

RARE & ENDANGERED HAWAIIAN PLANTS

More than one-third of the endangered plant species in the United States are native to the Hawaiian Islands. For millions of years, plants in Hawai`i evolved in benign isolation without competition from introduced species of plants and animals.

As a result of human inhabitation, however, invasive weeds, development, feral livestock, and rats present major threats to the survival of many Hawaiian plant species. Conservationists are working to control the aggressive competitors, to maintain off-site collections of threatened plants, and to study the conservation of threatened wild plant populations.

Many of the plants in this display are some of the most threatened Hawaiian plant species.

