

News Release

Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office
300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 5-122
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96850
808.792.9400
<http://www.fws.gov/pacificislands>



For Release: May 28, 2013
Contact: Ken Foote, 808 792 9535 or 282 9442

PIFWO-13-04
RO-13-062

40 Species on Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Maui Protected As Endangered Species under the Endangered Species Act

Final Critical Habitat Designations to be Published Separately

Thirty eight species - found on the Hawaiian Islands of Moloka'i, Lāna'i, Kaho'olawe, and Maui (collectively known as Maui Nui) - were given protection under the Endangered Species Act as endangered species today by the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service (Service). In addition the Service reaffirmed the listing of two endemic Hawaiian plants currently listed as endangered. The Service will work cooperatively with state, federal and Native Hawaiian partners, conservation organizations and private landowners to recover these species and conserve their habitat.

"The addition of these 40 Maui Nui species affords us the opportunity to provide additional protection to these rare species under the Endangered Species Act," said Loyal Mehrhoff, field supervisor for the Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office.

The 40 endangered species include 37 plant and three animal species. The 37 plant species include herbs, shrubs, trees and ferns. The 3 animal species are the Newcomb's tree snail and two Lāna'i tree snails. Of the 40 species, 20 were candidate species (17 plants and 3 tree snails), 15 are plant species of concern (each with fewer than 50 individuals remaining), and 3 are other plant species (*Cyanea duvalliorum*, *Cyrtandra ferripilosa*, and *Mucuna sloanei* var. *persericea*) that share common threats with the other 37 plant species. In addition, the Service has reaffirmed the listing status of two endangered plants (*Cyanea grimesiana* ssp. *grimesiana* and *Santalum haleakalae* var. *lanaiense*) whose range has changed since they were originally listed. These 40 species altogether are found in 11 ecosystem types: coastal, lowland dry, lowland mesic, lowland wet, montane dry, montane wet, montane mesic, subalpine, alpine, dry cliff, and wet cliff.

The Service is also delisting a Lāna'i plant, *Gahnia lanaiensis*. This plant, which is no longer believed to be a valid species, is now known to be synonymous with a species endemic to New Zealand, and is not in danger of extinction or likely to become an endangered species.

Degradation of habitat by non-native ungulates (i.e., pigs, goats, sheep and deer) is considered a threat to a majority of the 40 species. Additional threats are: habitat destruction and modification by non-native plants, fire, stochastic events (e.g., hurricanes, landslides, flooding etc.), agricultural and urban development, and climate change; direct consumption of plants by ungulates (e.g., pigs, deer, sheep and goats); other non-native vertebrates (rats) and nonnative invertebrates (snails and slugs); and inadequate existing regulatory mechanisms and other species-specific threats. The Service finds that all of these species face immediate and significant threats throughout their ranges.

The proposed rule was originally made available to the public on June 11, 2012, and the 60-day comment period was to close on August 10, 2012. The deadline for submitting comments was

extended an additional 30 days to September 10, 2012. The comment period was extended to ensure that the public has an adequate opportunity to review and comment on the proposed rule.

An additional comment period was opened on January 31, 2013, in conjunction with the release of the draft economic analysis of the proposed critical habitat and revised required determinations; that comment period closed on March 4, 2013. Comment on the proposed listing rule was also considered during this most recent comment period, since the proposed rule included both the proposed listings and critical habitat; recent Service guidance, however, has resulted in the proposed listings and proposed critical habitat being completed through two separate rulemakings.

The species receiving endangered species status are:

