November 9, 2016

Martha Vockrodt-Moran
Fleming Arboretum at Pu'u Mahoe

Aloha Martha,

I am pleased to submit to you an updated and expanded inventory of the plant species in the Fleming Arboretum at Pu'u Mahoe for your review. This is a work in progress.

The first task was to update the nomenclature of plant species for which recent scientific studies indicate changes in relationships that suggest name changes to clarify our understanding of the natural world. Twenty-seven numbered entries involving eleven plant species were updated accordingly.

Two new columns were added to provide important information. The first new column, which stands alongside the Historical Island Occurrence column, is the Current Island Occurrence column in which shows, for a few highly endangered species, their present known restricted range. This is important in the determination of where seeds or propagules can be responsibly shared so as to preserve natural diversity.

The second new column, on the far right, identifies eleven species that have been designated as Maui County Exceptional Trees, and are so identified.

In the Islands Occurrence columns, islands are identified as follows:

N = Ni'ihau	Ku = Kure
K = Kaua'i	Mi = Midway
O = O'ahu	PH = Pearl & Hermes Atoll
Mo = Moloka'i	Li = Lisianski
L = Lāna'i	La = Laysan
M = Maui	FF = French Frigate Shoals
Ka = Kaho'olawe	Ne = Necker
H = Hawai'i	Ni = Nihoa

I have given some thought to the eventual updating of the Fleming Arboretum Map. An arboretum is a dynamic entity that evolves and changes over time. New plants are periodically added and some plants die for various reasons. The numbering system that identifies the individual plant and its location is thus also dynamic over time. How do we keep track of the inventory and correlate it with the map in a way that preserves current and historical information of the collections?

I feel that each plant should permanently retain its code number for tracking purposes. As coded plants die, for whatever reason, they can be retired to a separate inventory with the date of its demise and any information on the reasons and circumstances. New plants can be planted in the same spot if desired but with a new code number that continues in the sequence. Thus if A 12 – 1 dies (as was the case) it can be replaced by the same or another species in the same spot (or somewhere else) with a new code number in the sequence (A 27 in this case). This way the A12 – 1 retains its identity permanently and the new planting receives its own unique identity.

The neat sequential, left-to-right ordering or numbers that was on the original map will eventually be lost, but each individual plant will have its unique code that can be tracked.

Let me know your thoughts on this as we move forward towards the updating of the map following the planned new phase of out-planting.

This inventory update has helped me to keep current with changes in the taxonomy and nomenclature of our Hawaiian flora.

Sincerely,

Bob

Bob Hobdy