- Rakes (leaf or landscaping)
- Medium sized picks
- Shovels
- Sickles
- Hand pruners (clippers)
- Outdoor tables & chairs
- Hawaiian Miles (for interisland travel for staff training)
- Handicapable gardening tools: for ideas, visit <http://disabilityworktools.com> and click "Gardening"

*\*If you would like to contribute to the purchase of one or more of these items please call 808-249-2798.*

*Pots: We are no longer accepting drop offs of used plastic pots. If you have new or used cement or ceramic pots to donate, please give us a call and we will be happy to arrange a pick up.*



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.



Give Online! Make a donation, pledge or renew your membership by visiting [www.mnbg.org](http://www.mnbg.org) and clicking on "make a donation".

# Garden News

## Indigenous Crop Biodiversity Festival

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature held their World Conservation Congress on O‘ahu in September. We participated in a related series of events on Maui. One event at MNBG brought together IUCN participants to discuss their experiences growing heritage varieties, and important next steps for their conservation and recovery. At the Indigenous Crop Biodiversity Festival at the Maui Tropical Plantation, we featured 38 Hawaiian kalo varieties in the Kalo (Taro) Tent; 8 canoe species in the Lā‘au Lapa‘au (Medicine)/Lei Tent; 13 Hawaiian ‘awa and 17 kō varieties in the ‘Awa (Kava) /Kō (Sugarcane) Tent, and 39 coastal native species in the ‘Āina (Land) Tent. With help from Anna Palomino of Ho‘olawa Farms, we created an exhibit of 69 native Hawaiian species from mauka (mountain) to makai (ocean). Our gratitude goes out to Anna for her beautiful display plants and aesthetic talent, and Penny Levin for coordinating all the Maui events.



Chris d'Avella with native plants at the 'Āina tent.



MEO Volunteer, Joseph Riley, scarifying *Vigna o-wahuensis* seeds in MNBG's seed storage room.

## Seed Germination Trial Results

As native plant propagators, we collect seeds from both natural areas and gardens. Unused seeds were stored in a donated refrigerator. Over 15 years, we accumulated nearly 132 species - 44% endangered species and 78% coastal species. In order to manage this resource, Joseph Riley of the Americorps program has taken on the formidable task of sorting through nearly 500 separate stored seed collections (accessions), extracting 50 seed samples, and attempting to germinate the samples. His data from the last three months shows that of 172 accessions tested representing 85 species, about half are still viable. The oldest seeds that have germinated are 'Ahu 'awa (*Cyperus javanicus*) from 2002 – after 14 years still nearly a third were alive! Most seeds don't survive long unless they are dried carefully and stored at the ideal temperatures. We are now starting to use better techniques for important seeds we intend to store. The resulting seedlings from Joseph's tests have been donated to restoration projects for the Natural Area Reserves, Kealia Pond National Wildlife Refuge, the Hawaiian Islands Land Trust Waihe'e site, and community groups.

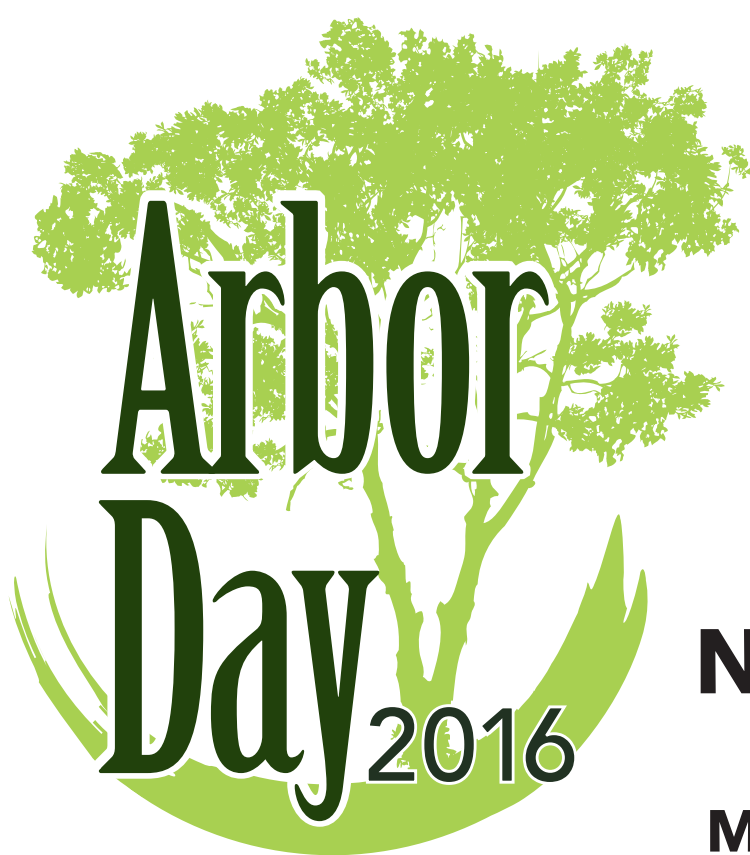
## Working with PEPP to Produce Ālula Seeds

