



Laukahi

THE HAWAII PLANT CONSERVATION NETWORK

every leaf together



Laukahi networks and sustains the Hawai'i native plant conservation community

with tools, information, and resources to succeed
in protecting rare and culturally vital plants
of Hawai'i

*Few places in the world can match the uniqueness
of our Hawaiian endemic flora, and fewer still have
developed an indigenous culture that owes so much
to its plants.*

*Preserving and protecting our endemic
flora is to ensure the future of our Hawaiian
cultural legacy and an ecosystem in which
we can all thrive.*

Sam Gon
Senior Scientist & Cultural Advisor,
The Nature Conservancy Hawai'i

Laukahi networks and sustains the Hawai'i native plant conservation community

with tools, information, and resources to succeed in protecting rare plants of Hawai'i

"Knowing that we are participating in a statewide, coordinated effort gives us hope and helps us meet difficult challenges. Through their leadership, we grew our seed storage program. Laukahi increased our effectiveness as a conservation partner."

Tamara Sherrill
Executive Director, Maui Nui Botanical Garden

"Laukahi shows the sum of our work is impactful. Each native plant, every island, together we are making progress and are proud to share that story."

Matthew Kier
Botanist, Hawaii State DLNR
& Laukahi Founder

No other entity in Hawai'i is tasked with this important role: Laukahi coordinates an alliance of diverse agencies, organizations and individuals working non-competitively to protect rare and culturally vital plant species in Hawai'i. The network emerged from a statewide capacity assessment and the resulting Hawai'i Strategy for Plant Conservation. The Strategy is the foundational document that focuses Laukahi's efforts on the protection of Species of Conservation Importance (SCI), the unique plants that comprise our native ecosystems. The urgency of this work has never been greater in the face of climate change and threats to native habitat, and working together will advance plant conservation faster than individual efforts alone.

How we network and sustain the native plant conservation community

SUPPORT We support our members with tools, information, and communication key to protecting Hawai'i's rare plants

We operate as a hub for information on native plants, and track all data surrounding plant conservation work in Hawaii. We've developed a database and dashboard to share this valuable information with members and partners who can report on statewide progress towards goals

We standardized the methods of metrics on data collection so that data can be compiled easily for annual summarization, and for organizations' greater affinity with global metrics and funding.

We lead the Annual Statewide Plant Conservation meeting which fosters valuable communication between member agencies to increase collaboration and decrease redundancy.

We created the 'Ōhi'a Taxa Key to ensure 'Ōhi'a Lehua, a foundational tree essential for all native Hawai'i forest ecosystems, survives. 'Ōhi'a Lehua is in crisis, struggling with Rapid Ohia Death (ROD). This effort ensures survival and encourages citizen science.

We coordinate and administer the Hawaii Seed Bank Partnership dedicated to preserve genetic diversity of native plant species for the purposes of conservation and restoration.

SUBSIDIZE We subsidize our partners' programs with additive funding and attract new funding sources

We work to secure contracts to tackle critical collaborative tasks, thereby providing resources to plant conservation organizations.

We fund the 'Ōhi'a Seed Collection, funding plant conservation organizations' specialized ability to store valuable propagules, in light of the Rapid Ohia Death crisis.

We generate new funding sources. We are fiscally sponsored by an independent, nonprofit organization, so we are able to attract donors (corporations, businesses, and government, in addition to foundational funding) who may not be plant-giving-specific. We also advocate for legislation that would grant more funds to plant conservation.

We provide additive funding for PEPP the Plant Extinction Prevention Program's (PEPP) across the islands. Hawai'i is home to hundreds of rare and threatened plants. 454 plant taxa are federally listed as Threatened or Endangered, however, there are over 250 plants that are on the brink of extinction. These species are managed by PEPP. PEPP staff are highly skilled and trained botanists that journey to the edges of our islands to save the rarest of the rare plants through collections of seeds and/or cuttings that will be stored in ex situ facilities for restoration efforts.

SUMMARIZE We summarize our partners' work to make big-picture statements on progress, and provide valueable leadership on establishing collective goals to impact the health of our plants and ecosystems

We established the Hawaii Strategy for Plant Conservation, crucial for articulating a consensus on species conservation priorities. Equally important, the existence of a Strategy enables organizations to secure funding through expressing alignment with larger community's goals. The Strategy's diverse set of twenty Targets include traditional in situ protection and ex situ conservation, but also includes metrics around cultural integration, outreach, workforce capacity, and sustainable use, requiring a diverse set of partners to accomplish our collective goals.

We provide progress updates to our network every year since 2018 to look critically at our progress in terms of globally defined metrics. We have identified gaps in plant conservation which inform our partners' programming and priorities.

We collaboratively created the 2019 – 2023 Action Plan which expresses collective near term focus areas and strategy. The six areas are: Grow a healthy network; Facilitate accurate, accessible information; Continue ex situ momentum; Invest in in situ protection; Engage our community; Elevate our global profile.



“Laukahi demonstrates the power of a network – it brings our partners together to focus on the critical task of conserving Hawaii’s unique biocultural heritage.”

Chipper Wichman
President,
National Tropical Botanical Garden

Our Impact

Because of Laukahi, no Species of Conservation Importance (SCI) has gone extinct since its inception.

Because of Laukahi, 629 taxa have been assessed and submitted for publication to the IUCN Red List by the Hawaiian Islands Plant Specialist Group. On the Federal Endangered Species List, almost half (45%) of US federally listed Threatened or Endangered species are native to Hawai‘i! 423 Hawai‘i plants are on the list, which is about 1/3 of flora!

Because of Laukahi, 83% of Species of Conservation Importance (SCI) are now represented in Ex situ (which refers to efforts in safe, controlled facilities such as seed banks or botanical gardens).

Because of Laukahi, 625 of 790 (79%) Species of Conservation Importance (SCI) are represented at more than one Ex situ facility.

We need your involvement

We need a diverse set of partners to actualize the diverse targets we’ve committed to in the Hawai‘i Strategy for Plant Conservation. Please reach out and connect with us!

GET INVOLVED

View and Utilize Laukahi’s Resources Available Online

Become a Member Organization

Consider Possible Collaboration

[Join Our Email Newsletter](#)

Follow along on Instagram

[Donate and Support](#)

<https://laukahi.org>

[@Laukahi_network_hawaii](#)

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I ola ‘oe, i ola mākou nei

My life is dependent on yours,
and your life is dependent on me

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LAUKAHI.ORG