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Plants

Schiedea attenuata

SPECIES STATUS:

Federally Listed as a Candidate Species

Genetic Safety Net Species

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

Endemism – Kaua'i

SPECIES INFORMATION: An erect, sparingly branched shrub up to 75 cm tall. Leaves opposite, somewhat succulent. Cymes terminal, open.

DISTRIBUTION: Known from a single site in Kalalau valley, island of Kaua'i.

ABUNDANCE: About 20 individuals.

LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT: Diverse mesic forest pockets and vertical cliffs.

THREATS:

- Habitat degradation by feral pigs;
- 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. 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:

- Continue surveys of population and distribution in known and likely habitats;
- 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>.

Wagner, W.L.; Herbst, D.R.; Sohmer, S.H., 1999. Manual of the Flowering Plants of Hawai'i-- Revised Edition. Honolulu, HI: University of Hawaii Press and Bishop Museum Press. 1853p.