The endangered *Brighamia rockii* is a highly coveted plant that, like many endemic species, has reduced numbers and risks genetic bottlenecking both in the wild and in cultivation. The Plant Extinction Prevention Program (PEPP) and Olinda Rare Plant Nursery entrusted us with six of these beautiful plants from three different maternal founders to attempt to cross-pollinate them and produce healthy seeds. Steve Perlman and Hank Oppenheimer of PEPP visited MNBG to show us how to cross pollinate the plants. MNBG Plant Collections Manager Chris d'Avella cross pollinated to maximize genetic diversity for several months, and though we found that ālula is still difficult for us to keep healthy, we produced a good amount of seed that was sent to Lyon Arboretum for storage and Molokai PEPP for restoration planting.



Hank Oppenheimer (L) and Steve Perlman (R) search for pollen ready to be used in cross pollinating.





**Saturday**  
**November 5th, 2016**  
**9 a.m. to 12 p.m.**  
**Maui Nui Botanical Gardens**  
**150 Kanaloa Avenue in Kahului**

## 1,000 Hawaiian Tree Giveaway

*Free Hawaiian trees include 'a'ali'i, alahe'e, hala pepe, hame, kamani, koa, koai'a, kokio 'ula, kokio ke'o ke'o, kou, māmaki, milo, nānū, 'ohe makai, 'ōhi'a ai, 'ōhi'a lehua, wauke, wiliwili, and many more!*



**Free Admission Free Parking [www.mnbg.org](http://www.mnbg.org) Phone: (808) 249-2798**

- Free hands-on Hawaiian cultural activities for the whole family!
- Certified arborists will share information on proper planting and tree care.

- Maui Master Gardeners will help you select the perfect tree for your home.
- Learn about the great conservation work being done by local nonprofits!



**Maui  
Electric**



This event is funded by the Maui Electric Company and Kaulunani Urban and Community Forestry Program of the DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife and State and Private Forestry Branch of the U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture, Region 5.

# The Garden View

## Mahalo e All Kine Electric!



The hula pā is wired for sound! Anyone who has attended an event at MNBG such as Ho‘omau, the annual fundraiser for Hawaiian Language Immersion Schools on Maui, has enjoyed talented entertainment on this grassy stage in the big field near the banyan tree. In the past, these productions required gas powered generators. Now thanks to a partnership project initiated by Pūnana Leo director, Kili Namau‘u, we have expanded our electrical capacity to include a whole new part of the Garden. This also will help reduce costs in the future realization of our Master Plan. Mahalo to All Kine Electric and Pūnana Leo O Maui for making this improvement possible.

## Matching Grant Challenge: Mission Accomplished!

This summer, the impact of our supporters' donations were doubled! An anonymous donor offered a matching challenge grant of \$5,000 to sustain the mission and programs of Maui Nui Botanical Gardens. We reached our goal within two months. The funds will be used to make much needed repairs to

garden structures, and help us host free Hawaiian cultural activities at our Arbor Day 1,000 Hawaiian Tree Give-Away set for Saturday, November 5th, from 9am-12pm. Mahalo nui to everyone who helped up to reach our goal.



## MNBG Benefits from Blue‘Āina Campaign!

In August 2016, Maui Nui Botanical Gardens was the beneficiary of Trilogy Excursions' Blue‘Āina Reef Cleanup Campaign. Trilogy Excursions offers monthly underwater reef cleanups targeting reefs in distress on Maui. The campaign's objective is to cleanup and

maintain Maui's reefs, educate the community, and raise money for non-profits.

On August 7th, 60 volunteers boarded a trilogy catamaran for a reef cleanup near Mala Wharf. The once busy pier was shattered by hurricane Iniki, leaving a dock that now serves as an artificial reef. Turtles, tropical fish and more flourish at the site, making it an important location to preserve. As a popular fishing location, endless amounts of fishing line were wrapped around the reef and the sunken pier, which was removed by volunteers. The cleanup was sponsored by longtime MNBG supporters Maui Electric Company, who made an in-kind donation of \$5,000 towards MNBG's upcoming Arbor Day event!

For more information on how to get involved with Trilogy Excursions' Blue‘Āina campaign, email [Magen.Schifiliti@sailtrilogy.com](mailto:Magen.Schifiliti@sailtrilogy.com)



# Volunteer Central



Our Summer gardening superstars: Nalu Robinson, Karen Pollard, Kaulana Pu'u, and Joseph Riley.



Kamehameha Schools Maui Ka'imi Internship Program Participant, Matthew Mendiola, collects 'ihi seeds for future propagation.



