

KALOKO-HONOKŌHAU NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK PLANT IDENTIFICATION GUIDE

ʻAʻaliʻi

Dodonaea viscosa

Native

Indigenous



ʻĀkulikuli

Sesuvium portulacastrum

Native

Indigenous



Alaheʻe

Psydrax odorata

Native

Indigenous



Alena

Boerhavia repens

Native

Indigenous



ʻAʻaliʻi

- Found on Mauka-Makai trail
- Shrubs or small trees up to 20 feet tall with sticky leaves and bright red-yellow fruit clusters
- Red capsules used for dye
- Fruit and leaves used for leis
- Wood used for 'o'o (digging sticks), fish spears, and building
- Branch tips medicinal

ʻĀkulikuli

- Found parkwide in wetland areas
- Salt tolerant
- Very low crawling ground cover with succulent stems and leaves
- Small white or pink flowers with 5 petals

Alaheʻe

- Found on Mauka-Makai trail and along the park's southern boundary
- Large tree 20-30 feet tall with shiny leaves and small clusters of fragrant white flowers
- Wood used for digging sticks ('o'o), fishhooks, and adze blades
- Leaves used for black dye

Alena

- Perennial groundcover with pink stems and tiny clusters of tubular pinkish flowers
- Found on lava flows and beaches
- Medicinal use by Hawaiians

Asian sword fern

Nephrolepis brownii

Alien



Barleria

Barleria repens

Alien

Invasive



Bitter Melon

Momordica charantia

Alien

Invasive



Buffelgrass

Cenchrus ciliaris

Alien

Invasive



Asian sword fern

- Widespread around visitor center paths and along the Mauka-Makai trail
- Native to southeast Asia
- Small to medium fern up to 3 feet tall
- Popular ornamental

Barleria

- Found throughout the park
- Ground cover up to 2 feet tall introduced as ornamental groundcover
- Also known as coral creeper or small bush violet
- Native to South Africa
- Fast growing and spreads rapidly by seed or rooting stems

Bitter Melon

- Found along Mauka-Makai trail
- Vine with 5 lobed leaves and twining tendrils found growing in/on other plants
- Ripe orange fruits split into 3 curling segments
- Plants and seeds poisonous; fruits have repulsive odor
- Vines invade native plants and outcompete for resources such as sunlight and water

Buffelgrass

- Found along Mauka-Makai trail
- Native to Africa and the Middle East
- Small perennial bunchgrass up to 2 feet tall
- Used for erosion control in Hawaii
- Invasive – replaces native pili grass communities

Ekoa (haole koa)

Leucaena leucocephala

Alien

Invasive



Fountain grass

Pennisetum setaceum

Alien

Invasive



Hala pepe

Pleomele aurea

Native

Endemic/Endangered



ʻIlima

Sida fallax

Native

Indigenous



Ekoa (haole koa)

- Found parkwide
- Native to tropical America
- Woody shrub or small tree 15-30 feet tall with numerous long brown seed pods and round white flowers
- Wood used as fuel and bark used medicinally
- Invasive - forms dense thickets that crowd out other plants

Fountain grass

- Found throughout the park
- Large clumps up to 3 feet tall with feathery seed head
- Native to Africa
- Widespread aggressive invasive
- Popular ornamental landscaping plant

Hala pepe

- Planted near visitor center and on the Mauka-Makai trail
- Shrub or small tree to 30 feet with aerial prop roots
- Root tips medicinal
- Leaves used for weaving (lauhala) mats, fans, sandals, baskets, and bracelets

ʻIlima

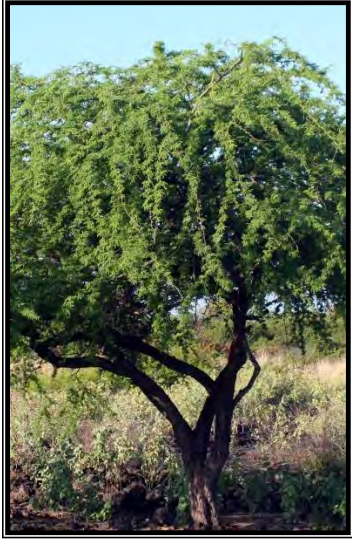
- Found throughout the park
- Groundcover or low lying shrub up to 6 feet tall
- Yellow flowers for leis
- Medicinal uses when combined with other plants
- Official flower of Oʻahu

Kiawe (mesquite)

Prosopis pallida

Alien

Invasive



Ko'oko'olau

Bidens micrantha

Native

Endemic



Kou

Cordia subcordata

Native

Indigenous



Kukui

Aleurites moluccana

Polynesian Introduction



Kiawe (mesquite)

- Dense forests found extensively parkwide
- Large trees up to 60 feet tall with wide-spreading crown
- Native to Peru, Columbia, and Ecuador
- Wood used for fuel, flowers for honey, and pods for fodder
- Invasive – deep taproots use all available water, displacing natives

