

**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.