

# Plants

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## Haha

*Cyanea obtusa*

### SPECIES STATUS:

Federally Listed as Candidate  
Hawai'i Natural Heritage Ranking - Critically Imperiled (G1)  
Endemism - Maui

**SPECIES INFORMATION:** *Cyanea obtusa*, a member of the bellflower family (Campanulaceae), is a branched shrub, 2-5 m tall. Leaves oblong to oblanceolate, with blades 15-30 cm long, 3-9 cm wide. Upper leaf surface green, sparsely pubescent; lower surface pale green, densely pubescent. Margins coarsely callose dentate, apex acute, base cuneate, petioles 3.5-10 cm long. Racemes axillary, with 6-12 flowers. Corolla pink-white; hypanthium purple-pink; pedicel purple-pink; peduncle green. Considered extinct, it was rediscovered and now considered endangered. Four plants were observed in 1997 at Kahikinui, and 30 or more were observed in 2001 at Pohakea.

**DISTRIBUTION:** Endemic to the island of Maui, the species is still extant on both west Maui and east Maui, at 4,780 ft elevation.

**ABUNDANCE:** Fewer than 40 plants are currently known from the two known populations.

**LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT:** West Maui, Pohakea, in *Metrosideros - Styphelia* shrubland. Associated native species include *Dodonaea viscosa*, *Osteomeles anthyllidifolia*, *Psychotria mauiensis*, *Santalum freycinetianum*, *Diospyros sanwicensis*, *Myrsine lessertiana*, *Acacia koa*, *Nestegia sandwicensis*, *Wikstroemia*, and *Doodia kunthiana*.

### THREATS:

- Habitat degradation by feral cattle;
- Goats;
- Fire;
- Competition from non-native plant taxa.

**CONSERVATION ACTIONS:** The goals of conservation actions are to not only protect current populations, but to also establish further populations to reduce the risk of extinction. In addition to common statewide and island conservation actions, specific actions include:

- Survey historic range for surviving populations;
- Establish secure *ex-situ* stocks with complete representation of remaining individuals;
- Augment wild population and establish new populations in safe harbors.

#### **MONITORING:**

- Survey for populations and distribution in known and likely habitats;
- Monitor exclosure fences for damage and inside exclosures for signs of ungulate ingress;
- Monitor plants for insect damage and plant diseases.

#### **RESEARCH PRIORITIES:**

- Develop proper horticultural protocols and pest management;
- Survey *ex-situ* holdings and conduct molecular fingerprinting;
- Conduct pollination biology and seed dispersal studies;
- Map genetic diversity in the surviving populations to guide future re-introduction and augmentation efforts.

#### **References:**

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