

# KOKI‘O KE‘OKE‘O



**Scientific Name:** Hibiscus arnottianus

**Family:** Malvaceae

**Description:** The koki‘o ke‘oke‘o is usually seen as a 3 to 4 foot shrub, but slowly grows into a small tree 15 to 20 feet tall, and up to 20 feet in diameter. The slightly fragrant white flowers are pinwheel-shaped and measure up to four inches across. The staminal column is pink to red.

**Botanical or Ethnobotanical Interest:** The koki‘o ke‘oke‘o is endemic to Hawai‘i and subspecies arnottianus is native to O‘ahu. It grows at elevations of 390 to 2,500 feet in the Wai‘anae and eastern Ko‘olau mountains. Fiber from the koki‘o ke‘oke‘o was used for cordage, the bark was mixed with other ingredients and taken orally as a blood purifier and the buds were used as a mild laxative by early Hawaiians

**Horticultural/Landscape Use:** The O‘ahu hibiscus grows well in the ground or in a very large container. It requires full sun and will also grow well in coastal areas. It can be pruned and trained into a hedge, planted singly as a specimen, or grouped as a mass or screen.

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