



Lama (*Diospyros sandwicensis*)

An endemic tree sacred to Laka, goddess of *hula*, *lama* wood was offered on alters, used to build sacred houses and fences, pulverized for medicine, and fashioned into fishtraps. The fruits were dried and eaten.



Kauila (*Colubina oppositifolia*)

The wood of this endemic endangered tree is so dense that it sinks in seawater. Hawaiians used the wood for their very best tools, weapons and the poles of *kāhili*.



Nānū or nā'ū (*Gardenia brighamii*)

This endemic tree had multiple uses. Its flowers were used in *lei*, the fruit pulp as yellow dye, and its wood was carved into *kapa* anvils.



Naio (*Myoporum sandwicense*)

An indigenous shrub or small tree. Hawaiians preferred the wood for *hale* framing. Near the end of the sandalwood trade in Hawai'i, *naio* was sometimes substituted for true *'iliahi* in shipments to China. While the odor of fresh *naio* heartwood is similar to that of *'iliahi*, shipments of *naio* were rejected and the plant acquired the unflattering name "bastard sandalwood."

Plants at the Ka'ala Kīpuka



For more information about the Ka'ala Kīpuka or to schedule a Work'n-Learn day for your group contact

Bruce P Koebele at:

bpkoebele@gmail.com



Alahe'e (Psydrax odorata)

Hawaiians used the hard wood of this indigenous tree for tools, composite fishhooks, and weapons; leaves were used to make a black dye.



Koa haole (Leucaena leucocephala)

An alien tree, native to the neotropics, introduced about 1837 to control erosion. *Koa haole* is also used as fodder for cattle but can result in ill health and loss of hair in horses because of the amino acid, mimosine.



'Ilie'e (Plumbago zeylanica)

An indigenous liana (vine-like shrub) once used to blacken tattoos and possibly for medicine.



Ma'o (Gossypium tomentosum)

While the seed hairs of this endemic cotton are too short to make cloth, Hawaiians used the flowers to make a bright green dye for *kapa*. *Ma'o* has also been hybridized with commercial cotton to improve its resistance to pests.



'A'ali 'i (Dodonaea viscosa)

Hawaiians used the tough, flexible wood of this indigenous shrub (or tree) in *hale*, spears and other weapons. The seeds capsules were used to produce a dye for *kapa*. Today, the leaves and capsules are used in *lei*.



Wiliwili (Erythrina sandwicensis)

Hawaiians used the soft, light wood of this endemic tree for surfboards, fishnet floats, and canoe outriggers. The bright seeds are still strung into *lei*.