

ANNUAL REPORT

The Hawaiian Islands are home to some of the most unique and diverse ecosystems on our planet. Yet these ecosystems are also among the most threatened, with hundreds of native plant species in danger of extinction. Approximately 90% of our 1,376 native plants are endemic to Hawai'i, meaning they are not found anywhere else in the world. In response to the pervasive threats to native habitat, **Laukahi: The Hawai'i Plant Conservation Network** was formed to urgently coordinate conservation of native Hawaiian plants.

Conservation programs in our state understand the need to collaborate to preserve and restore the plant life essential to the natural and cultural heritage of Hawai'i.

Laukahi: The Hawai'i Plant Conservation Network is a voluntary alliance of 42 agencies, organizations and individuals aiming to protect Hawai'i's rare plant species through coordinated conservation efforts by implementing the [Hawai'i Strategy for Plant Conservation](#).



Questions? Visit <https://laukahi.org/> or email coordinator@laukahi.org

THE YEAR IN REVIEW



Laukahi kicked off 2024 with our Annual Meeting in January, where the Network helped us finalize the [2024-2028 Action Plan](#). Through 2024, we completed projects with contractors and started projects in the next Action Plan.

A few highlights from 2024:

- Completed assessing 868 Species of Conservation Importance (SCI) in conservation collections
- Created keiki [poster](#) and mascot, Liko Laukahi (above)
- Completed assessing the status of SCI in the wild
- Launched Support the Educators survey and platform design
- Completed updates to data management systems
- [Waialua Estate](#) native plant campaign with updated chocolate labels and fundraising
- Laukahi invited as a panelist for Center for Plant Conservation's 40th Anniversary

Partner Gatherings

- 2024 Annual Meeting, East-West Center
- Hawai'i Seed Bank Partnership, Kualoa Ranch
- Quarterly meetings for 3 Partnerships
- Participated in 6 additional collaborations

Hawai'i Seed Bank Partnership

- Formed 2 new subcommittees to advance research and dissemination of seed banking information
- Drafted revised Drying Protocols
- Grown to 33 programs

Hawai'i Rare Plant Restoration Group

- Completed Best Management Guide for Nurseries and Phytosanitation
- Drafted revised Propagule Collection & Handling

Hawai'i Botanical Gardens Group

- Held mini-symposium on research and collection updates of native palms loulou (*Pritchardia*) due to rapid spread of Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle

IMPACT REPORT



Native forest along the Pālehua Ridge.

Progress of the Areas of Focus from the 2024-2028 Action Plan

Grow the Network

- Welcomed 3 new advisors!
- Participated in 4 external partnerships

Expand *ex situ* collections

- Assessed ~55k records from 52 collections
- 85% SCI secured
- 68% SCI at multiple facilities

Advance *in situ* analyses

- 77% of most diverse areas have protection mandate
- 61.2% of SCI have at least half of their possible range in an area with varying protection mandates
- However, 64.5% of SCI are in need of stronger management

Centralize data, tools, and methods

- Updated database and dashboards
- Completed 1 and drafted 2 best management practices
- Tracked 155 plant publications

Engage with the community

- 79 survey responses & 5 interviews Educators Needs Assessment
- Compiled 270 educators resources
- Online outreach reached 9,370 users

Elevate our profile

- Contributed to Global Tree Assessments
- Submitted 36 Red List Assessments
- Submitted data for Only Known Occurrence study, Dr. Wesley Knapp
- Attended: 2024 Center for Plant Conservation Meeting, 2024 Hawai'i Conservation Conference

FUTURE ACTIVITIES

Below are the 6 focus areas of Laukahi's activities, outlined in the [2024-2028 Action Plan](#).

Click on each heading below to see our progress, presented at our 2025 Annual Meeting.

ACTION PLAN 2024-2028



Photo captions and credits from left to right: Surveying Waimanu Valley on Hawai'i Island for rare plants (DLNR). Moloka'i Plant Extinction Prevention Program staff monitoring rare plants in the Kamakou Preserve (Donald Drake). *Hibiscus kokio* subsp. *saintjohnianus* at Harold L. Lyon Arboretum (Lyon Arboretum).

