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Plants

Kolea

Myrsine mezii

SPECIES STATUS:

Federally Listed as a Candidate Species

Genetic Safety Net Species

IUCN Red List Ranking – Critically Endangered (CR C2a)

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

Endemism – Kaua'i

SPECIES INFORMATION: A small, many-branched tree. Flowers are borne in clusters below the leafy portions of the stems. Upper surface of leaf glabrous, lower surface brown puberulent, margin entire.

DISTRIBUTION: Recorded only from western part on the island of Kaua'i, at 3,000 feet elevation.

ABUNDANCE: The two current occurrences consist of four plants in Nawaimaka Valley and one plant in Kawai'iki Valley.

LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT: Waimea District, Na Pali-Kona Forest Reserve; above streams through disturbed mixed mesic forest of *Acacia koa* and *Metrosideros polymorpha* with *Syzygium*, *Dodonaea*, *Hedyotis*, *Psychotria*, *Scaevola*, *Perrottetia*, and *Diplazium*.

THREATS:

- Feral pigs;
- Alien plants (*Psidium cattleianum*, *Lantana camara*, *Corynocarpus laevigatus*);
- Floods and landslides.

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:

International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources, 2004, IUCN Red List of Threatened Species: Data Base Search, <http://www.redlist.org/search/search-basic.html>.

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.