

# NATIVE HABITAT PLANTS



**‘ĀKULIKULI** is a succulent like ground cover with star shaped flowers. It can be found in a variety of coastal habitats, from extremely dry coastlines to wetlands.



**NAUPAKA** is a common green leafed shrub with an unusual half petalled flower. It is found in abundance, serves as a windbreak and helps preserve the sand along the coastline.



**HINAHINA** is a silver leaf shrub found just above the high tide mark along coastlines. The foliage is popular for lei making. The flowers are a favorite of native pollinators.



**NEHE** is a sprawling native groundcover found growing in the sand. Its showy yellow flowers resemble tiny sunflowers, are very fragrant and provide habitat for native pollinators.



**‘ILIMA** is common along the coastline as both a shrub and groundcover. It is well known for its yellow flowers and silver foilage. The flowers were a source of medicine in old Hawaii.



**‘OHAI** is a small shrub with silver leaves which stand out in the landscape. Its red flowers are used in lei-making. Today this Hawaiian plant is considered endangered.



**MAIAPILO** although a rare habitat plant, is found in abundance at the beach park. The fragrant and delicate white flowers open in the evening and wilt in the late morning sun.



**PĀ‘ŪOHI‘IAKA** is a flowering vine-like ground cover found growing in the sand on most beaches. It has small prolific purple to white flowers and its roots help stabilize the sand.



**MAKALOA** grows in and around the anchialine ponds. The water loving sedge is used for weaving. The softest and finest mats were woven and decorated for Hawaiian nobility.



**PŌHUEHUE** is a large leaf vine-like ground cover that grows over coastal sand dunes. The large purple flowers of this beach morning glory stay open most of the day.



**NAIO** is an important dry forest tree also known as “false sandalwood” because of its fragrance. The heartwood was powdered and used to perfume kapa cloth.



**PUA KALA** grows along the coastline and into the dry forest. Known as the Hawaiian Poppy, this small gray-silver shrub has large white flowers with a yellow center.

Thank you for visiting the Native Plant Garden at Kohanaiki



## KOHANAIKI NATIVE PLANT GARDEN CULTURAL LEARNING CENTER

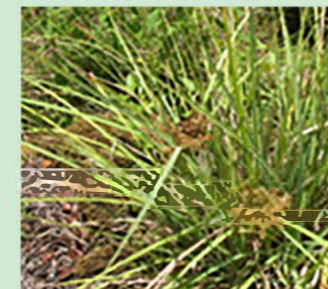
### PLANT IDENTIFICATION GUIDE SELF-GUIDED TOUR

Kohanaiki 'Ōhana



aloha 'āina

# CORDAGE PLANTS



**'AHU'AWA** stem fibers make strong cordage used in house construction, carrying nets and fishing equipment. Bunched fibers are used as strainers for 'Awa, medicine and food.



**MĀMAKI** is a native plant with many uses. The bark is pounded to make kapa cloth and can be twisted to make a strong cordage. It grows abundantly at high elevations.



**'AKIA** roots are soaked and pounded to make a strong coarse cordage used for shark, turtle and carrying nets. The pounded fruit, bark and roots are used to stun fish for gathering.



**NIU** was the most important fiber plant in old Hawai'i. The fiber from the husk of the coconut is made into strong, flexible, abrasion and water resistant cordage.



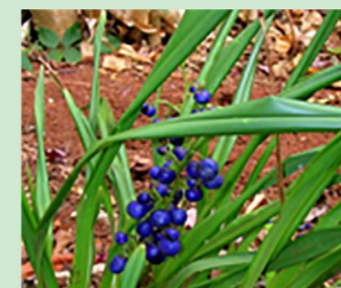
**HALA** has long aerial roots that are beaten, cleaned and used as cordage for houses, rope and other items. Cordage making was easy with the long fibers.



**RAMIE** is the one of the strongest natural fibers in the world and was brought here from Asia. Fiber from the bark is used for fishing equipment, net-making and other utilitarian uses.



**HAU** cordage is made from the inner bark of the branches. The cordage has many uses including tying fishing equipment and tools, lashing gourds and making thick rope.



**'UKI'UKI** leaves are braided to make strong, flexible and long-lasting cordage. The plant is highly valued because of the strength of the fiber.



