all known populations of Labordia cyrtandrae, and Pritchardia kaalae (Environment Impact Study Corp. 1977; HHP 1993, 1994a, 1994b, 1994k2 1994k5, 1994k6, 1994m7, 1994m9 to 1994m11, 1994o1, 1994o2, 1994o4, 1994013, 1994018, 1994037 to 1994040, 1994o43, 1994o44, 1994p2, 1994p14 to 1994p16, 1994aa2, 1994aa5; Yoshioka et al. 1991). Accidentally or intentionally set fires in areas of habitation near the Lualualei Naval Reservation and the Makua Military Reservation could easily spread and pose a possible threat to more than half of the individuals of Lepidium arbuscula that occur on both reservations and one population of Melicope saint-johnii (HHP 1994q3, 1994q5, 1994q8, 1994q10, 1994q11, 1994t15; J. Lau, pers. comm. 1994). Fire is also a potential threat to Chamaesyce herbstii, Cyanea longiflora, Cyrtandra dentata, Phyllostegia hirsuta, Phyllostegia kaalaensis, and Schiedea kealiae, which occur in dry or mesic habitats with adequate conditions for the spread of fire, at least seasonally (HHP 1994c1 to 1994c5, 1994h1, 1994h3, 1994h11, 1994j2, 1994j6, 1994j7, 1994v6, 1994v34 to 1994v36, 1994w2 to 1994w4, 1994w6, 1994bb3).

Erosion, landslides, and rockslides due to natural weathering result in the death of individual plants as well as habitat destruction. This especially affects the continued existence of taxa or populations with limited numbers and/or narrow ranges on cliffs, such as the only known population of *Lobelia* gaudichaudii ssp. koolauensis and the Kaena Point population of *Schiedea* kealiae (HHP 1994bb3; L. Mehrhoff, pers. comm. 1994).

People are more likely to come into contact with species that have populations near trails or roads or in recreational areas. Alien plants may be introduced into such areas as seeds on footwear, or people may cause erosion, trample plants, or start fires (Cuddihy and Stone 1990). The following proposed taxa have populations in recreational areas or close to roads or trails and are potentially threatened by human disturbance—Cyanea humboldtiana, Cyanea koolauensis, Cyanea st.-johnii, Delissea subcordata, Eragrostis fosbergii, Lepidium arbuscula, and Lobelia gaudichaudii (HHP 1994f1, 1994g22, 1994i7, 1994i9, 1994i10, 1994n3 to 1994n6, 1994q4; L. Mehrhoff, pers. comm. 1994).

The small number of populations and individuals of most of these taxa increases the potential for extinction from naturally occurring events. The small gene pool may depress reproductive vigor, or a single humancaused or natural environmental disturbance could destroy a significant percentage of the individuals or the only extant population. Two of the proposed plant taxa, *Lobelia gaudichaudii* ssp. *koolauensis* and *Lobelia monostachya*, are known from a single population. An additional 15 of the proposed taxa have 5 or fewer populations. Twelve of the taxa are estimated to number no more than 100 individuals and 4 of those taxa (*Cyrtandra viridiflora, Eragrostis fosbergii, Labordia cyrtandrae*, and *Lobelia monostachya*) are estimated to number no more than 10 individuals (see Table 1).

The Service has carefully assessed the best scientific and commercial information available regarding the past, present, and future threats faced by these taxa in determining to propose this rule. Based on this evaluation, this rulemaking proposes to list these 25 species as endangered—Chamaesyce herbstii, Chamaesyce rockii, Cyanea acuminata, Cyanea humboldtiana, Cyanea koolauensis, Cyanea longiflora, Cyanea st.-johnii, Cyrtandra dentata, Cyrtandra subumbellata, Cyrtandra viridiflora, Delissea subcordata, Eragrostis fosbergii, Gardenia mannii, Labordia cyrtandrae, Lepidium arbuscula, Lobelia gaudichaudii ssp. koolauensis, Lobelia monostachya, Melicope saint-johnii, Myrsine juddii, Phyllostegia hirsuta, Phyllostegia kaalaensis, Pritchardia kaalae, Schiedea kealiae, Trematolobelia singularis, and Viola oahuensis. The 25 taxa are threatened by one or more of the following-habitat degradation and/or predation by pigs, goats, and rats; insect infestations; competition for space, light, water, and nutrients by alien plants; habitat loss from fires; and human impacts from military training practices and from recreational activities. Twenty-one of the 25 taxa either number no more than 100 individuals or are known from no more than 5 populations. Small population size and limited distribution make these taxa particularly vulnerable to extinction from reduced reproductive vigor or from naturally occurring events. Because the 25 taxa are in danger of extinction throughout all or a significant portion of their ranges, they fit the definition of endangered as defined in the Act. Therefore, the determination of endangered status for these 25 taxa appears warranted.

² Critical habitat is not being proposed for the 25 taxa included in this rule for reasons discussed in the "Critical Habitat" section of this proposal.

Critical Habitat

Critical habitat is defined in section 3 of the Act as—(i) the specific areas

within the geographical area occupied by a species, at the time it is listed in accordance with the Act, on which are found those physical or biological features (I) essential to the conservation of the species and (II) that may require special management consideration or protection; and (ii) specific areas outside the geographical area occupied by a species at the time it is listed, upon a determination that such areas are essential for the conservation of the species. "Conservation" means the use of all methods and procedures needed to bring the species to the point at which listing under the Act is no longer necessary.

Section 4(a)(3) of the Act, as amended, and implementing regulations (50 CFR 424.12) require that, to the maximum extent prudent and determinable, the Secretary designate critical habitat at the time the species is determined to be endangered or threatened. The Service finds that designation of critical habitat is not prudent for the 25 taxa proposed in this rule. Service regulations (50 CFR 424.12(a)(1)) state that designation of critical habitat is not prudent when one or both of the following situations exist—(1) The species is threatened by taking or other human activity, and identification of critical habitat can be expected to increase the degree of threat to the species, or (2) such designation of critical habitat would not be beneficial to the species. The Service finds that designation of critical habitat is not presently prudent for these 25 taxa. As discussed under Factor B, these taxa are potentially threatened by overcollection due to their low population size. The publication of precise maps and descriptions of critical habitat in the Federal Register and local newspapers as required in a proposal for critical habitat would increase the degree of threat to these plants from take or vandalism and, therefore, could contribute to their decline. The listing of these taxa as endangered publicizes the rarity of the plants and, thus, can make these plants attractive to researchers, curiosity seekers, or collectors of rare plants. All involved parties and the major landowners have been notified of the location of these taxa. Additional protection of the habitat of these taxa will be addressed through the recovery process and through the Section 7 consultation process. The Service finds that designation of critical habitat for these 25 taxa is not prudent at this time. Such a designation would increase the degree of threat from vandalism, collecting, or other human activities and