



# Native Hawaiian Plant Society

## Nanea Nā Pua O Ka 'Āina

### Aloha

NHPS Newsletter

February 2013

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### Isabelle Walker — Leadership in Action

*NHPS asked Isabelle Walker to share a little bit about herself and her recent opportunity as Americorp Volunteer Coordinator at Kanahā Pond Wildlife Sanctuary.*

Aloha! My name is Isabelle Walker and I'm from Austin, Texas. I obtained my bachelor's degree from the University of Texas in Geological Sciences. While I was fascinated by the structural processes that shape the Earth, as I advanced in my studies I realized I was not interested in pursuing a geology career. I decided to explore another interest of mine, island ecology and evolution. This led me on a year and half trip to New Zealand. Once in New Zealand, I was captivated with the ecology and evolution of the endemic flora and fauna. I spent much of my time hiking around the mountains learning plant and bird species.

After returning home, I started volunteering at the Lady Bird Johnson Wildflower Center to learn the native plants of my home state. At this point, I knew more New Zealand biota than Texas or American, and that had to change! I quickly became a plant nerd and loved being able to identify all of the flora around me. Soon after this I became a seasonal Field Tech, conducting research on the endangered Golden-cheeked Warbler and Black-capped Vireo.

*What brought you to Hawai'i?* After my experience in New Zealand, I wanted to see how my native country was managing conservation issues on islands. I was very fortunate to land a job working as an Americorps on Maui with the Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife under the supervision of Dr. Fern Duvall. I stayed as intern for two terms splitting my time between wetland restoration and seabird recovery.

*What is the focus of your professional interest now? Has it changed since you were in college?* I'm currently working with the Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project and plan to go back to school to get my Masters in biology. While I don't directly use my major in geology, it has been useful.

*How did working at Kanahā Pond get you to where you are now, professionally? Did you have any significant learning experiences?* What I enjoyed most about working at Kanahā are the volunteers. The volunteers' dedication and perseverance to work thousands of hours towards wetland restoration inspired me to work that much harder at my job and giving back to the 'āina. I've also learned lots of coastal plants, what is needed for them to survive and why invasive plants cause so many problems.

*How do you feel about passing the baton to the next Americorp volunteer at Kanahā?* I couldn't be happier, Vic Stout the new Americorps, is an amazing young lady, full of energy and has lots of great ideas for improving the Pond's connection to the public. I'm super excited to see all her great plans become action. **(Continued on page 3)**



## Ma'ō Hau Hele by Hank Oppenheimer, Project Leader



Above: *Hibiscus brackenridgei* (Photo by Hank Oppenheimer)

Below: NHPS Volunteers: Irene, Stephanie, Keahi, Hank, Michael and Kainoa (Photo by Katie Romanchuk)



Above: 'Āwikiwiki (*Canavalia pubescens*) (Photo by Forest & Kim Starr)



Irene Newhouse (above) and Joy Tameyose (below) volunteer at Ha'ikū School (Photos by Shannon Paapanen)



The continuing severe drought conditions plaguing many parts of Hawai'i in general and Maui in particular, is having its effects on the *Ma'ō hau hele*. Without sufficient winter rains, seeds will not germinate and begin the next generation of plants. Additionally, existing plants are under stress. The silver lining in this is there really aren't many weeds either. We did one service trip to the enclosure in January 2012. At the time, there were four mature plants, five saplings, and about 15 *keiki*. It is doubtful any of these seedlings made it through the dry summer and the dry conditions that continue. Hopefully we will return to a more normal rainfall pattern early in 2013. There is certainly a soil seed bank, waiting for a nice *kona* storm to bring them to life. There are also seeds in long-term storage at the Lyon Arboretum Seed Storage Laboratory on O'ahu for safekeeping.

One of the highlights of the January trip was watching *nēnē* fly overhead; apparently the birds at the nearby golf course are thriving. We also checked the enclosure fence, and did a thorough weed control sweep, thanks to the hard work of our volunteers, two of whom were visiting from Philadelphia. We collected several large bags of weed seeds and took them off-site to help break the cycle of invasion.

*Mahalo nui loa* to all the folks who continue to help protect one of the few remaining populations of our Endangered State Flower, as well as to the Ting Family and Flyin' Hawaiian Zip Line. If you haven't tried zipping, this one is really cool, as the last of the seven lines is one of the world's longest, and it goes right over the enclosure for a *nēnē*-eye view! (For *zipline* view, see photo to the right.)

