

NATIVE PLANTS & TREES FOUND IN HQ PACAF'S COURTYARD OF HEROES

LOULU



There is a Loulu palm in the far left corner of the courtyard.

Although many people think of palm trees when they think of Hawaii – oftentimes with an image of a coconut palm swaying slightly in the breeze along a sandy beach – there was only one type of palm tree on the islands before the Polynesians arrived. That was the Loulu (genus *Pritchardia*); it is the only palm native to Hawaii. About 26 species of Loulu are found on tropical Pacific islands, with about 23 species growing around Hawaii – of which nineteen are endemic to these islands. “Endemic” means that this is the only place in the world that these palm trees grow.

The generic name “*Pritchardia*” comes from the name of William Thomas Pritchard (1829-1907), who was a 19th century British consul in Fiji and a well-known adventurer.

(All photos in this document were taken by U.S. Air Force Staff Sgt Gustavo Gonzalez)

Information for this document came from:

nativeplants.hawaii.edu/plant/view/Pritchardia_arecina (accessed 8/11/11)