Responsibilities of Harold L. Lyon Arboretum are:

To coordinate, facilitate and execute on-site and university system-wide research, instruction, and service as related to Arboretum resources.

To foster utilization of Arboretum resources by University faculty, researchers, students (graduate and undergraduate) and research affiliates.

To develop a major resource center with Hawaii/Pacific Basin/Asian focus for tropical plants by field explorations, exchanges, collating research and publications.

To investigate, collate, and produce educational materials relative to native and endemic plants in oceanic islands such as Hawaii.

To preserve germplasm of endangered tropical plant species.

To identify, develop appropriate information, propagate and disseminate plants with economic potential to a broad clientele.

To capitalize on ethnic diversity of Hawaii and collate ethnobotanical data, develop collections and disseminate information via classes and workshops for diverse clientele.

To enrich experiences of students in university system by introduction of living plants into classroom and laboratory; by on-site field experience; and offering part-time employment, technical or practical training.

To collate and make accessible to broad clientele including colleges, secondary and elementary schools and community the Arboretum's resources through educational tours, classes and workshops.