

ing2-Travis

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 8:59 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: Gyoshimoto@scd.hawaii.gov
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2521 on Feb 6, 2014 10:00AM



HB2521

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for PBS on Feb 6, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Galen Yoshimoto	State Civil Defense	Support	Yes

Comments: Submitted in behalf of Doug Mayne, Vice Director of State Civil Defense

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Representative Henry Acquino,

My name is Marvan Wakabayashi and I live in Pacific Palisades. I am in support of House Bill (H.B.) No. 2521. I understand that Representative Gregg Takayama introduced this bill to address the invasive albezia tree. I am glad that this is being brought up since I believe my family and property are being affected by an albezia tree growing in the mini mall property adjacent to my house that overhangs into our property. The large trunk and branches creates some of these property and life threatening concerns: 1. Potential toppling of trunk and branches poses a danger to my family, grandkids and house 2. It threatens the safety of children from Palisades Elementary that use the area as a “short cut” as well as the mini mall building 3. The roots may have caused maintenance problems to the city sewer line 4. The large roots are damaging the concrete lined drainage swale 4. Leaves have clogged my gutter which require that I pay for the cleaning. The recent rain storms and exceptional high winds has increased our concerns Branches from the tree are always falling in my yard and I am worried about the safety of my children and grandchildren and my house. If they pose any kind of threat, the tree should be removed.

In February 2013 I sent a similar e-mail to Senator Clarence Nishihara pointing out the potential threat to my family and property.

One final note, I noticed a grove of albezia trees at Palisades Elementary School/Park were cut down. I think this was done by the people in charge at the State or City who are concerned for the safety of the children and park users.

This ends my testimony onf H.B. No. 2521. Please feel free to contact me as follow:

Marvan Wakabayashi
2333 Aalii Pl., Pearl City
808-455-1296

Sincerely,

Marvan Wakabayashi

February 5, 2014

Honorable Henry A. J. Aquino
Chairman, House Public Safety Committee
House of Representatives
State Capitol, Room 309
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

RE: Hearing: February 6, 2014, 10:00a.m., Room 309
House Bill No. 2521 Relating to Hazards to Property

Representative Aquino and Committee Members:

I strongly support and urge that funds are appropriated to House Bill No. 2521, Relating to Hazards to Property.

I am a home owner with a hazardous albizia tree hovering over my home that grew another 10 feet this year. This albizia tree is located in the owner's hillside property and also affects other homes. For years, the home owners have been unsuccessful to persuade the owner to trim the branches and tree. My family are afraid that one day a 15+ mile winds/rainstorm will cause huge branches or even the tree to fall and destroying my home. Current worldwide weather environmental changes, i.e., East Coast freezing conditions, vanishing shorelines, volcanic eruptions, are signs State Government should take as a warning by implementing revisions to its contingency emergency disasters plans.

I contacted Steve Seigler of the State Civil Defense, Department of Defense, about my concerns. He inspected the tree, claimed it hazardous, and said nothing could be done. The law states that it is the owner's responsibility. The Department of Defense has no funds available and would need the Governor's approval to declare it as 'emergency' to enter the property.

Representative Aquino and Committee Members, I urge you to appropriate funds to this Bill and to amend HRS 128-10.3, Civil Defense Powers; Mitigation of Hazardous Situations.

Mark Kikuta
Concerned Property Owner

ing2-Travis

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 8:12 AM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: skaye@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2521 on Feb 6, 2014 10:00AM

LATE

HB2521

Submitted on: 2/6/2014

Testimony for PBS on Feb 6, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Springer Kaye	BIISC	Support	No

Comments: This appropriation will fund a program providing relief to homeowners threatened by hazards on a neighbor's property. The Civil Defense Agency's hazard mitigation program became law in 2009, but due to lack of funding, has remained underutilized. Up front funds are needed to implement the program. Reimbursements will carry it on. The funds will promote proactive management of a growing public safety threat. Acreage covered by Albizia, the most notorious hazard tree, is expanding on Hawaii Island at a rate of 10% per year (Gaertner, 2012). Enforced removal of hazard trees is an incentive for landowners, particularly absentee/investment landowners, to manage their properties responsibly, preventing trees from ever becoming hazards. Eliminating fast-growing invasive trees from yards while they are still small and manageable is a part of responsible land ownership. Hazard trees add significant complexity and uncertainty to emergency management plans of the civil defense agencies and create a significant and measurable impact to the economy and public safety of the Island of Hawaii. Removing mature hazard trees from isolated locations, like private residential properties, serves the public interest because: These trees serve as a seed source, spreading invasive species to road and power line easements Hazard trees also overhang sidewalks and roads, dropping branches and creating a safety hazard. Civil liability suits against state and city governments between 2009 and 2012 have ranged from \$3 Mil to Large stands of albizia can be found in Pearl City, Wahiawa (Schofield), Manoa, and Kaneohe. One albizia can be seen every hundred feet along Windward side of Pali Highway. Albizia threaten the most expensive neighborhoods in Hilo, like Sunrise Ridge, and Piihonua. They also threaten the homes of our lowest income families, who lack the resources to address an expensive threat. Removal of large, mature albizia along highways costs \$1 Million per mile. Albizia is found in large stands bordering single road to the Hilo Medical Center, which is the only hospital in East Hawaii; Albizia is found bordering the two roads accessing the Hilo Airport, Air Cargo Facility, and the Port of Hilo; Liability Headlines: August 31, 2013: Shanta Greene awarded 12 million dollars to be paid by the City of Savannah, Georgia, after a tree branch within a city-owned right-of-way fell onto her pickup truck while she was driving. Greene lost her leg in the accident. July 29, 2009: New York City: The city has shelled out \$11.5 million to Sasha Blair-Goldensohn, 37, the brilliant young Google engineer whose life and body were shattered by a falling tree limb in Central Park. An arborist had labeled the 15-foot limb that hit Blair-Goldensohn dangerous 20 days before it fell, but it was not immediately removed, according to a published report. February 2010: Elmaz Qyra, 56: Killed by a Central Park elm branch that had been catalogued for removal months before his death. Family Awarded \$3 million. New York City spent \$4.7 million on tree pruning in 2008, but that number had declined to \$1.45 million in recent years. The budget has since been boosted to \$3.45 million. The city called the settlements appropriate.

