

**Written Comments before the Committee on  
Ways and Means**

**April 4, 2013**

**9:50am**

**Curtis Beck**

**Manager, Energy Services Department  
Hawaii Electric Light Company**

**SCR 74, SD1 / SR 41, SDI – URGING THE INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE INTERAGENCY PLAN FOR THE CONTROL AND ERADICATION OF ALBIZIA TROUGHOUT THE STATE; STARTING WITH THE ISLAND OF HAWAII, AND TO PARTNER TO UTILIZE ALBIZIA TREES THAT ARE REMOVED AND URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO INVESTIGATE BIOCONTROL AGENTS FOR THE CONTROL OF ALBIZIA.**

Chair Ige, Vice Chair Kidani, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Electric Light Company supports the intent of these resolutions.

Albizia trees are a major cause of electric service disruptions on the Island of Hawaii. This invasive plant forces us to spend a disproportionate amount of time, energy and resources to address issues created by this plant. For example, although Albizia trees comprise less than 4% of the trees located near HELCO power lines and substations, they are the majority cause of tree related service outages for our company, and in 2012 affected thousands of our customers.

We hope that one of the results of this resolution will be increased public awareness of the Albizia tree problem and lead to better education on how to deal with stopping the proliferation of this invasive plant.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on these resolutions.

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**Date:** Tuesday, April 02, 2013 2:34:55 PM

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SCR74

Submitted on: 4/2/2013

Testimony for WAM on Apr 4, 2013 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janeel Hew	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Greetings, I stand in support of SCR74. I respectfully thank you for your consideration on the facts that, Albizia is a fast growing tree that is invasive (weedy) in native `ohi`a forests as well as on land disturbed by human activities. Albizia causes `ohi`a to die off, and makes the environment more favorable for other invasive species (clidemia, guava, and possibly miconia and the coqui frog). Because of their brittle wood and weak structure, large albizia trees pose a hazard to nearby infrastructure. Strong winds can cause large limbs to drop onto whatever may be underneath, potentially causing costly damage to homes and power lines. Albizia grows at a rapid rate. Trees can reach heights of more than 20 feet in their first year, 45 feet in their third year, and 60 feet by the end of their tenth year. The crown of an albizia tree is broad, capable of shading over half an acre. It may be a beautiful species to see, yet is invasive and dangerous. I strongly urge you to protect our natural species, property and the people of Hawaii, by passing SCR74. Mahalo in advance, Janeel Hew

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SR41

Submitted on: 4/2/2013

Testimony for WAM on Apr 4, 2013 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Bidleman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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SCR74

Submitted on: 4/2/2013

Testimony for WAM on Apr 4, 2013 09:50AM in Conference Room 211

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rosemarie Patronette	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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