Grow the network

- Nurture leadership and collaboration
- Support partnerships within Laukahi
- Communicate, assemble, and strategize
- Grow conservationists
- Raise funds

Expand ex situ collections

- Assess *ex situ* collections
- Develop metacollections
- Invest in disaster preparedness
- Connect *ex situ* materials with *in situ* needs - seed collection guide

Advance in situ analyses

- Assess *in situ* datasets
- Support capacity-building for habitat protection
- Integrate *ex situ* and *in situ* information
- Improve seed zones

Centralize data, tools, methods

- Develop methods and share resources
- Develop the database and analytics
- Facilitate a research agenda

Engage with the community

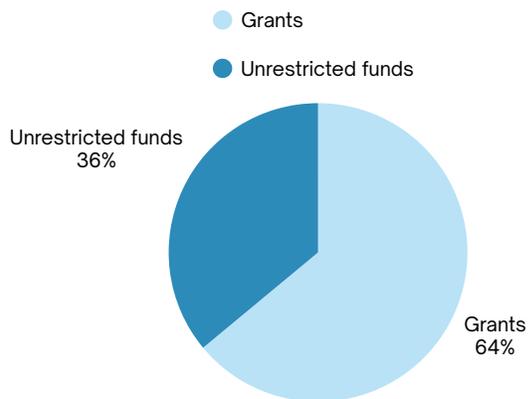
- Support the educators
- Connect to cultural practices
- Community communications
- Engage with policymakers
- Engage with businesses

Elevate our profile

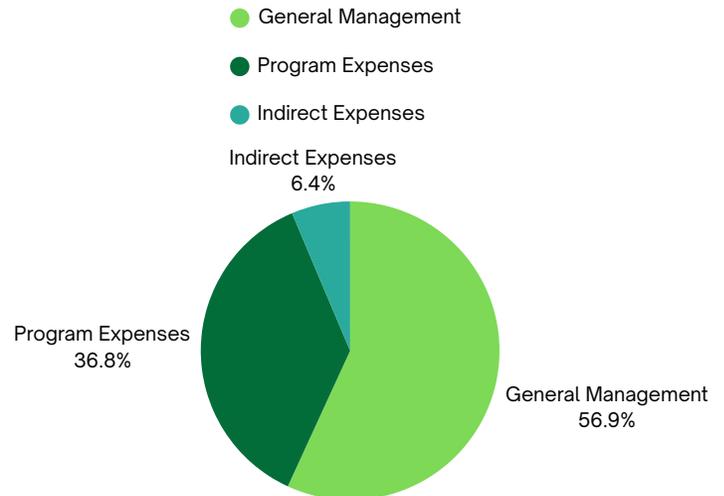
- Strengthen connections in the Pacific Islands
- Pursue global partnerships
- Send delegations to represent Hawai'i
- Add Hawaiian plants to the [Red List](#)

FINANCIAL ACTIVITIES SUMMARY

Assets and 2024 Revenue



2024 Expenses



Budget Narrative

This financial summary has not been audited. Laukahi received an estimated \$92,910 of in-kind gifts in 2024. General Management expenses used funds for multiple projects and core operations. Laukahi's fundraising in 2025 aims to secure the necessary funds to complete the 2024-2028 Action Plan. A key area of fundraising is to support the Network Coordinator's position to continue delivering the mission and activities of Laukahi.

You can protect Hawai'i's native and rare plants by partnering with Laukahi

Make a gift today!
<https://laukahi.org/donate/>



Nalo meli maoli (*Hylaeus anthracinus*) visiting pa'u o Hi'iaka (*Jacquemontia sandwicensis*). PC: Kobey Togikawa.

MAHALO

ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS & ADMINISTRATION

Laukahi is deeply indebted to **our Network** of field botanists, horticulturalists, garden staff, educators, practitioners, database managers, administrators, funders, and community leaders who all contribute to protecting Hawai'i's native and rare plants. Mahalo!

Mahalo to our funders and donors: Hau'oli Mau Loa Foundation, Atherton Family Foundation, the Virginia & Colin Lennox Botanical Research Trust Fund of the Hawai'i Community Foundation, Michael J. Marks Foundation, O.W. Fritt, Gerry and Karen Keir, CT Mason, Allison Sarofim.

Laukahi is administered by our **fiscal sponsor**, The Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Foundation and a volunteer **Advisory Council**: Emma Anders (Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Foundation), Mark Burgman (UH Mānoa, School of Life Sciences), Susan Cordell (US Forest Service), Don Drake (UH Mānoa, Lyon Arboretum), Matthew Keir (DLNR-DOFAW), Barbara Kennedy (Bishop Museum), Randy Kennedy (Hawai'i Conservation Alliance Foundation), Elliott Parsons (Pacific-RISCC, UH), Talia Portner (Honolulu Botanical Gardens), Raedelle Van Fossen (UH Mānoa, Lyon Arboretum), Seana Walsh (National Tropical Botanical Garden), and Lauren Weisenberger (US Fish and Wildlife Service – Chair).

2024 Staff and Contractors:

Network Coordinator: Kimberly Shay

Student assistant, Lyon Arboretum: Brooke Crose

Contractors: Moonbuzz Media, Kingfisher Consulting, Wailupe Ecological, Pigi Pigi Art

2024 Volunteers:

Worcester Polytechnic Institute, Team Flora: Abby, Preet, Greta, Jack

Catchafire: Brynn Brothers, Elise Loeb