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Plants

Kamakahala

Labordia triflora

SPECIES STATUS:

Federally Listed as Endangered

Genetic Safety Net Species

Hawai'i Natural Heritage Ranking - Critically Imperiled (G1)

Endemism – Moloka'i

Critical Habitat - Designated

SPECIES INFORMATION: A shrub with long, lax stems. The tubular greenish flowers are borne singly or in clusters of three. The leaf stalks are only 1 to 3 mm (0.04 to 0.1 in.) long. The inflorescence stalks are 40 to 50 mm (1.6 to 2 in.) long. Each flower stalk is 10 to 25 mm (0.4 to 1 in.) long.

DISTRIBUTION: Moloka'i.

ABUNDANCE: Currently about ten plants are known.

LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT: Mesic forests in gulch bottoms and slopes. The habitat for this species is being degraded by feral goats and pigs.

THREATS:

- Habitat degradation by feral pigs;
- Fruit predation by rats;
- Competition from alien plant species;
- Stochastic extinction;
- Reduced reproductive vigor due to the small number of remaining individuals.

CONSERVATION ACTIONS: The goals of conservation actions are not only to protect current populations, but also to establish new populations to reduce the risk of extinction. The USFWS has developed a recovery plan that details specific tasks needed to recover this species. In addition to common statewide and island conservation actions, specific actions include:

- Survey historical 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:

Hawai'i Natural Heritage Program, 2005. Hawaii Natural Heritage Program Search, <http://www.hinhp.org/printpage.asp?spp=PDMAL0H0A0>.

US Fish and Wildlife Service. 1999. Final Listing, Endangered ETWP; Final Endangered Status for 10 Plant Taxa From Maui Nui, HI, Vol. 64, No. 171, (9-3-1999), 64 FR 48307-48324, 18 pp.