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ing2-Travis

From: Steve Sigler <SSigler@scd.hawaii.gov>
Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 7:32 AM
To: pbstestimony; Rep. Henry J.C. Aquino
Subject: Testimony in support of H.B. 2521

LATE

Testimony in support of H.B. 2521 – Relating to Hazards to Property:

As the State Civil Defense (SCD) employee tasked with responding to citizen requests for assistance under HRS 128-10.3 (commonly referred to as Act 76), I am in favor of this funding bill. Since HRS 128-10.3 was enacted in 2009, State Civil Defense has received 199 requests for assistance related to potentially hazardous trees. Of those 199 cases, 138 have been resolved. The remaining 61 are being followed up on; however, a number of those will not be resolved because the tree owner refuses to respond in any way to the concern. When the tree owner refuses to respond, SCD follows-up on the situation, but due to lack of funding cannot take action to determine if a tree hazard to public health and safety does in fact exist or mitigate that hazard if found. To date, a number of cases that fall in this category have resulted in the trees of concern eventually failing and causing severe damage to electrical infrastructure and the property/lives of the citizen who had originally asked for state assistance.

V/r

Steven M. Sigler, PhD
Hawaii State Civil Defense
3949 Diamond Head Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816-4495
o: (808) 733-4300 x 557
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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 10:07 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: dayvakeolanui@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2521 on Feb 6, 2014 10:00AM



HB2521

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for PBS on Feb 6, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dayva Keolanui	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Members of the House Committee on Public Safety, HB2521 is necessary to ensure the public safety of the people of Hawaii. Currently State Civil Defense is a dead end for those who proactively identify hazards threatening public safety, such as the bri ttle Albiza trees invading our State. The Civil Defense Agency's hazard mitigation program became law in 2009, but due to lack of funding, has remained underutilized. Up front funds are needed to implement the program. Reimbursements will carry it on. The funds will promote proactive management of a growing public safety threat. Acreage covered by Albizia, the most notorious hazard tree, is expanding on Hawaii Island at a rate of 10% per year (Gaertner, 2012). Enforced removal of hazard trees is an incentive for landowners, particularly absentee/investment landowners, to manage their properties responsibly, preventing trees from ever becoming hazards. Eliminating fast-growing invasive trees from yards while they are still small and manageable is a part of responsible land ownership. Hazard trees add significant complexity and uncertainty to emergency management plans of the civil defense agencies and create a significant and measurable impact to the economy and public safety of the Island of Hawaii. Removing mature hazard trees from isolated locations, like private residential properties, serves the public interest because: These trees serve as a seed source, spreading invasive species to road and power line easements Hazard trees also overhang sidewalks and roads, dropping branches and creating a safety hazard. Civil liability suits against state and city governments between 2009 and 2012 have ranged from \$3 Mil to Large stands of albizia can be found in Pearl City, Manoa, and Kaneohe. One albizia can be seen every hundred feet along Windward side of Pali Highway. Albizia threaten the most expensive neighborhoods in Hilo, like Sunrise Ridge, and Piihonua. They also threaten the homes of our lowest income families, who lack the resources to address an expensive threat. Removal of large, mature albizia along highways costs \$1 Million per mile. Albizia is found in large stands bordering single road to the Hilo Medical Center, which is the only hospital in East Hawaii; Albizia is found bordering the two roads accessing the Hilo Airport, Air Cargo Facility, and the Port of Hilo Please pass this bill to ensure that there is recourse against this looming threat. Thank you, Dayva Keolanui Waimea, Hawaii Island

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ing2-Travis

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 8:02 PM
To: pbstestimony
Cc: jtulang@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2521 on Feb 6, 2014 10:00AM



HB2521

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for PBS on Feb 6, 2014 10:00AM in Conference Room 309

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

Comments: We are in a community that is slowly be invaded by Albizia trees. These trees need to be removed from areas close to residents/homes.

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