



Hawai'i Rare Plant Restoration Group

Mission Statement

To prevent the extinction of native Hawaiian plants and provide for their recovery through a cooperative administered ex situ (off-site) plant conservation system in collaboration with in situ (on-site) management partners to sample, propagate, and reintroduce rare plants, and to advance the preservation of native plants and their habitats through effective communication and public education.

Background

The Hawai'i Rare Plant Restoration Group (HRPRG) is an informal alliance of public and private agencies and organizations working to prevent the extinction of native Hawaiian plants and provide for their recovery through integrated *in situ* (on-site) and *ex situ* (off-site) efforts through its diverse and committed membership. Partners work collaboratively to sample, propagate, and reintroduce rare plants, and to advance the preservation of native plants and their habitats through effective communication and public education. The HRPRG also serves as the Hawaiian Islands Plant Specialist Group for the IUCN. The HRPRG list-serve is maintained through the University of Hawai'i. The HRPRG was started in the 1980's by botanists from the Center for Plant Conservation and the Hawai'i Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

Statement of Organization

The HRPRG provides member organizations a venue to coordinate plant conservation activities and exchange information to promote the most efficient use of available personnel, funds, and knowledge in order to ensure the survival of as many species as possible. The State Botanist from the Hawai'i Division of Forestry and Wildlife and the Plant Recovery Coordinator at the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service co-chair the working group, coordinate mailings, and furnish meeting summaries. Individuals representing an organization are expected to have the authority to make commitments for their organization or to obtain such commitments in a timely manner. Meetings are held quarterly. Meeting agendas include progress reports from working groups/committees, a re-evaluation of priority activities, and coordination of member activities for the next meeting. Participation in the Hawai'i Rare Plant Restoration Group is voluntary and is expected to enhance each organization's ability to accomplish its goals concerning plant preservation or management. Collaborative projects and programs which take advantage of the strengths of member organizations are encouraged. There are no membership fees or expenses. The cost of attending meetings is the responsibility of each organization.

Initiatives

The HRPRG focuses on emergency actions needed to keep species from going extinct. This has included best management practices and guidelines for rare plant monitoring, propagule collection, nursery protocols, and reintroduction tailored to the flora of Hawai'i. The HRPRG initiated the island-based Plant Extinction Prevention Program (PEPP) to secure and restore the botanical diversity of Hawai'i's most endangered plants (PEPPI.org). These island-based botanists focus on species with fewer than 50 individuals remaining in the wild from each island to determine exact management needs and how to accomplish each action. Another project HRPRG was instrumental in establishing is the mid-elevation rare plant nurseries on the four major islands of Hawai'i (Volcano), O'ahu (Pahole), Kaua'i (Kōke'e) and Maui (Olinda). The HRPRG also coordinates and conducts IUCN Red List assessments for Hawai'i's flora that is at-risk.

HRPRG websites: hrprg2.webnode.com, and here: Laukahi.org/hrprg/.

Subscribe/Unsubscribe HRPRG Listserve: <https://listserv.hawaii.edu/cgi-bin/wa?AO=HRPRG-L>