

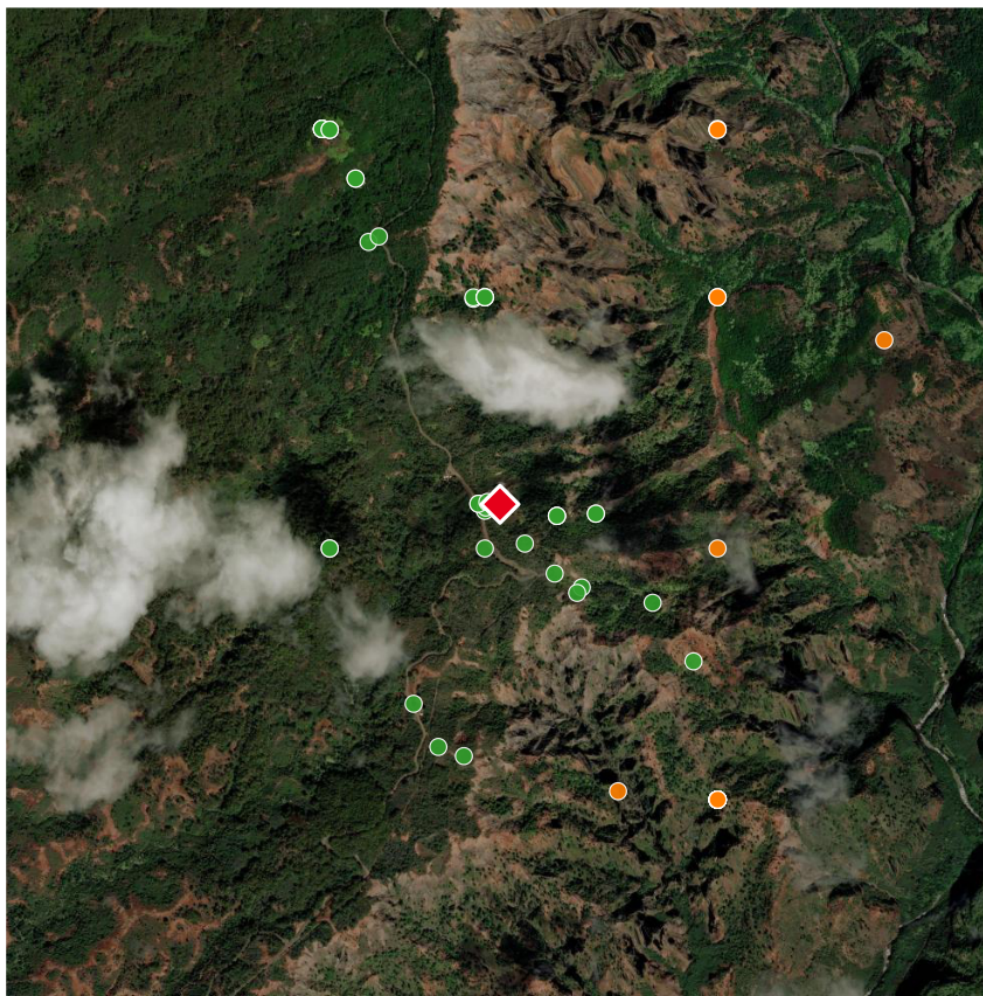
The Place — A Vertical Site

briefing_book · Report R1 · 'Iliau Loop Trail

Koke'e / Waimea Canyon, Kaua'i · 22.05176°N 159.65935°W · 886 m

'Iliau Loop Trail: voucher specimens by elevation zone

Each point is a herbarium voucher-specimen location



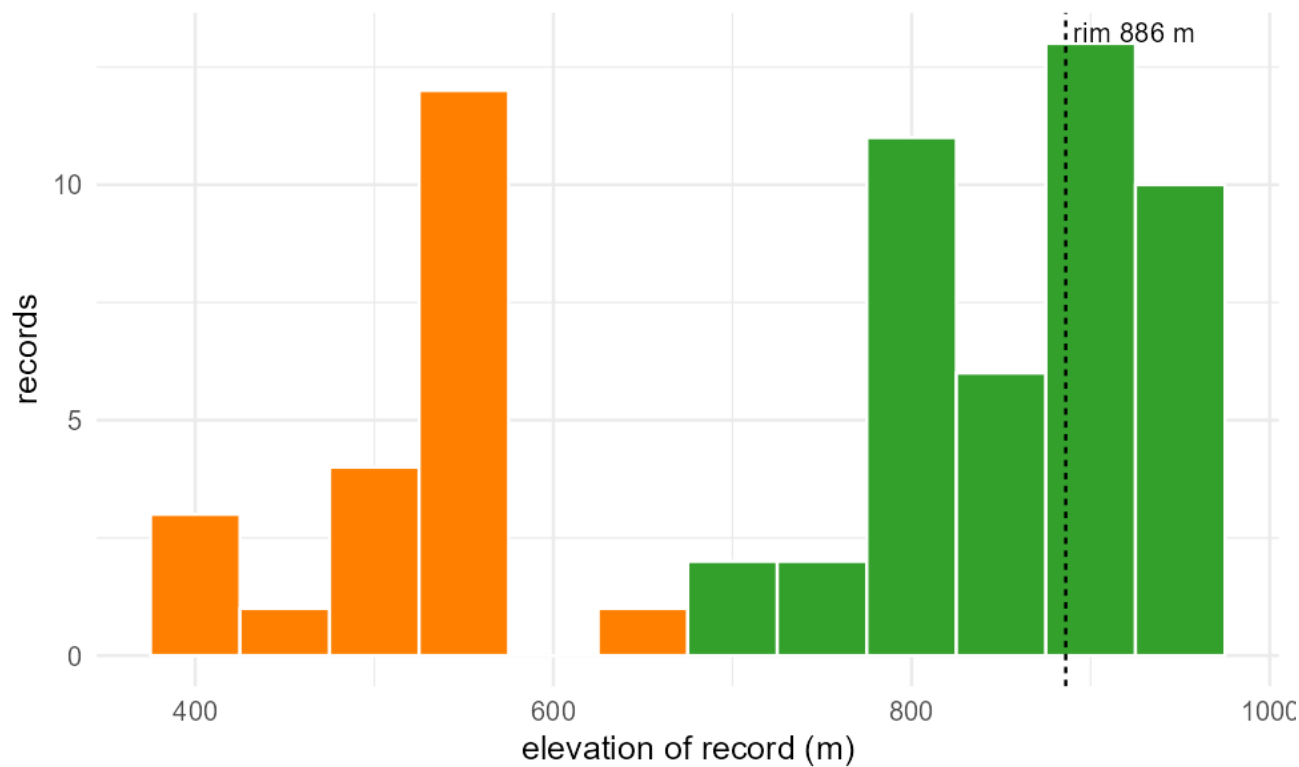
● canyon / lower slope ● rim (loop trail)

Red diamond = loop-trail centre (886 m). Canyon points are near in plan, far below in fact. Base: Esri World Imagery.

Each point is the location of a herbarium VOUCHER SPECIMEN. This site is defined by ELEVATION, not radius: the loop trail runs the canyon rim at ~886 m, but a 2 km circle drops 400+ m into Waimea Canyon, sweeping in records near in plan yet unrelated in fact. 31% (21 of 65) sit on the canyon floor / lower slope (below ~600 m) — 9 taxa found only there. Elevation cleanly separates the true rim site (44 records, 28 taxa, including the 'ilīau) from the canyon confusion. The place-identity problem is worse than at Kīpuka Puāulu, for a concrete reason: the trailhead is nearly invisible at highway speed with almost no parking, so pre-GPS collectors could not easily fix where they were.

The elevation discriminator

A vertical site: the elevation split



zone	records	taxa	unique to zone
rim (loop trail, ≥700 m)	44	28	22
canyon / lower slope (<700 m)	21	15	9

The rim flora is the site: 28 taxa on the loop-trail rim, including *Wilkesia gymnoxiphium* (‘iliau — silversword alliance, Kaua’i endemic; 1 voucher, scarce) and Kaua’i endemics such as *Hibiscus waimeae* and *Solanum sandwicense*. Use elevation to include or exclude vouchers for any ‘iliau analysis — canyon-floor collections belong to a different place. Centre = the loop-trail centre, 886 m.