

Prosopis pallida

Kiawe, algaroba

Prosopis pallida (Humb-Bonpl. ex Willd.) Kunth

Family: Fabaceae

Description: Large tree to 30 ft tall, with wide canopy that droops to the ground. Stems armed with thorns 1 inch or so long. Leaves twice compound, with 3 pairs of secondary leaf stems each with 10 pairs of pale green leaflets. Leaflets 0.6 inches long by 0.1 inch wide. Inflorescence cylindrical, pendant, yellow. Mature pods flat, curved, yellowish; once collected for cattle feed. Kiawe wood used as fenceposts and for making charcoal. *Prosopis*, ancient Greek for burdock, reason unclear; *pallida*, pale, presumably describing the leaf color^(5, 70).

Distribution: Native to northwestern South America, occurs on all islands of Hawai'i except Ni'ihau, especially in dry coastal areas. Reportedly introduced by Catholic priest Father Bachelot, who planted a seed from the Royal Gardens in Paris on the church grounds on Fort Street near Beretania Street in Honolulu, from which tree all kiawe in Hawai'i are descended. Also naturalized in Puerto Rico and Australia⁽⁷⁰⁾.

Environmental impact: Broad canopy shades out forages in pastures and native plants in coastal natural areas. Because of thorns and drooping branches, kiawe



can also physically block passage of people and animals. Its deep roots deprive shallow rooted plants of water.

Management: Saplings sensitive to basal bark applications of 2,4-D and triclopyr at 2% of product in diesel or crop oil. HAVO staff reported control with triclopyr ester at 5% product in diesel oil applied to basal bark (Chris Zimmer, HAVO).