PROTECT THE FOREST FROM YOUR BACKYARD!
A Gardener’s Guide for protecting Kaua’i’s natural environment

Check these web sites out for more information:

Kaua’i Invasive Species Committee
www.kauailisc.org

Plant Pono
www.plantpono.org

Hawaii Early Detection Network
www.reportapest.org

Beautiful plants are what make Kaua’i special. Gardening and landscaping are great ways to beautify your home! Do a little homework before you buy or trade plants and spread seeds. They may look nice in your yard, but invasives can escape the garden. Some plants are invasive and bad for the environment; choking out native species and destroying our island!

What makes a plant invasive?

• Quick Growth- it can rapidly mature
• Profuse reproduction- multiplies quickly with lots of seeds or offspring
• Easily dispersed - spreads afar quickly by seeds, water, wind, animals, or humans
• Displaces native species- crowds out or kills native species
• Can threaten human health
• Can effect agriculture, tourism, or our way of life

KISC is a voluntary partnership of government, private and non-profit organizations, and concerned individuals working to eliminate or control the most threatening invasive plant and animal species in order to preserve Kaua’i’s native bio-diversity and minimize adverse ecological, economic and social impacts.
Ornamental plants are common escapees from backyard gardens. Even if they are not seen spreading within the yard, spores, seeds, and vines can quickly move into the forest.

Ivy gourd is an example of an edible plant that escaped from the garden. Be careful of what you plant in your vegetable garden!