Pritchardia spp. >>> Loulu >>> Fan Palm

Photo Credit: Abraham Ke'ala Alama

Ka Hōʻike 'Ano - Description

- There are 27 species of Pritchardia in the Palm family (Aracaceae) of which 24 are endemic to the Hawaiian Islands.
- These loulu have 4-foot long emerald green to grayish or bluish green leaves above and a waxy grayish green cast.

Ka Laulā Kaianoho - Distribution

'Ikepili Hoihoi: Interesting Fact

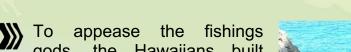
- Fossil evidence show that loulu were once widely spread throughout the islands, especially in the lowlands.
- Laysan once had dense loulu (Pritchardia sp.) forests as found in recent pollen samples.



Photo Credit: PMNM

Cultural Significance - Ka Waiwai Ho'oilina

- Other Hawaiian names are Hāwane, Loulu, Loulu lelo, Noulu, and Wāhane.
 - The fronds called lau hāwane were used by early Hawaiians for thatching and more recently as plaiting such as papale (hats) and fans.
- Kū i Ka Loulu, Ulu a'e ke aloha no Nihoa moku manu Kū is of Loulu and our respect grows for Nihoa, isle of birds (Mele No Papahānaumokuākea, line 5)



To appease the fishings gods, the Hawaiians built seasonal heiau made of loulu fronds. (Abbott 1992) Loulu o Nihoa (Pritchardia remota) is an endangered species of loulu that occurs naturally on the island of Nihoa.



Photo Credit: Peter T. Oboyski