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## NEWS OF THE SOCIETY

### A New Botanical Garden in Hawaii

The Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden in the lush setting of Onomea Bay on the Island of Hawaii has opened to the public. This 17 acre Nature Preserve is the newest Botanical Garden in the Hawaiian Islands and shows promise of being an outstanding example of tropical horticulture.

Among the collections presently on inventory at the Garden is a surprisingly diverse collection of palms. Thanks to the help of many friends and supporters the collection includes *Areca triandra*, *Elaeis guineensis*, *Hyophorbe lagenicaulis*, *Reinhardtia gracilis*, and *Veitchia winin*. The inventory showed 44 genera represented by 74 species. A further inventory of currently unidentified species as well as the steady acquisition of other species adaptable to the cultural conditions of this tropical valley will increase the listing.

The Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden began in 1978 as the dream of Dan and Pauline Lutkenhouse. Retiring to Hawaii from San Francisco they fell in love with the unspoiled charms of the 'Big Island' (Hawaii) and made plans to preserve at least a small part of it for future generations. Establishing the Nature Preserve and Botanical Garden required hundreds of hours of dedicated labor and a considerable amount of money (nearly a million dollars). As the years went by the Garden began to emerge from an untamed jungle into a series of micro-climates enhanced by the ever-growing collections of tropical and exotic species. Graceful palms created

overstories for other genera and highlighted the paths and ponds in the Garden. Literally hundreds of plants were collected from the gardens of Asia, donated by residents of Hawaii, or acquired from institutions across the United States. Finally, in 1984 the Garden reached the state where it could be opened to the visiting public. In the few months it has been open, the Garden has been enjoyed by several hundred visitors from the United States and nearly every other country in the world.

The Garden is a federally approved non-profit organization funded entirely by gifts and admission donations. A restriction on the number of visitors that are allowed each day helps to preserve the peaceful environment of the Garden while still providing the financial base needed for basic operations. All expansion projects and special programs are based on other donations.

A permanent staff of four oversees the Garden operations. Gary A. Powell, formerly of the Waimea Falls Park on Oahu, has accepted the position of Curator for the new Garden and Terence Takiue, who has overseen the physical development from its inception, is the operations manager.

Dan and Pauline Lutkenhouse remain as the Directors of the Garden and are very active in day-to-day affairs. Their foresight and dedication will enable future generations to enjoy and perpetuate the beauty of Onomea Bay and the Hawaii Tropical Botanical Garden.

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