



F. and K. Starr, HEAR Hawai'i Natural Heritage Ranking - Critically Imperiled (G1)

## Plants

### Lo'ulu

*Pritchardia munroi*

#### SPECIES STATUS:

Federally Listed as Endangered

Genetic Safety Net Species

IUCN Red List Ranking - CR A2ce, D

Endemism – Maui, Moloka'i

Critical Habitat - Designated

**SPECIES INFORMATION:** *Pritchardia munroi* is a member of the palm family (Arecaceae). It is a tree up to 4 to 5 m tall with drooping leaves that are deeply divided into segments. It was discovered in 1920 on the island of Moloka'i and named after James Munro, manager of Moloka'i Ranch.

**DISTRIBUTION:** The two remaining individuals on Moloka'i grow near the base of a small ravine above Kamalo and Kapuaoko'olau.

**ABUNDANCE:** One population of two individuals.

**LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT:** Mesic shrublands.

#### THREATS:

- Habitat degradation due to feral ungulates (axis deer, goats, and pigs);
- Environmental events such as fires and hurricanes;
- Seed predation by rodents.

**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:

- 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>.

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US Fish and Wildlife Service. 1992. Final Listing, Endangered ETWP; Determination of Endangered or Threatened Status for 16 Plants from the Island of Molokai, Hawaii; Federal Register, 50 CFR Part 17, RIN 1018-AB69, (08-OCT-92), 57 FR 46325 46340.

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