



Ka Palupalu o Kanaloa Partnership Project - *Kanaloa kahoowawensis*

BACKGROUND

Discovered on 'Ale'ale in 1993 as a new genus with only two wild plants in existence, efforts have been underway to recover the species into stable populations. After many failed attempts of propagation of the cultivated plants a breakthrough in 2016 produced two clones through cuttings. From these cuttings numerous seedlings have been produced. The purpose of this project is to implement the KIRC Ka Palupalu o Kanaloa Management Plan through a working group Hui to restore *Kanaloa kahoowawensis* into the wild. This plan aligns with the already existing USFWS Recovery Plan and includes the timeline and history also detailing current efforts underway.

PROJECT GOALS

- The Partnership Hui meets on a quarterly basis.
- Cultivate Ka Palupalu o Kanaloa plants in propagation facilities.
- Create storm shelters within the propagation facilities.
- Propagate 100 or more plants at multiple nurseries.
- Outplant propagated plants into the wild to form stable populations.

PARTNERS: USFWS, Maui Nui Botanical Garden, National Tropical Botanical Garden (Kahanu Garden and Preserve), Olinda Rare Plant Facility, Ho'olawa Farms, RCUH Plant Extinction Prevention Program, Lyon Arboretum Micropropagation Lab, Makena Golf & Beach Club, Protect Kaho'olawe 'Ohana.

HIGHLIGHTS- JANUARY 1ST-MARCH 31ST 2024

- Twenty-one plants are in propagation and are distributed at Ho'olawa Farms (Haiku), Olinda Rare Plant Facility (Olinda), Maui Nui Botanical Gardens (Kahului) and Kahanu Gardens (Hana). Only the plants at Maui Nui Botanical Gardens are available to the public for viewing.
- The Working Group Hui met on February 5th.
- In addition to the plants in propagation genetic material from the Maui plants are being transported to O'ahu on a regular basis for cloning and genetic work.

- Three Plants at Kahanu gardens were transplanted from 7- to 20-gallon pots.
- The Ka Palupalu o Kanaloa Management Plan and Resource Guide for 2024 is completed and available from the KIRC.
- The Ho‘olawa plant will transplanted into a larger planter box due to rot. That plant is the oldest (15 years) and largest one.
- The communication sub-group met on February 21st.
- A website design has been created to raise awareness about the Kanaloa plant.
- The communications group discussed core messages, communications do’s and don’ts and public calls to action.
- The last seed from the now “extinct in the wild” plant collected in 2008 was successfully propagated. There are now only two original seedlings from that last wild plant with the rest being clones/cuttings (4) and 2nd generation seedlings (15).
- A communications sub-group was formed and now meets on a quarterly basis. This group discusses public information dissemination, fund raising and shared goals within the hui.



Ka Palupalu o Kanaloa plant with flowers at Ho‘olawa Farms