



# NATIONAL TROPICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

Chartered by Congress to Create a National Resource in Conservation, Research, and Education

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## **Chipper Wichman, Director and Chief Executive Officer National Tropical Botanical Garden**

For his entire adult life, Chipper has worked to preserve the precious natural and cultural resources of Hawai`i where he was born and raised. He began work at the National Tropical Botanical Garden (NTBG) in 1976 where he worked with well-known botanists to conduct botanical surveys of Limahuli valley and the Nā Pali coast where he discovered new species of plants and helped to pioneer methods of rappelling down cliffs to hand pollinate the species threatened with extinction.

Over the past 32 years, Chipper has held various leadership positions at the NTBG including being director of two of their five gardens before being appointed the Acting Director in 2003. In 2005, Chipper was appointed as the Director and CEO of the National Tropical Botanical Garden.

Some of Chipper's many accomplishments include the creation of the award winning Limahuli Garden and Preserve which garnered a prestigious award in 1997 for *The Best Natural Botanical Garden* in America from the American Horticultural Society and in 2007, the Hawaii Tourism Authority (HTA) awarded Chipper and Limahuli the prestigious Koa Award for the long-term commitment to perpetuating the natural and culture resources of Hawai`i. In 1999, Chipper and his wife Hau`oli, who is his Executive Assistant of 24 years, were honored by the State Legislature for the restoration of Pi`ilanihale Heiau, the largest and one of the most sacred cultural site in Hawai`i they subsequently developed an award winning site management plan for this sacred site.

Since 2003, under Chipper's leadership, the NTBG has developed a new mission statement, begun implementing a new five-year strategic plan, launched a \$21 million capital campaign, established a partnership with the Smithsonian Institution, become the leader in diversity and evolutionary research on Pacific islands, and recently completed the construction of a new 20,000 square foot botanical research center which is the first LEED certified green building built on Kaua`i.

Along with their successes at the NTBG, Chipper and Hau`oli have raised a son and a daughter who are currently studying architecture and ethnobotany respectively at the University of Hawaii.