



Koki'o ke'oke'o or Hawaiian white hibiscus



Plant Botanical Name:

Hibiscus waimeae

USBG Plant Location:

Conservatory

Conservatory Room Location:

Hawaii

Plant Threat Level:

Endangered

Hibiscus waimeae is endemic to Kauai, occurring in two distinct and isolated populations on opposite sides of the island. Though separated by less than 10 miles, the two populations have evolved to have unique flower and leaf characteristics that distinguish them from one another. Because *Hibiscus* species hybridize readily, the unique characteristics of *waimeae* are threatened by cross-pollination with non-native *Hibiscus* varieties that have been introduced to Kauai for ornamental use. By carefully hand-pollinating the flowers of *Hibiscus waimeae*, conservationists are able to collect, grow and store seeds that have not been cross-pollinated.

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