



# Media Advisory

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Public Affairs Office  
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*“Malama na Koa”*

Release number: 2009-03-09  
March 23, 2009

## FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

**WHO:** Oahu Army Natural Resource Staff

**WHAT:** Reintroduction of endangered native Hawaiian plants

**WHEN:** 8:30 a.m., March 24

**WHERE:** Kahanahaiki, Makua Valley

**DETAILS:** U.S. Army natural resource staff will reintroduce endangered *Cyanea superba* plants into Makua Valley. The plants will be placed into a special carrier and sling loaded underneath a helicopter for transport to their final planting location.

In 1996, *Cyanea superba* existed in 2 small populations on Federal and State land, consisting of a total of 10 plants. By 1998, all 5 plants on State land had died and only the 5 plants on Federal land remained. In just 3 years, 4 out of the 5 remaining wild individuals have died and now only a single remaining wild plant of *Cyanea superba* is left. In 2000, this remaining plant flowered and fruited for the first time and seed was collected for in vitro propagation.

Found only in Hawaii, *Cyanea superba* is a palm-like tree sometimes reaching 20 feet in height that is crowned by a tight rosette of leaves. It bears numerous white and cream-colored flowers on pendant inflorescences that hang up to a foot below its leaves. This species is most severely threatened by habitat degradation caused by introduced animals and competition with more aggressive exotic plants.

The media is invited to view the planting, helicopter operations, and to speak with Army Natural Resource Specialist concerning the Army's efforts to save endangered native Hawaiian plants.

**MEDIA NOTE:** *Media wishing to attend should R.S.V.P. no later than 8 p.m., Mar. 23. For further information, please contact Loran D. Doane, Media Relations chief, at 808-656-3157 or 317-847-2222.*