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## Plants

### *Pittosporum halophilum*

#### SPECIES STATUS:

Genetic Safety Net Species  
Hawai'i Natural Heritage Ranking – Critically Imperiled (G1)  
Endemism – Moloka'i

**SPECIES INFORMATION:** Shrub 1.75 m tall, 7 cm diameter base, stems gray-brown, leaves clustered at branch tips, shiny dark green above, underside densely golden to silver strigose, tomentose.

**DISTRIBUTION:** Moloka'i.

**ABUNDANCE:** Moloka'i, Okala, off-shore islet near Kalaupapa (2 individuals), Kuka'iwa'a Peninsula (1 plant).

**LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT:** This species is found in mesic, coastal cliffs. Associated native species include *Osteomeles anthyllidifolia*, *Wikstroemia uva-ursi*, *Chamaesyce celastroides* var. *amplectens*, *Senna gaudichaudii*, *Artemesia australis*, *Melanthera integrifolia*, *Bidens molokiensis*, *Schiedea globosa*, *Chenopodium oahuense*, *Diospyros sandwicensis*, *Scaevola coriacea*, *Scaevola taccada*, *Plectranthus parviflorus*, *Cassytha filiformis*, *Lythrum maritimum*, *Sida fallax*, *Cocculus orbiculatus*, *Peperomia tetraphylla*, *Pittosporum halophilum*, *Portulaca lutea*, *Waltheria indica*, *Nesoluma polynesticum*, and *Carex meyenii*.

#### THREATS:

- Competition with non-native plant taxa;
- Possible landslides;
- Habitat degradation by feral pigs and rats;
- Fire;
- Loss of reproductive vigor as the result of limited numbers of existing 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:**

NTBG 2005. Wood, K.R. Field Data KRW 9821 and 9829. Unpublished data.