

Peer Review

In accordance with our policy published on July 1, 1994 (59 FR 34270), we solicited independent opinions from 12 knowledgeable individuals with expertise in one or several fields, including familiarity with the species, familiarity with the geographic region that the species occurs in, and familiarity with the principles of conservation biology. We received comments from three. All three generally supported our methodology and conclusion, but none supported or opposed the proposed critical habitat designations. Comments received from the peer reviewers were summarized in the previous section and considered in developing the final rule.

Summary of Changes From the Revised Proposed Rule

Based on a review of public comments received on the proposed determinations of critical habitat, we have reevaluated our proposed designations and included several changes to the final designations of critical habitat. These changes include the following:

(1) The scientific names were changed for the following associated species found in the “*Supplementary Information: Discussion of the Plant Taxa*” section: *Styphelia tameiameia* changed to *Leptecophylla tameiameia* in the discussion of *Gahnia lanaiensis*, *Hedyotis schlechtendahlia* var. *remyi*, and *Viola lanaiensis*; *Odontosoria chinensis* changed to *Sphenomeris chinensis* in the discussion of *G. lanaiensis* and *H. schlechtendahlia*

var. *remyi*; *Diospyros ferrea* changed to *D. sandwicensis* in the discussion of *Abutilon eremitopetalum*.

(2) We removed *Sapindus oahuensis* from the list of associated species in the “*Supplementary Information: Discussion of the Plant Taxa*” section for *Bonamia menziesii*; added gulch bottoms to habitat in the species description section for *Abutilon eremitopetalum*; and throughout the species description section removed goats and pigs and replaced them with mouflon sheep and axis deer as current threats. Goats and pigs are no longer present on Lanai and were mistakenly included as current threats.

(3) We received new information on the presence of *Bidens micrantha* ssp. *kalealaha* in Waiapaa Gulch. For *Tetramolopium remyi*, we updated the two occurrences to one occurrence, updated the number of plants to 150 and updated “Table 2.—Summary of existing occurrences on Lanai, and landownership for 37 species reported from Lanai.” This new information did not affect our decisions in designating critical habitat for these species. Waiapaa Gulch was proposed as critical habitat for *B. micrantha* ssp. *kalealaha* and the loss of a population of *T. remyi* is a recent extirpation and the habitat once occupied is still considered essential to the recovery of that species. We believe that its recent presence indicates a high likelihood of a seed bank in the area.

(4) We changed “flowering cycles, pollination vectors, seed dispersal agents” to “reproduction cycles, dispersal agents” in the life history portion of the “*Supplementary*

Information: Discussion of the Plant Taxa” section for the fern species *Ctenitis squamigera*, *Diellia erecta*, and *Diplazium molokaiense*.

(5) We revised the list of manmade features that are excluded from the designation in order to exclude additional features based on information received during the public comment periods. The revised list is described in the “*Criteria Used to Identify Critical Habitat*” and in regulatory language for section 17.96 “*Critical habitat—plants*” described at the end of this document.

(6) We revised our decision on the essentiality of Kanepuu Preserve for the conservation of *Bonamia menziesii* (see “*Managed Lands*”).

(7) We made revisions to the unit boundaries based on information supplied by commenters, as well as information gained from field visits to some of the sites, that indicated that the primary constituent elements were not present in certain portions of the proposed unit, that certain changes in land use had occurred on lands within the proposed critical habitat that would preclude those areas from supporting the primary constituent elements, or that the areas were not essential to the conservation of the species in question. In addition, an area was excluded based on weighing the benefits of inclusion versus exclusion pursuant to section 4(b)(2) of the Act (see “*Economic Analysis*”).

A brief summary of the modifications made to each unit is given below (see also Figure 1).

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