Ko'oko'olau

- Planted near loulou on Mauka-Makai trail and along the park's southern boundary
- Small to medium shrub up to 10' tall with clusters of yellow orange flowers
- Leaves used for tea
- Medicinal uses

Kou

- Found on Mauka-Makai trail near quarry pit and along the coastal trail
- Small to medium tree up to 30 feet
- Wood used to make calabashes, bowls, and cups
- Bright orange flowers used in leis
- Edible seeds

Kukui

- Found on Mauka-Makai trail near beach and along the coastal trail
- Large tree up to 50 feet tall
- Oil from nuts used for lamps
- Red-brown dye from inner bark
- Nuts edible in small amounts
- Polished seeds used in leis

Lantana

Lantana camara

Alien

Invasive



Loulu

Pritchardia affinis

Native

Endemic/Endangered



Maiapilo

Capparis sandwichiana

Native

Endemic/Species of Concern

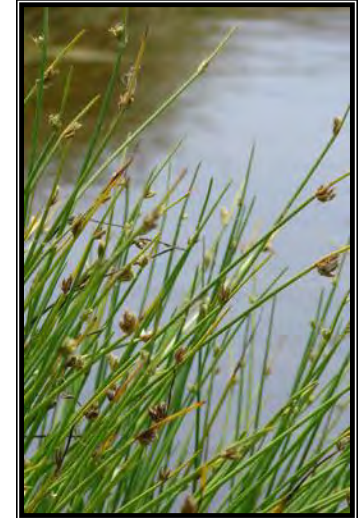


Makaloa

Cyperus laevigatus

Native

Indigenous



Lantana

- Found along Mauka-Makai trail
- Native to West Indies, Central and South America.
- Small shrub up to 10 feet tall with aromatic clusters of bright red, yellow, orange, and pink flowers
- Popular landscaping plant that forms dense thickets that crowd out other plants. Shoots and roots contain allelopathic chemicals that inhibit growth of other plants

Loulu

- Found on Mauka-Makai trail and near visitor center
- Small to medium (30-50 feet) palm tree
- Small fruits on stalks after flowering
- Fronds for thatch and weaving
- Wood for spears
- Predominate tree type in coastal forests in pre-settlement times

Maiapilo

- Also known as *pua pilo* or Hawaiian caper
- Found along Mauka-Makai trail and around visitor center
- Small shrub 2-3 feet tall with large fragrant white flowers
- Close relative to Mediterranean variety (edible capers)
- Medicinal uses – helps heal broken bones

Makaloa

- Sedge found near fishponds and around some anchialine pools
- Spreading, grass-like clumps 1 to 2.5 feet tall
- Used for weaving
- Natural food source and shelter for native water birds

Milo

Thespesia populnea

Polynesian Introduction



Naio

Myoporum sanwicense

Native

Endemic

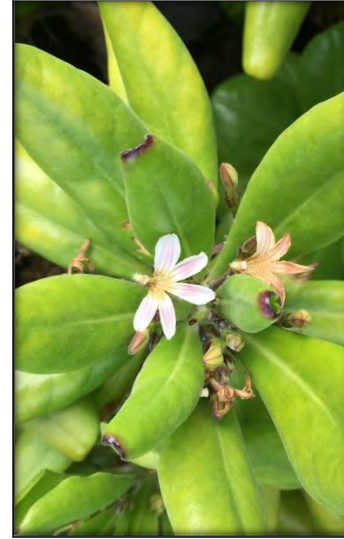


Naupaka kahakai

Scaevola taccada

Native

Indigenous



Nohu

Tribulus cistoides

Native

Indigenous



Milo

- Found in coastal areas
- Shade tree up to 40 feet tall with heart shaped leaves and large brownish grey seed capsule
- Wood for poi calabashes and platters
- Fibers for cordage
- Fruit wall for yellow-green dye

Naio

- Also known as False Sandalwood
- Found along Mauka-Makai trail
- Small to medium shrub 5-6 feet tall
- Wood was used in *hale* (house) construction and thatching support
- Leaves used medicinally as an asthma treatment as well as other lung ailments

Naupaka kahakai

- Found in coastal areas
- 3-10 foot tall shrub with bright green succulent leaves
- Fragrant white flowers with 5 petals on one side (looks like flower split in half)
- Powdered bark and leaves used medicinally
- Edible berries
- Wood for pegs used in shipbuilding

Nohu

- Found along the coastal trail
- Perennial ground cover growing in low spreading mats with yellow flowers
- Used medicinally

Noni

Morinda citrifolia

Polynesian Introduction



Noni

- Found throughout the park
- Native to southeast Asia and Australia
- Shrub or small tree 10-20 feet tall with large oval yellow/white fruit
- Leaves, fruit, and bark medicinal (noni juice is a common health supplement, possible anti-cancer treatment)
- Inner bark used for red and roots used for yellow dyes

