

Pritchardia spp.



Loulu



Fan Palm

Ka Hō'ike '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 Lauā Kaianoho - Distribution

- » 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: Native Plants Hawai'i



Photo Credit: PMNM

Cultural Significance - Ka Waiwai Ho'oilina

- » Other Hawaiian names are Hāwane, Loulu, Loulu Ielo, 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)



Photo Credit: Abraham Ke'ala Alama

'Ikepili Hoihoi: Interesting Fact

- » 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