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MEET HUMAN NEEDS & PRESERVE LOCAL CULTURE

FOCUS OUR
MAUI ISLANDS
NUI OUR FUTURE

Own it!

The Flowers of Maui Nui



The white *Kukui* blossom (*aleurites moluccana*) is the flower of Molokai. It is the blossom of the very useful *Kukui* tree. The flowers, leaves and the nuts are often used in *lei*. The nuts

are used for their oil, can be eaten, and contain a black dye that is used for tattooing. The wood of the *Kukui* tree was used for making canoes and the leaves were chewed to relieve sorrow.

The pink *Lokelani* (*rosa damascene*) is the official flower of Maui. Native to Asia Minor it was brought to the New World by the Spanish and introduced to Hawaii in the early 1800s.



The *Lokelani* is prized by gardeners for its beauty and fragrance and is the only non-native plant to be recognized as the official flower of any of the Hawaiian islands.



Lanai's flower *Kaunaoa* (*cuscutaceae*) is not really a flower, but a Rare yellow and orange air plant. *Lei* makers take the thin, light orange strands of this vine and twist them together to form *lei*. Legend says

that the goddess *Pele* fled to Lanai from her angry sister *Namakaokahai*, the goddess of the sea, and dropped her *Kaunaoa lei* at the beach, where golden vines started growing.

Hinahina (*heliotropium anomalum*) is the plant of Kahoolawe. Don't confuse *hinahina* with Spanish moss or *Pele's hair*. Spanish moss is almost always substituted for *hinahina* to represent Kahoolawe, since it is easier to get Spanish moss than it is to get the native heliotrope.



All the
flowers
of all the
tomorrows
are in the
seeds
of today.

~ Indian Proverb



FOCUS MAUI NUI is a community-driven vision for the future of our islands, spearheaded by Maui Economic Development Board, Inc., a nonprofit organization dedicated to the economic well-being of Maui County. VISIT www.focusmauinui.com or CALL 808.270.6801