



NTBG

Plants

Lo'ulu

Pritchardia viscosa

SPECIES STATUS:

Federally Listed as Endangered

Genetic Safety Net Species

IUCN Red List Ranking - CR A1acde+2cde, B1+2abcde, D

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

Endemism – Kaua'i

Critical Habitat - Designated

SPECIES INFORMATION: *Pritchardia viscosa*, a member of the palm family (Areaceae) is a small palm 3 to 8 meters (10 to 26 ft) tall. The lower surfaces of the leaf blades are silvery gray and covered with small scales. The inflorescences and leaf stalks are approximately the same lengths (15 to 20 cm), and consist of one to three loosely branched panicles. The flowers of *P. viscosa* are located in two separate rows and are very shiny and sticky. The fruits are about 2.5 centimeters wide and shaped like pears. This species differs from others of the genus that grow on Kaua'i by the degree of hairiness of the lower surface of the leaves and main axis of the flower cluster, and length of the flower cluster.

DISTRIBUTION: *Pritchardia viscosa* is restricted to open wet forests on the windward side on the ridge that terminates the Powerline Trail, Kaua'i. They can be found at approximately 500 to 700 meters (1,640 to 2,300 ft) elevation.

ABUNDANCE: One population with four mature individuals.

LOCATION AND CONDITION OF KEY HABITAT: *P. viscosa* is restricted to open wet forests on the windward side on the ridge that terminates the Powerline Trail, Kaua'i. They can be found at approximately 500 to 700 meters (1,640 to 2,300 ft) elevation. This habitat has been degraded by strawberry guava and alien grasses such as Hilo grass.

THREATS:

- Competition from non-native invasive species such as *Psidium cattleianum* (strawberry guava) and alien grasses, such as *Paspalum conjugatum* (Hilo grass);
- Seed predation by rats.

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=PDMALOH0A0>.

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>.

US Fish and Wildlife Service. 1996. Final Listing, Endangered ETWP Determination of Endangered or Threatened status for Nineteen Plant Species From the Island of Kauai, Hawaii; Federal Register, Vol. 61, No. 198, (10-Oct-96), 61 FR 53070 53089, 20 pp.

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.