

Hawaiian Moss Names

Bartram (1933) did not include Hawaiian names in his manual of Hawaiian mosses. The Hawaiian dictionary by Pukui & Elbert (1986) lists two general terms for mosses, limu and huluhulu, and names for specific types of mosses and liverworts. Unfortunately, only one of these specific names has a scientific name attached to it, *Thuidium hawaiiense* (now *T. cymbifolium*). The rest are orphan names that cannot be attached to known species unless other records can be found. A dictionary of modern Hawaiian by Komike Hua`olelo (2003) lists another general term, mākōpi`i, and one specific term hulu pō`ē`ē for *Sphagnum* moss.

Table 10. Known Hawaiian words for mosses, liverworts, and a lichen.

Hawaiian	English definition
`ekaha	a moss growing on rotted trees, also limu `ekaha
hini hini `ula	an upland moss
huluhulu a Ka`au hele moa	a moss said to grow only in Palolo Valley, Honolulu, named for Ka`au-hele-moa a legendary cock defeated in battle by a hen. She pulled his feathers which became this moss. It is used in leis.
hulu pō`ē`ē	<i>Sphagnum</i>
huluhulu	kinds of seaweeds and mosses
huluhulu a `īlio	a green, velvety carpet-like mountain moss. The spore cases rise above the plants. Lit. fur like a dog.
iliohe	a name reported for a green freshwater moss
kala maka pi`i	same as mākole mākō pi`i and kale maka pi`i
kalau ipo	a moss found in water
kale maka pi`i	variant of kala maka pi`i, a moss
lī pepei ao	1. a seaweed 2. a freshwater moss, usually qualified by wai
lī poa kua hiwi	a non-edible mountain moss as opposed to the edible lī poa
limu	general name for plants including mosses, liverworts, lichens, etc..
limu `ahu`ula	an upland moss
limu ahi	a tree moss or liverwort
limu haea	a lichen (<i>Stereocaulon</i> sp.) with erect, branching stalks
limu holo `a wai	a freshwater moss
limu kaha	a kind of liverwort
limu kala maka pi`i	same as kala maka pi`i
limu kale maka pi`i	same as kale maka pi`i
limu kau lā`au	all tiny ferns (filmy ferns), lichens, liverworts, mosses growing on trees
limu kele	moss growing on trees in rainforest
limu mā kole maka `ō pi`i	same as mākole mākō pi`i
limu pepei ao	same as lī pepei ao
maka `ō pi`i	same as mākole mākō pi`i
mākō pi`i	moss general term
mākō pi`i `elenahu	peatmoss
mākole mākō pi`i	a native moss (<i>Thuidium hawaiiense</i>), the branches on one plane looking like small ferns. See mākō pi`i, maka `ō pi`i
`oau	a moss
`onohī awa	a black moss found in freshwater. Lit. eyeball of the fish awa.
`opulepule	a spotted land moss
`owau	same as `oau