## 'Āwikiwiki Update by Hank Oppenheimer

Keahi Bustamente and I checked the 'āwikiwiki enclosure and also shored up the fence with more rocks, killed some weeds, and monitored the plants. We also planted some newly germinated seeds we had collected earlier in the day in the adjacent Ahihi-Kinau Natural Area Reserve to try to increase the genetic diversity in the enclosure. We haven't been back to see if they made it or not, but probably not since it's been soooo dry. The NAR now has a dedicated manager, Dave Quisenberry, and we've had some preliminary talks about getting some assistance with driving some new fence materials toward the lighthouse to replace or retrofit the existing fence. We also collected some seeds from the ground to put into storage for safekeeping at the Lyon Arboretum Seed Storage Lab on O'ahu. Surprisingly, they had almost no seeds in storage of this species. It may be extirpated from Kāua'i and Lāna'i, although we need to survey some areas when we see some significant rain—it hasn't happened in a long time. We are still assessing this species to see if it meets the PEP Program threshold of 50 or less wild individuals but it's been difficult without rain. We have seen new sites, though, and are working on access to some other private lands.

Hank Oppenheimer and Keahi Bustamente work with the Plant Extinction Prevention Program.

## Ha'ikū School Landscaping Project Leader, Becky Lau

Despite the dry year we've had, the native plants at Ha'ikū School are doing well without irrigation. The habitat in Ha'ikū gets heavier rainfall than the Kahului area. The beds in the main parking lot are now full of native plants, and the roadside strip next to the playground also has many native Hawaiian shrubs, bushes and trees.

Volunteers are welcome to help on Sunday mornings and some Monday mornings. To volunteer, call Becky Lau at (808) 283-8493.



Above: Zipline-view or “nēnē-eye view” of *Hibiscus brackenridgei* exclosure. (Photo by Hank Oppenheimer)

Right: *Scaevola coriacea* also known as dwarf or creeping naupaka. Habit: Waiehu, Maui (Photo by Forest & Kim Starr)

*Scaevola coriacea* is listed as “endangered” with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service



## President’s Message

With the strong support of dedicated officers and members, I served another year as president of the Native Hawaiian Plant Society. We worked for these goals:

1. Promoting landscaping with native Hawaiian plants;
2. Sponsoring educational programs and displays at events on the value and uses of native flora;
3. Maintaining native plant habitats by removing non-native plants and planting more native plants;
4. Scheduling field trips to aid other groups to protect native wildlife and vegetation.

Our activities in 2012 included:

January: Ohialani and the *Hibiscus brackenridgei* exclosure; February: Kanaha Pond; March: Haiku Ho’olaulea; April: Earth Day at MNBG; June: the Olinda Rare Plant Facility; August: Waikamoi; September: Ulupalakua Cares, Fleming Arboretum, and the Kahului Library; October: Haiku School; November: Arbor Day at MNBG.

Mahalo to everyone who helped us to conserve, protect, and sustain our Hawaiian environment.

Martha E. Martin, President

### Isabelle Walker: Leadership In Action (Continued from page 1)

*Why is the environment and conservation important to you?* For me, the world is always trying to find equilibrium. As humans we take a lot from the environment, and I’m just trying to do my part and give something back to the environment so it can keep on giving.

*What are the specific conservation challenges Hawai’i, in general, and Maui, in specific, face in your opinion?* What concerns me the most is a lack of state and interisland biosecurity laws. Invasive species are legally and/or illegally coming in by aircrafts, boats, people and other forms of transportation to the islands. In order to change this we need more rigorous biosecurity laws to prevent the arrival of introduced pests, thorough inspections at port entries, as well as continued on going control and/or eradication of established pests, to help prevent the demise of this beautiful and unique ecosystem.

*What have you gotten out of being an NHPS Board member? Why do you feel organizations like this are important?* I have really enjoyed being a board member of NHPS. It has allowed me to become more involved in the direction of the organization and take more of a leadership role. This next year I’m hoping to start a service project in Waiehu-Waihe’e restoring habitat for the endangered creeping naupaka (*Scaevola coriacea*).

Conservation organizations like NHPS are a great way for people to become involved in their local community, give back to the ‘āina and share their knowledge with others. Sadly there isn’t a huge amount of funding in conservation and many conservation organizations wouldn’t be able to accomplish all of their goals without volunteer groups like NHPS.

*In summary, is there anything else you’d like to share?* The thing I have learned the most from my time as an Americorps volunteer is the need for policy change. We need conservation-minded people to take a leadership role and become more involved in politics. Maybe I will be one of those people....



