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**Hylaeus hula** (Perkins, 1911)  
(Hymenoptera: Colletidae: Hylaeinae)

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### SUMMARY

*Hylaeus hula* is a small bee endemic to the island of Hawaii in Hawaii. It is superficially similar to *H. flavifrons*, differing by the narrower yellow-marked scape and other details. Most collection records are from the Kilauea area, and like other dry-mesic species it is now rare.

### CONSERVATION STATUS

**Xerces Red List Status:** Imperiled  
**Other Rankings:**  
- Canada – Species at Risk Act: N/A  
- Canada – provincial status: N/A  
- Mexico: N/A  
- USA – Endangered Species Act: Species of Concern  
- USA – state status: HI: Species of Concern  
- NatureServe: GNR  
- IUCN Red List: N/A

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### SPECIES PROFILE

**DESCRIPTION**  
**Males:** Black; head nearly all yellow below the antennae, scape with a distinctive yellow stripe on the lateral margin. Hairs at the apex of the abdomen black, erect.

**Females:** Face with narrow stripes along the eye. Supraclypeal area relatively long, only about twice as wide as long.

*Hylaeus hula* is an unusual species that does not fit into any of the well-defined species groups. It is apparently related to *H. kokeensis* and *H. unicus*. 
**TAXONOMIC STATUS**

*Hylaeus hula* was described as *Nesoprosopis hula* by Perkins (1911). *Nesoprosopis* was reduced to a subgenus of *Hylaeus* by Meade-Waldo (1923). The most recent taxonomic treatment was Daly and Magnacca (2003).

**LIFE HISTORY**

*Hylaeus hula* inhabits dry to mesic forests. All recent collections have come from *Chamaesyce olowaluana* (akoko) and *Santalum paniculatum* (iliahi, sandalwood) trees. Nesting habits are not known, but based on related species it probably nests in wood.

**DISTRIBUTION**

*Hylaeus hula* is restricted to upper-elevation dry and mesic forest. Two disjunct populations are known, at Kilauea and at Puu Waawaa Wildlife Sanctuary. However, much of the intervening area has not been fully searched.

**THREATS**

The rarity of *H. hula* and lack of knowledge about its requirements make it difficult to assess threats. Unlike other, more common species, it is never found in dry shrubland, a much more common habitat than dry or mesic forest. The latter have been heavily impacted by grazing and other factors, but the large potential area and lack of access makes it difficult to assess how much remains, or what the true distribution of *H. hula* is. Lack of nest sites due to declines in the populations of wood-boring *Plagithmysus* longhorn beetles may also be a factor, but has not been investigated.

**CONSERVATION STATUS**

This species is extremely rare; it has been found only at two small sites and in low numbers.

Originally, U.S. Federal listings of rare and endangered species classed *H. hula* as a “Category 2” Candidate Species about which more information was needed before it could be considered for listing. This status was based on recognition that Hawaiian bees in general were becoming rarer and little was known about their conservation status. Data were never gathered to document whether or not this species should be proposed for listing. It is currently considered to be a “Species of Concern” or a “Special Status Species” by U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service and Hawaii Division of Forestry and Wildlife.

**CONSERVATION NEEDS**

The top priority is to identify extant populations and document the continued existence of the species. Both sites where *H. hula* is known to be found are protected under the auspices of the State of Hawaii and the National Park Service, though they may not be actively managed for habitat conservation; other populations may be found on private or U.S. Army land. The trees that *H. hula* were collected on at Puu Waawaa lie just outside a sheep fence; including them in the fenced area and/or planting *C. olowaluana* within the exclosure would help greatly. All areas are highly vulnerable to fire.
Research Needs
Identify reasons for rarity and habitat requirements, and locate new populations.

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Resources

Contacts
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References


Websites
Bishop Museum Arthropod Species of Concern checklist
http://hbs.bishopmuseum.org/endangered/soc-artho.html