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(54) **PHILODENDRON PLANT NAMED ‘LITTLE HOPE’**

(50) Latin Name: *Philodendron selloum*  
Varietal Denomination: **Little Hope**

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(52) **U.S. Cl.**  
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(58) **Field of Classification Search**  
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See application file for complete search history.

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(57) **ABSTRACT**

A new and distinct cultivar of *Philodendron* plant named ‘Little Hope’, characterized by its relatively compact, upright and mounding plant habit; freely basal branching habit; dense and bushy plant form; vigorous and robust growth habit; relatively small dark green-colored leaves; and relative resistance to pathogens common to *Philodendron* plants.

**1 Drawing Sheet**

**1**

Botanical designation: *Philodendron selloum*.  
Cultivar denomination: ‘LITTLE HOPE’.

**BACKGROUND OF THE INVENTION**

The present invention relates to a new and distinct cultivar of *Philodendron* plant, botanically known as *Philodendron selloum* and hereinafter referred to by the name ‘Little Hope’.

The new *Philodendron* plant is a naturally-occurring whole plant mutation of *Philodendron selloum* ‘Hope’, not patented. The new *Philodendron* plant was discovered and selected by the Inventor in 2009 as a single plant from within a population of plants of ‘Hope’ in a controlled greenhouse environment in Waimanalo, Hi.

Asexual reproduction of the new *Philodendron* plant by micro-propagated cuttings in a controlled environment in Waimanalo, Hi. since 2010 has shown that the unique features of this new *Philodendron* plant are stable and reproduced true to type in successive generations of asexual reproduction.

**SUMMARY OF THE INVENTION**

Plants of the new *Philodendron* have not been observed under all possible environmental conditions and cultural practices. The phenotype may vary somewhat with variations in environmental conditions such as temperature and light intensity, without, however, any variance in genotype.

The following traits have been repeatedly observed and are determined to be the unique characteristics of ‘Little Hope’. These characteristics in combination distinguish ‘Little Hope’ as a new and distinct *Philodendron* plant:

1. Relatively compact, upright and mounding plant habit.
2. Freely basal branching habit; dense and bushy plant form.
3. Vigorous and robust growth habit.
4. Relatively small dark green-colored leaves.
5. Relatively resistant to pathogens common to *Philodendron* plants.

Plants of the new *Philodendron* differ from plants of the parent, ‘Hope’, in the following characteristics:

**2**

1. Plants of the new *Philodendron* are more compact and denser than plants of ‘Hope’.
2. Plants of the new *Philodendron* are more freely basal branching than plants of ‘Hope’.
3. Plants of the new *Philodendron* have smaller leaves than plants of ‘Hope’.
4. Plants of the new *Philodendron* have exhibited resistance to Dasheen Mosaic Virus and *Erwinia* whereas plants of ‘Hope’ are susceptible to Dasheen Mosaic Virus and *Erwinia*.

Plants of the new *Philodendron* can be compared to plants of *Philodendron selloum* ‘Winterbourn’, disclosed in U.S. Plant Pat. No. 7,030. Plants of the new *Philodendron* differ from plants of ‘Winterbourn’ in the following characteristics:

1. Plants of the new *Philodendron* are more compact than plants of ‘Winterbourn’.
2. Plants of the new *Philodendron* are more freely basal branching and denser than plants of ‘Winterbourn’.
3. Leaves of plants of the new *Philodendron* have deeper sinuses than leaves of plants of ‘Winterbourn’.

**BRIEF DESCRIPTION OF THE PHOTOGRAPHS**

The accompanying photographs illustrate the overall appearance of the new *Philodendron* plant showing the colors as true as it is reasonably possible to obtain in colored reproductions of this type. Colors in the photographs may differ slightly from the color values cited in the detailed botanical description which accurately describe the colors of the new *Philodendron* plant.

The photograph at the bottom of the sheet comprises a side perspective view of a typical plant of ‘Little Hope’ grown in a container.

The photograph at the top of the sheet is a close-up view of a typical plant of ‘Little Hope’.

**DETAILED BOTANICAL DESCRIPTION**

The aforementioned photographs and following observations and measurements describe plants grown during the