*Scaevola coriacea* in Waiehu, Maui. (Photo by Forest & Kim Starr)

## Ulupalakua Cares by Irene Newhouse



Above: Becky Lau arranges native hibiscus supplied by Katie Romanchuck. Becky's *lau hala* hat, which she wove herself, is decorated with dry *koki'o* (*Kokia drynariodes*) bracts with seed pods.

All photos and captions on this page by Irene Newhouse.



Above: View of Fleming Arboretum from the cabin.

Below: Keahi Bustamente of the Plant Extinction Prevention Program (PEPP) brought some *Bonamia menziesii* to add to the genetic diversity of the plants already at the Arboretum.



Above: Fruiting *luma* (*Diospyros sandwicensis*) at Pu`u Mahoe.

Below: Keahi also brought some *Cyanea horrida* seed pods which were opened by Maui parrotbills (*kwiwkiu*) in order to eat the caterpillars inside—Parrot bills do not eat seeds or fruit.



This year was the second time NHPS has had a booth at Ulupalakua Cares. Katie Romanchuk provided cut native plants, though she couldn't attend. Becky Lau picked up the flowers and tables from Katie, and Lorna Hazen loaned a potted native *Peperomia*—which was a particular hit with the visitors—and a potted *makaloa*. Isabelle Walker thought to put out a container for donations, which was unexpectedly successful. Ulupalakua Cares attracts many out-of-town visitors, as well as many Maui residents who are very aware of native plants. This combination, plus the pleasant temperature, make this a fun event at which to have a booth.



Lorna's '*ala'ala wai nui* (*Peperomia blanda*), a big hit at Ulupalakua Cares.

A bouquet of native coastal plants.

Becky and Isabelle setting up for the event.

## D.T. Fleming Arboretum at Pu`u Mahoe by Irene Newhouse

The annual service trip to D.T. Fleming Arboretum at Pu`u Mahoe was well-attended with 16 people. Keahi Bustamente brought some *Bonamia menziesii* to add to the genetic diversity among the plants already at the Arboretum. He also brought a marvelous "show and tell": *Cyanea horrida* seed pods from which the endangered Maui parrotbill had extracted caterpillars. (The birds don't eat seeds.) The hard-working NHPS team weeded the mulched areas around the arboretum plantings. Everyone enjoyed the wonderful lunch provided by Martha Vockrodt-Moran, with its traditional "purple cow" dessert. From our vantage point at the cabin, we could see the grading in progress for the Auwahi Wind Farm. It should be finished by next year's trip. If there's only one NHPS service trip you can attend, this should be the one!

Attending were: Janet Allen; Keahi Bustamente from PEPP and his family—John Graham, Jasmine and Acacia; Fern Duvall; Mary Santa Maria; Lanihuli Freidenberg; Becky Lau; Judy McCorkle; Carl Martin; Kimberly Mascola; Elena and Irene Newhouse; Tom Reed; and Anna Mae Shishido.

## Ha'ikū Ho'olaule'a by Katie Romanchuck

The NHPS Native Plant Lei-making booth was more successful than ever on its third year at the Ho'olaule'a Flower Festival in 2012. Mike Gagne, president of the Ha'ikū Community Association said, "I wanted to thank you for your awesome job at the Ho'olaule'a this year. I received so many great comments from people about your booth, and I believe that it truly represents what we originally wanted for the Flower Festival." It was heartwarming to see a steady flow (and more!) of people, smelling, looking at and manipulating the plants to get a greater sense of them, hopefully acquiring a broader taste for our precious and at risk native Hawaiian habitat at large. Showcasing native Hawaiian plants at a flower festival in Hawai'i does seem fitting, as both an educational and fun opportunity.

Plan for Ha'ikū Ho'olaule'a and Flower Festival, April 20th, 2013 at the Ha'ikū Community Center and make your native lei. Donations of native plants for lei welcomed. Call Katie 214-8887 for more info.