‘Ōhai

Sesbania tomentosa

Native

Endemic/Endangered



‘Ōhai

- Found in visitor center planter
- Sprawling shrub with branches up to 45 feet long, or small tree up to 25 feet tall with silvery leaves (due to dense covering of fine hairs)
- Small clusters of 2-9 salmon orange colored flowers
- No reported uses

Pā`ū o hi`iaka

Jacquemontia ovalifolia

subsp. sandwicensis

Native

Endemic



Pā`ū o hi`iaka

- Found along rocky coastal sites and around wetland areas
- Ground cover/vine up to 10 feet long with small white or lavender cup shaped flowers
- Leaves used medicinally
- Vines braided and used as lashing when other fibers were not available

Pickleweed

Batis maritima

Alien

Invasive



Pickleweed

- Found in wetland areas near fishponds and at Honokōhau Beach
- Low shrub 2-3 feet tall with succulent leaves
- Native to Galapagos Islands and coastal tropical America
- Grows and spreads rapidly and blocks freshwater springs that feed the fish ponds

Pigweed

Portulaca oleracea

Alien

Invasive



Pili, spear grass

Heteropogon contortus

Native

Indigenous



Pōhuehue

Ipomoea pes-caprae subsp.

brasiliensis

Native

Indigenous



Pua kala

Argemone glauca

Native

Endemic



Pigweed

- Origin uncertain
- Ground cover up to 12 inches tall with red stems, green-red spatula shaped leaves, and yellow flowers
- Leaves and stems medicinal
- Invasive weed that displaces native coastal plants

Pili

- Found on interpretive trail near visitor center and on Mauka-Makai trail
- Perennial grass with tufts up to 3 feet tall
- Used as thatch for homes (*hale*) by early Hawaiian settlers
- Burned blades used for black dye

Pōhuehue

- Found on beaches and inland trails (near petroglyphs)
- Trailing vine up to 16' in length with large pink or light purple bell shaped flowers
- Famine food
- Medicinal uses

Pua kala

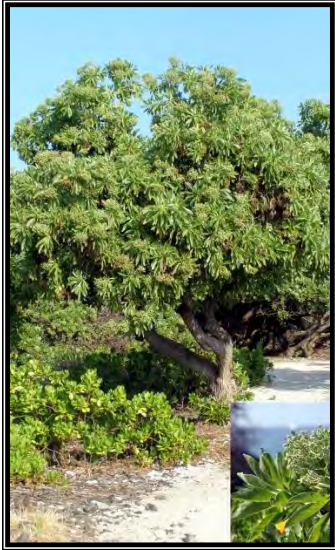
- Also known as Hawaiian poppy
- Found along sides of roads and trails
- Biennial plants 1-4 feet tall with large papery white flowers and spiny leaves
- Sap used medicinally

Tree heliotrope

Tournefortia argentea

Alien

Naturalized



ʻUhaloa

Waltheria indica

Native

Indigenous



ʻŪlei

Osteomeles anthyllidifolia

Native

Indigenous

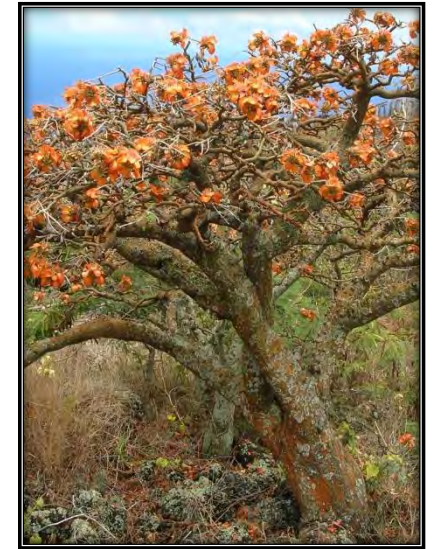


Wiliwili

Erythrina sandwicensis

Native

Endemic



Tree Heliotrope

- Found in coastal areas
- Native to tropical Asia
- Small tree up to 20 feet with cluster of white flowers at branch tips
- Leaves used as famine food in Maldives

ʻUhaloa

- Found throughout the park
- Small shrub 2-6 feet tall with small clusters of fragrant yellow flowers
- Stems, leaves, and powdered bark used medicinally

ʻŪlei

- Also known as Hawaiian rose
- Shrubs up to 10 feet tall with white flowers
- Wood used for 'o'o (digging sticks) and fish spears
- Branches used for baskets and fish nets
- Berries used for food, lavender dye, and leis

Wiliwili

- Hawaiian name means “twisted twisted”
- Small tree 15-55 feet tall with short, gnarled trunk and orange flowers
- Orange furrowed bark with ½ inch long thorns
- Balsa-like wood used for fishing floats, canoe outriggers, and early surfboards
- Seeds used for leis