The Weed & Pot Club helped the Maui Redevelopment Agency to plant natives on Market Street in Wailuku! Go check them out!



If you love working with native plants, you'll love the Weed & Pot Club! This volunteer gardening group meets every Wednesday morning, from 8:30 AM to 10:30 AM. Spend your morning helping the Gardens thrive through weeding and propagation. Come prepared to work with covered shoes and gardening attire.

## Mahalo Weed & Pot Club

Anna Mae Shishido	Gloria Adlawan	Maggie Sniffen	Robert Pitts
Becky Lau	Janet Allan	Paul Kastner	Robin Yamashita
Cindy Singer	Jennifer Rose	Perrisa Kilmer	Tom Takeuchi
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Darryl Amaral	Málie Unabia-Verkerke	Raymond Higashi	Stephanie
Diane Carr	Mikki Clark	Renee Leiter	Seidman-Czar
			Vilma Seiler



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

## Check Out What's Blooming!

### Noni

*Morinda citrifolia*

Polynesian-introduced

Though unpleasant in smell and taste, noni is considered an exceptionally important medicinal plant. Boils, bruises, sores and even head lice can be treated with parts of noni. Learn more at MNBG's upcoming Lā'au Lapa'au Workshop with Ki'i Kaho'ohanohano on Saturday, October 29th, from 9am-1pm. Cost: \$50, or \$25 for current Garden Members. Email [info@mnbg.org](mailto:info@mnbg.org) for reservations.



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Mahalo to our new & returning donors!

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## Current Grantors:

Fred Baldwin Memorial Foundation, Bendon Family Foundation, Zadoc W. and Lawrence N. Brown Foundation, Ceres Trust, County of Maui Office of Economic Development, Hawai'i Community Foundation, Hawai'i Tourism Authority, Leiter Family Foundation, U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, and The Kaulunani Program of the DLNR Division of Forestry and Wildlife and the USDA Forest Service.

### Ka Palupalu O Kanaloa (\$5,000+)

Anonymous

Maui Electric Company

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Anonymous

Maui Dept. of Water Supply

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 Anna Mae Shishido  
 Cindy Singer  
 Tom Takeuchi  
 Joy Tamayose & Bram Denhaan  
 Courtney Turner  
 Winnie Wagstaff  
 Joan Yoshioka

#### In Memoriam

Charlie Lamoureux  
 Bob Wagstaff

We are extremely grateful to all who have made donations to the Gardens over the years.

We make every effort to assure an accurate membership list; however, if your name was omitted or misspelled, please contact us at [info@mnbg.org](mailto:info@mnbg.org) and we will be happy to update our records.

#### Shop at AmazonSmile

and Amazon will make a donation to:

**Maui Nui Botanical Gardens**

Get Started at  
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**amazon**smile

#### LOCATION & HOURS

150 Kanaloa Avenue  
 Keōpūolani Park, Kahului  
 Across from the  
 War Memorial Sports Complex  
 Monday-Saturday  
 8:00 am - 4:00 pm\*  
 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](mailto:info@mnbg.org)  
 Website: [www.mnbg.org](http://www.mnbg.org)



Become a friend of  
 Maui Nui Botanical  
 Gardens on Facebook!

Receive updates on upcoming events,  
 volunteer opportunities, and learn more  
 about Hawai'i's unique plants within  
 'MNBG's Hawaiian plant of the day'  
 photo album!  
[www.facebook.com/mauinuibotanicalgardens](http://www.facebook.com/mauinuibotanicalgardens)

#### SAVE A TREE!

If you would like to receive your newsletters via email, please email us at [info@mnbg.org](mailto:info@mnbg.org). You may also view them on our website at : [www.mnbg.org](http://www.mnbg.org)

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

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*Check out the feature on MNBG in the latest issue of Maui Nō Ka 'O'i Magazine!*

## SUPPORT THE GARDENS & HELP NATIVE PLANTS THRIVE

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.

### DONATE

Donations of monetary or in-kind contributions are greatly appreciated. To contribute, please fill out the enclosed donation envelope, call 249-2798 or visit [www.mnbg.org](http://www.mnbg.org) to donate online.

### MEMBERSHIP

Yearly memberships help to fund important botanical and educational programs, research and conservation efforts. Fill out the enclosed donation envelope or call 249-2798 to become a member.

### LEAVE A LEGACY

Play a lasting part in protecting Hawai'i's native plants through planned giving. Consider making a bequest to the Maui Nui Botanical Gardens in your will or trust. Call 249-2798.

### VOLUNTEER

Give a gift of time. Volunteering at MNBG helps the Gardens accomplish many projects and also gives you an opportunity to learn about and work with native plants. Join our Weed & Pot Club every Wednesday morning from 8:30 am - 10:30 am. Call 249-2798 or visit [www.mnbg.org](http://www.mnbg.org) for more information.