Photos by Katie Romanchuck

**Join us Saturday, April 20<sup>th</sup>  
at the NHPS Booth at the Ha'ikū Ho'olaule'a & Flower Festival!**

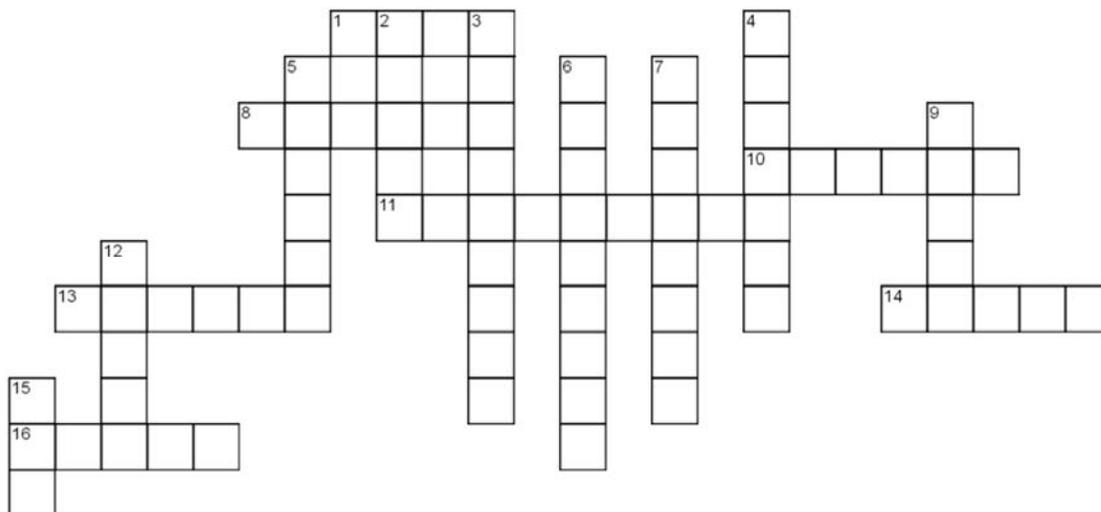


**Ha'ikū Ho'olaule'a & Flower Festival**

A Community Celebration for Puuwa'a Hea's Makai

# Plant Puzzles!!!

Hawaiian Plant Crossword By Chuck Chimera



## ACROSS

- 1 I am the only native member of the ebony family that is found on Maui, and a piece of my wood was placed on hula alters because my name suggests enlightenment.
- 8 Although a member of the nettle family, I lack stinging hairs, and my leaves can be used to make tea.
- 10 I am a native fern, although my Hawaiian name is also given to an edible non-native fern used in salads
- 11 My Hawaiian name refers to the color of my leaves used to reflect sunlight at higher elevations.
- 13 This Hawaiian word is used to describe my flowers, which look like the feather standards used by Hawaiian royalty. I am actually native to the Himalayan region of Asia, and have become a terrible invasive weed in native forests of Maui, Kauai, and the Big Island.
- 14 I am a native fern popular in landscaping, but unfortunately for me, feral pigs like to knock me over in the forest to eat the starchy core of my "trunk."
- 16 I am related to blueberries and huckleberries, and my fruits are popular with both hikers and native birds high up on Haleakalā.

## DOWN

- 2 I am a "thornless" raspberry with very large and tasty fruit.
- 3 I am a fast growing vine often found in rocky, dry lava flows on the south slopes of Maui. Part of my name is also used for the name of the shuttle at the Honolulu airport.
- 4 My flowers look like they have been torn in half, and I have species that are found near the ocean as well as up in the mountains.
- 5 Although some people call me by this Hawaiian name, I am actually native to Brazil and have become one of the most invasive trees in the Hawaiian Islands.
- 6 My name means "goose poop" and my shiny black berries are eaten by our state bird.
- 7 Legend says that when I flower, the sharks will bite. I was almost wiped out by an insect pest until a biocontrol insect came to my rescue.
- 9 This is my Hawaiian name, although some people know me as "cabbage on a stick."
- 12 I am prized for my fragrance and am one of the most popular plants for lei making.
- 15 I am one of the most common native trees of the forest, and my wood was prized by Hawaiians for making canoes.

(Puzzle answers on page 7)

## Mahalo Nui Loa

### Donors

NHPS extends a special *mahalo* to the following donors for their generous contributions in 2012

Charles & Linda Chandler  
Peter Gooch  
Carolyn Gressitt

Raymond Higashi  
Ian Kinneer  
Frances (Effie) Ort

Cynthia & Terry Quisenberry  
Tom Reed & Judy McCorkle

### Corporate , Government & Exclosure Partners

**Maui County Parks and Recreation** for the use of Hannibal Tavares Community Center Pool Room.

**Maui Nui Botanical Gardens** for propagating plants

**Haiku Elementary School**

**Marc Antosh** for graphics help

**Exclosure Partners:** Duane Ting and family, Hawai'i State DLNR, and Ulupalakua Ranch.

Native Hawaiian Plant Society

Nanea Nā Pua O Ka'Āina Aloha

## Upcoming NHPS Events & Announcements

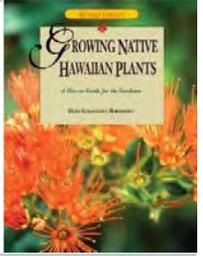
### Annual Membership Meeting & Lecture

March 1<sup>st</sup> (Friday) 7:00 pm

Speaker: Heidi Leianuenue Bornhorst, author of “Growing Native Hawaiian Plants: A How-To Guide for the Gardener”