**HUEHUE** vine was used with little or no preparation to make strong and long lasting lashing for house construction. It was commonly used and found growing at all elevations.



**WAUKE** fiber is found in the inner bark of the plant and makes strong, soft cordage that is not water resistant. It was used to carry fine wooden bowls and in hula implements

# CANOE PLANTS

## BROUGHT TO HAWAII BY THE EARLY POLYNESIAN SETTLERS



**'APE** is a very large leafed close relative of kalo used for ceremony, medicine and as a famine food. The corm has to be prepared carefully to remove the itchy crystals.



**KALO** is the favorite food of Hawaiians and heavily cultivated in both the wetlands and drylands. All parts of the plant are eaten. It has to be cooked to remove the itchy crystals.



**MILO** wood was used for fine carvings and prized for its dark coloring. It was also favored for containers and food bowls and did not give off any taste to the food when stored.



**PIA** is an important root used as a fine starch that can be grated, cooked and added to recipes as a thickener. The root was also used to glue pieces of kapa cloth together.



**'AWA** roots are pounded, mixed with water and strained for a ceremonial and social drink. It is also an important medicinal plant used to treat many ailments.



**KAMANI** is a large tree whose fine grained wood was carved into storage containers. It didn't change the taste of the food. Oils from the nut are healing when rubbed on the skin.



**NIU** known as the Tree of Life as all parts are used. The nuts provide meat, drink and oil. Husk fibers made strong cordage. The wood was used in house construction and drums.



**TI** leaves were used for house thatch, ceremony, food wrapping, rain capes, sandals and bandages. The large starchy roots were baked for a sweet desert.



**'AWA PUHI** juice from the mature flowers was used for shampoo. When mixed with water it creates a rich lather. The bitter root was used to scent and dye kapa cloth.



**KŌ** sugarcane stalks are chewed for their sweetness and used to sweeten food. The leaves were used for thatching houses and many crafts. Leaf charcoal was used for tattoo.



**NONI** fruit is used in many native medicines. The roots are pounded and used for yellow bark cloth dye that turns red when dipped in salt water.



**'UALA** the Hawaiian sweet potato was the second most important food next to kalo. Stem tips and young leaves were eaten raw. They grow rapidly in all climates and elevations.



**HALA** leaves are woven to make mats, sails and baskets. Intact leaves were used as house thatch. The fruit has a nutritious starch that can be dried and eaten.



**KOU** was a favored tree used for shade. The reddish wood was used for fine carvings and food containers as it did not give off any taste to the food contents.



**'OHE** is a clumping variety of bamboo, has thin walls, and a long distance between nodes. It was used in construction, musical instruments and stamps for printing kapa.



**UHI** the Hawaiian yam was cooked and eaten when the preferred kalo and sweet potato were in short supply. Once harvested, yams store longer than kalo or sweet potato.



**HAU** plants produce a strong but lightweight wood used for canoe building, adz handles, fishing net floats and many other items. Cordage is made from the bark.



**KUKUI** bark was used in dyes. Dried nut meat used for candles and relish. Nut oils were also used for polish, paints, body oil and sunscreen. Surfboards carved from the light wood.



**'ŌHI'Ā 'AI** was one of the only trees having a sweet fruit. The fruit was considered a delicacy by early Hawaiians. The wood was used in some temple enclosures.



**'ULU** is the very valuable breadfruit tree. The fruit provides food, the light wood was used to make surfboards and canoes, the bark for kapa, the sap for glue and caulking canoes.



**IPU** grow in many shapes and sizes and cultivated for containers, musical instruments and many other uses. Hawaiians had the largest variety of uses for gourds in all Polynesia.



**MAI'Ā** fruit, bananas, were used for food and ceremonial offerings. The leaves and stalks were used for cooking in the imu to help protect and steam the food.



**'ŌLENA**. is a type of ginger also known as turmeric. The roots are an important source of medicine. It is also used to make yellow dye for kapa and has some ceremonial uses.



**WAUKE** is a mulberry plant. It's white inner bark is cleaned, processed and pounded to make barkcloth. The Hawaiian kapa was known to be the finest in all of Polynesia.

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