



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

**Friday, January 24, 2014
9:30 AM
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1769
MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO MANAGE ALBIZIA TREES
ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII**

House Bill 1769 proposes to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaii for the control of albizia (*Falcataria moluccana*) on Hawaii Island. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) **supports this measure and offers the following comments.**

As an island state, Hawaii faces a broad array of invasive species problems, including stinging fire ants, rapidly growing invasive plants that alter watershed forest composition and function, marine algae that smother our coral reefs, and mosquitoes that may carry deadly diseases. The fast-growing albizia tree is one of these problems, in that it can displace native plant species and present a human health risk by dropping branches onto roadways or other structures. The interagency Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC), administratively hosted within the Department, is currently funding a demonstration project on albizia control methodologies in Puna on Hawaii Island.

Albizia control is a worthy effort in Hawaii, especially strategic control in areas such as Puna and roadways leading to the Hilo Medical Center. Because albizia is one of many serious invasive species impacting Hawaii, the Department suggests that an appropriation for the control of albizia be considered within the context of other budgetary requests for invasive species control in Hawaii under consideration during this legislative session. As written, this bill would provide as much as \$5,000,000 from the general fund to the University of Hawai'i for control efforts. The Department supports this effort, in so much as this appropriation does not negatively impact appropriations for other priority invasive species projects across the State.

The Department further notes that the Pacific Cooperative Studies Unit (PCSU) is hosted by the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa, within the Botany Department. PCSU manages a project entitled the Big Island Invasive Species Committee (BIISC).

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

lowen2-Lanaly

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, January 22, 2014 11:29 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: OccupyHiloMedia@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1769 on Jan 24, 2014 09:30AM

HB1769

Submitted on: 1/22/2014

Testimony for WAL on Jan 24, 2014 09:30AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kerri Marks	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Mahalo Rep Hanohano and Rep Nakashima for introducing this bill to fund management of the very invasive and deadly albizia tree on Hawaii Island

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2014 4:18 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: skaye@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1769 on Jan 24, 2014 09:30AM

HB1769

Submitted on: 1/23/2014

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Springer Kaye	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments: Written testimony submitted in person. This appropriation is an investment to avoid far greater future costs and liabilities for un-managed trees.

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Aloha!

I support HB 1769 to help control the spread of *Falcataria moluccana*. This tree is highly invasive and dangerous to power lines and people and should be eradicated.

Mahalo

Geoffrey B Hajim
PO Box 430
Papaikou, HI 96781

Aloha!

I support HB 1769 to help control the spread of *Falcataria moluccana*. This tree is highly invasive and dangerous to power lines and people and should be eradicated.

Mahalo

Geoffrey B Hajim
PO Box 430
Papaikou, HI 96781

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2014 4:35 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: jbrunger@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1769 on Jan 24, 2014 09:30AM*

HB1769

Submitted on: 1/23/2014

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joel Brunger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2014 4:41 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: robyagi@Gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1769 on Jan 24, 2014 09:30AM

HB1769

Submitted on: 1/23/2014

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Yagi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please provide support for Albizia control. These trees have endangered my property, blocked my roads, and have been a real inconvenience for years.

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J Yoshimoto
Chair & Presiding Officer
Council District 2



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HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

*Office of the County Clerk
County of Hawai'i
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720*

**TESTIMONY OF J YOSHIMOTO, CHAIR
HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
REGARDING
HB 1769, RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES
APPROPRIATION FOR ALBIZIA**

House Committee Water and Land
Friday, January 24, 2014 at 930 a.m..
Conference Room 325

Chair Evans, Vice-Chair Lowen and Committee Members:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony IN SUPPORT of House Bill 1769.

HB 1769 seeks to appropriate much needed funds to combat ALBIZIA on the Island of Hawai'i. .

I wholeheartedly support HB 1769. Albizia trees are a dangerous and deadly invasive species. Albizia is a fast spreading and fast growing species that has become the tree canopy for much of the island. The branches of this tree are brittle and break off, and this shallow rooted tree is easily uprooted, causing untold damage to streets and property. There was also one death in recent years in which an Albizia tree was a factor.

Waianuenue Avenue is lined on both sides by towering Albizia trees. Within the past few years, this main access route to Hilo Hospital has been closed due to Albizia trees falling and branches breaking off. Power is disrupted to the affected areas.

A pilot project which started in the Piihonua Camps area in Hilo has proven that Albizia trees can be controlled, but we must act now before the problem becomes unmanageable.

Once again, thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony IN SUPPORT on HB 1769.

J Yoshimoto
Chair & Presiding Officer
Council District 2



Telephone: (808)961-8272
Facsimile: (808) 961-8912
Email: jyoshimoto@co.hawaii.hi.us

HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL

*Office of the County Clerk
County of Hawai'i
25 Aupuni Street
Hilo, Hawaii 96720*

**TESTIMONY OF J YOSHIMOTO, CHAIR
HAWAI'I COUNTY COUNCIL
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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2014 7:48 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: brysonbaring2@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1769 on Jan 24, 2014 09:30AM*

HB1769

Submitted on: 1/23/2014

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bryson		Support	No

Comments:

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To: waltestimony
Cc: vanillabean206@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB1769 on Jan 24, 2014 09:30AM*

HB1769

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Kennedy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
Representative Cindy Evan, Chair
Representative Nicole Lowen, Vice Chair

Testimony of the Oahu Invasive Species Committee in support of HB 1769 Making an Appropriation to Manage Albizia Trees on the Island of Hawaii

Friday, January 24, 2014 Conference Room 325

The Oahu Invasive Species Committee supports HB 1769, which would provide funding to control and manage albizia trees along state highways and near emergency facilities with a focus in the Puna district on Hawaii Island.

Alibiza poses significant harm to native ecosystems and the public health. Hazardous trees, those that are a risk to human safety, adjacent to public infrastructure or private homes, may cost up to an estimated \$10,000 per tree to control. This legislation will provide essential funding that will prevent potential disasters by controlling of these highly invasive trees, which may be brought down on roads, hospitals or homes during either a major storm event or due to age related self pruning events.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.

Sincerely,

Julia Parish
on behalf of
Oahu Invasive Species Committee

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 23, 2014 6:44 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: jtulang@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1769 on Jan 24, 2014 09:30AM

HB1769

Submitted on: 1/23/2014

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Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julie Tulang	Individual	Support	No

Comments: this is a problem in many neighborhoods like ours in East Hawaii.

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