Location: Hannibal Tavares Community Center, Poolside Room, Pukalani

Note: The Annual NHPS Membership Meeting will be held at 6:45 pm just prior to Heidi’s lecture to elect the 2013 Board of Directors



### Regular Service Trips

Kanahā Pond (1st and 3rd Thursdays 8:30-11am)

Contact Becky Lau (808) 575-2369

Ha’ikū School (Every Sunday 8:30 am)

Contact Becky Lau (808) 575-2369

Kahului Library (2nd Thursday 9am-12 noon)

Contact Lorna Hazen (808) 572-6338 or email

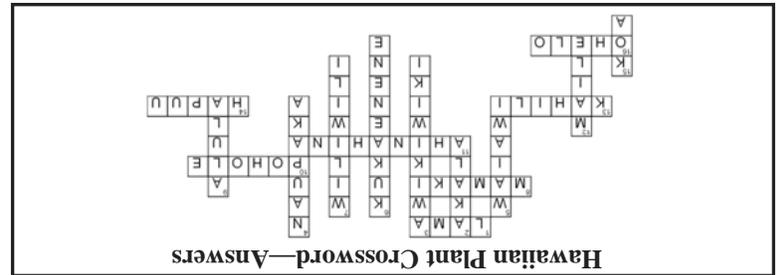
lornajack@clearwire.net

Special NHPS service trips, hikes and other events are scheduled frequently.

For up-to-date information, contact Irene Newhouse at

einew@hotmail.com

(808) 264-6977



### Kahului Library Courtyard Garden

by Lorna Hazen, Project Leader

This year we struggled with the sprinkler system in the Kahului Library Courtyard Garden. One of the risers had split, causing flooding in one area, while drastically restricting flow to other risers. After finally identifying the problem (the sprinklers only come on at night), and coordinating with the Library and the State Department of Accounting and General Services (both of which are woefully underfunded), NHPS hired Duey Irrigation Company (the folks who originally installed the system) to make the repair. It was either fix the system ourselves or lose plants and years of effort invested. The cost of the repair was quite reasonable (\$160). I decided to pay for it using part of \$300 an old friend of Eda Kinnear’s gave me for squiring her around the island one day. With the rest of the funds, I will buy more plants for the Garden.



I am always looking for ideas for plants to try in this peculiar environment: partly shady, partly sunny, partly wet, and sandy. I have three *pa'iniu* (*Astelia menziesiana*) growing at my place that could be tied to an old *hāpu'u* log with *'ala'ala wai nui* growing on it which can be used as a base. The log could be placed in the shade of the *naio*. I also have some *i'e'ie* which can be propagated and grown up the back wall of the garden behind the *naio*. Perhaps a *Brighamia* can be grown in a large pot with some *bacopa* cascading down the edge of it. We are still working with the *makaloa* and some other plants in the small bog we created last year. Please let me know if you have any ideas for plants. It feels so good to be happy and full of ideas for the project.

Thank you to everyone who helped with the garden during this particularly challenging year, especially those who helped hand water three times a week for several months until the sprinklers were fixed: Joy Tamayose, Ed Tamayose, Anna Mae Shishido, Irene Newhouse, Muffie Davis, Tatyana, Martha Martin, Carl Martin, Shannon Paapanen, and Marvin Miura. (I’m sorry if I forgot anyone!)

Our workdays are the 2<sup>nd</sup> Thursday of each month from 9am to 12noon on an “as needed” basis. Please contact Lorna Hazen at (808) 572-6338 if you are interested in helping.

