

Hawai'i's Biological Gems

Hawai'i's offshore islets are our biological gems, providing safe havens for native species that once flourished throughout the state. These islets hold hope for the future of coastal biodiversity.



Hawai'i is revered for its natural beauty and attracts visitors from around the world. What many visitors and residents do not realize is that most of the places they see have been greatly altered and degraded

since the time man first arrived in the Hawaiian archipelago. For example, over 470 Hawaiian species (24% of the total number in the U.S.) are classified as threatened, endangered or candidates for listing under the Endangered Species Act.

The greatest threat to Hawai'i's native species is the invasion of aggressive alien species such as rats, cats, mongoose, weeds

and fire ants. Inappropriate human uses and development also threaten native ecosystems.

Conduct Education and Outreach

Hawai'i's offshore islets are living classrooms, providing locals and visitors an opportunity to view and experience some of the last, natural coastal communities left in the state. Our educational goals are to create an awareness and appreciation of the native communities on Hawai'i's offshore islets, show the effects that invasive species have upon native communities, and create support for statewide conservation and restoration efforts. We hope that through education, our children will learn and practice behaviors that conserve the islets' native beauty.

For more information visit:

<http://www.botany.hawaii.edu/gradstud/eljzenga/oirc/>

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