Plants		
Scientific name	Common Name	Location(s)
<i>Bidens campylotheca</i> ssp. <i>pentamera</i>	ko'oko'olau	Maui
<i>Bidens campylotheca</i> ssp. <i>waihoiensis</i>	ko'oko'olau	Maui
<i>Bidens conjuncta</i>	ko'oko'olau	Maui
<i>Calamagrostis hillebrandii</i>	No common name	Maui
<i>Canavalia pubescens</i>	'āwikiwiki	Lāna'i, Maui, Kaua'i, Niihau
<i>Cyanea asplenifolia</i>	Hāhā	Maui
<i>Cyanea duvalliorum</i>	Hāhā	Maui
<i>Cyanea grimesiana</i> ssp. <i>grimesiana</i>	Hāhā	Moloka'i, O'ahu
<i>Cyanea horrida</i>	Hāhā nui	Maui
<i>Cyanea kunthiana</i>	Hāhā	Maui
<i>Cyanea magnicalyx</i>	Hāhā	Maui
<i>Cyanea maritae</i>	Hāhā	Maui
<i>Cyanea mauiensis</i>	Hāhā	Maui
<i>Cyanea munroi</i>	Hāhā	Moloka'i, Lāna'i
<i>Cyanea obtusa</i>	Hāhā	Maui
<i>Cyanea profuga</i>	Hāhā	Moloka'i
<i>Cyanea solanacea</i>	popolo	Moloka'i
<i>Cyrtandra ferripilosa</i>	ha'iwale	Maui
<i>Cyrtandra filipes</i>	ha'iwale	Maui
<i>Cyrtandra oxybapha</i>	ha'iwale	Maui
<i>Festuca molokaiensis</i>	No common name	Moloka'i
<i>Geranium hanaense</i>	nohoanu	Maui
<i>Geranium hillebrandii</i>	nohoanu	Maui
<i>Mucuna sloanei</i> var. <i>persericea</i>	sea bean	Maui
<i>Myrsine vaccinioides</i>	Kōlea	Maui
<i>Peperomia subpetiolata</i>	alaala wai nui	Maui
<i>Phyllostegia bracteata</i>	No common name	Maui
<i>Phyllostegia haliakalae</i>	No common name	Moloka'i, Lāna'i, Maui
<i>Phyllostegia pilosa</i>	No common name	Moloka'i, Maui
<i>Pittosporum halophilum</i>	hoawa	Moloka'i
<i>Pleomele fernaldii</i>	hala pepe	Lāna'i,
<i>Santalum haleakalae</i> var. <i>lanaiense</i>	'iliahi	Moloka'i, Lāna'i, Maui
<i>Schiedea jacobii</i>	No common name	Maui
<i>Schiedea laui</i>	No common name	Moloka'i
<i>Schiedea salicaria</i>	No common name	Maui
<i>Stenogyne kauaulaensis</i>	No common name	Maui
<i>Wikstroemia villosa</i>	Akia	Maui
Animals		
Scientific name	Common Name	Location(s)
<i>Newcombia cumingi</i>	Newcomb's tree snail	Maui
<i>Partulina semicarinata</i>	Lāna'i tree snail	Lāna'i
<i>Partulina variabilis</i>	Lāna'i tree snail	Lāna'i

The Endangered Species Act provides a critical safety net for America's native fish, wildlife and plants. This landmark conservation law has prevented the extinction of hundreds of imperiled species across the nation and promoted the recovery of many others.

The health of threatened and endangered species is strongly linked to the health and well-being of people and communities. Millions of Americans depend on habitat that sustains imperiled species – for clean air and water, recreational opportunities and for their livelihoods.

The Service's priority is to make implementation of the ESA less complex, less contentious and more effective. The agency seeks to accelerate recovery of threatened and endangered species across the nation, while making it easier for people to coexist with these species.

The Endangered Species Act makes it illegal to kill, harm or otherwise "take" a listed species, or to possess, import, export or engage in interstate or international commerce of a listed species without authorization in the form of a permit from the Service. The Act also requires all federal agencies to minimize the impact of their activities on listed species, and directs the Service to work with federal agencies and other partners to develop and carry out recovery efforts for those species. Listing also focuses attention on the needs of the species, encouraging conservation efforts by other agencies (federal, state and local), conservation groups and other organizations and individuals.

The final rule was published in the *Federal Register* on May 28, 2013. Copies of the final rule may be downloaded from the Service's website at <http://www.fws.gov/pacificislands/>. For further information contact: Loyal Mehrhoff, Field Supervisor, Pacific Islands Fish and Wildlife Office, U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service, 300 Ala Moana Boulevard, Room 3-122, Box 50088, Honolulu, Hawai'i 96850; telephone 808/792-9400 or fax 808/ 792-9581.

The mission of the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service is working with others to conserve, protect, and enhance fish, wildlife, plants, and their habitats for the continuing benefit of the American people. We are both a leader and trusted partner in fish and wildlife conservation, known for our scientific excellence, stewardship of lands and natural resources, dedicated professionals, and commitment to public service. For more information on our work and the people who make it happen, visit www.fws.gov. Connect with our Facebook page at www.facebook.com/usfws, follow our tweets at www.twitter.com/usfwshq, watch our YouTube Channel at <http://www.youtube.com/usfws> and download photos from our Flickr page at <http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwshq>

-FWS-

Note to Editors: Images can be downloaded from the following Flickr Site:
<http://www.flickr.com/photos/usfwspacific/sets/72157629988006950/>