*Hibiscus clayi*  
Photo by Irene Newhouse



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Website: [www.nativehawaiianplantsociety.org](http://www.nativehawaiianplantsociety.org)

To reduce costs, NHPS prints the newsletter in black & white. A color version is available online at [NativeHawaiianPlantSociety.org](http://NativeHawaiianPlantSociety.org)



## NHPS T-SHIRTS FOR SALE!

*ʻĀwikiwiki flower design by  
NHPS member,  
Muffie Davis*

**Men's & Women's Styles**  
**\$18 Short Sleeve**  
**\$22 Long Sleeve**

**ALSO, our popular  
NHPS Logo Shirts !**

**Men's & Women's Styles**  
**\$15 Short Sleeve**  
**\$20 Long Sleeve**

Available at NHPS meetings  
Or Contact Lorna Hazen (808) 572-6338

## DON'T FORGET TO RENEW!

### Membership Form

Name (please print) \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_  
Address \_\_\_\_\_  
City \_\_\_\_\_ State \_\_\_\_\_ Zip \_\_\_\_\_  
Telephone (Hm) \_\_\_\_\_ (Cell) \_\_\_\_\_  
Email \_\_\_\_\_

(Please print carefully!)

Donation Categories: Individual \$20 \_\_\_\_\_ Family \$25 \_\_\_\_\_ Other \$ \_\_\_\_\_

**Native Hawaiian Plant Society, P.O. Box 5021 Kahului, Hawai'i 96733-5021**

**The Native Hawaiian Plant Society is a nonprofit 501(c)(3) organization founded in 1980.**

**Native Hawaiian Plant Society Newsletter February 2013**  
**Plant Species Index**

Hawaiian or common name	Scientific name(s)	Family	Notes
[no Hawaiian common name]	<i>Bonamia menziesii</i>	Convolvulaceae	
'ae'ae	<i>Bacopa monnieri</i>	Scrophulariaceae	the name 'ae'ae is known only from Ni'ihau; no other Hawaiian name is documented
'āhinahina (silversword)	<i>Argyroxiphium macrocephalum</i> (2 subspecies); <i>Artemisia</i> spp. (2)	Asteraceae; Asteraceae	Hawaiian name is applied to several different species in two genera
'ākala	<i>Rubus hawaiiensis</i> , <i>Rubus macraei</i> ; <i>Rubus rosifolius</i> *	Rosaceae	*the first two species listed are native (endemic) to Hawaii; the last one is a non-native, invasive weed
'ala'ala wai nui	<i>Peperomia</i> spp. (all [native])	Piperaceae	
aloalo	<i>Hibiscus clayi</i>	Malvaceae	the name aloalo applies to all native Hawaiian species in the genus <i>Hibiscus</i>
ālula	<i>Brighamia</i> spp. (both)	Campanulaceae	
'āwikiwiki	<i>Canavalia pubescens</i>	Fabaceae	
creeping naupaka or dwarf naupaka	<i>Scaevola coriacea</i>	Goodeniaceae	These common names are a combination of English and Hawaiian
hāhā nui or holokea	<i>Cyanea horrida</i>	Campanulaceae	additionally, all species in this genus (as well as some other species) are also called "haha" in Hawaiian
hāpu'u	<i>Cibotium</i> spp. (all native non-hybrids)	Dicksoniaceae	Hawaiian name applied to several species; native "tree ferns"
'ie'ie	<i>Freycinetia arborea</i>	Pandanaceae	
'iliahi	<i>Santalum</i> spp. (several)	Santalaceae	
koa	<i>Acacia koa</i>	Fabaceae	
kūkaenēnē	<i>Coprosma ernodeoides</i>	Rubiaceae	
lama	<i>Diospyros sandwicensis</i> , <i>Diospyros hillebrandii</i>	Ebenaceae	
lau hala	<i>Pandanus tectorius</i>	Pandanaceae	
maile	<i>Alyxia oliviformis</i>	Apocynaceae	
makaloa	<i>Cyperus laevigatus</i>	Cyperaceae	
māmaki	<i>Pipturus albidus</i> (et al.)*	Urticaceae	"māmaki" is used to refer to any of several species in the genus <i>Pipturus</i>
Ma'o hau hele	<i>Hibiscus brackenridgei</i>	Malvaceae	The Hawai'i state flower
naio	<i>Myoporum sandwicense</i>	Myoporaceae	
naupaka	<i>Scaevola</i> spp. (several)	Goodeniaceae	the unmodified Hawaiian term "naupaka" often refers to <i>Scaevola taccada</i> (aka <i>Scaevola sericea</i> ); "dwarf naupaka" is <i>Scaevola coriacea</i>
'ōhelo	<i>Vaccinium</i> spp.	Ericaceae	Hawaiian name applied to all endemic species of this genus
wiliwili	<i>Erythrina sandwicensis</i>	Fabaceae	