

FLOWER



'HOKU HAWAII'—THE HAWAIIAN STAR PROTEA

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Fig. 1. 'Hoku Hawaii', Hawaiian star protea.

'Hoku Hawaii', or Hawaiian star, is an early season sunburst hybrid whose bright red-orange flower resembles the color of an evening star.

Origin

'Hoku Hawaii' is a seedling selected from a cross between *L. lineare* and *L. cordifolium*. *L. lineare* was used to transmit earliness, long stems, and small, slender leaves, while *L. cordifolium* was used because of its good flower size and color. 'Hoku Hawaii' was selected in 1981 at the Kula experimental farm and designated Hybrid No. 7. Plants were propagated by cuttings for testing at various locations in 1983.



Fig. 2. 'Hoku Hawaii' plant in bloom.

Description

'Hoku Hawaii' produces bright red-orange flowers with orange-red ribbons and dark red styles. Flower diameter ranges from 9.0 to 9.6 cm. Peak flowering occurs in December.

The average stem length is 43 cm. The green, slender leaves are about 1.6 cm wide and 4.8 cm long.

Plants are vigorous and highly productive, and they appear to be tolerant to botrytis blight.

Availability

Cuttings are available in limited quantities from protea nurseries in Hawaii and from the Protea Association of Hawaii, P.O. Box 425, Kula, HI 96790.