

JAN 23 2015

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The molucca albizia was first introduced to
2 Hawaii in 1917 as an ornamental tree and for the purposes of
3 reforestation. At one time, the United States Forest Service
4 planted one hundred thirty-five thousand molucca albizia seeds
5 on Kauai, Oahu, Molokai, Lanai, and Hawaii for the production of
6 lumber. Today, those seeds have flourished statewide and have
7 particularly thrived in semi-moist areas below one thousand five
8 hundred feet in elevation.

9 The molucca albizia is one of the fastest growing species
10 among the broad-leaf tree species, has a large crown, can reach
11 more than one hundred feet in height, and has a life span of
12 twenty-five to thirty years. The molucca albizia has a soft and
13 brittle wood, has a shallow root system in poor soil, and has
14 large branches that are often susceptible to breaking in high
15 wind. These factors pose a significant hazard to people and
16 property in various residential and recreational areas
17 statewide, as evidenced by the significant damage inflicted by



1 albizia trees during Tropical Storm Iselle in 2014. The manager
2 of the Big Island Invasive Species Committee estimated that over
3 90 per cent of the trees that did damage during Tropical Storm
4 Iselle were albizia trees.

5 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to study
6 the risks, characteristics, uses, and effects of the molucca
7 albizia tree on surrounding environments, and alternatives for
8 the reforestation of these areas with native flora.

9 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$250,000 or so much
11 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
12 same sum or so thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2016-
13 2017 for the purpose of conducting a study on the molucca
14 albizia tree, its characteristics and uses, effects on
15 surrounding environments, risks, and alternatives for the
16 reforestation of areas having molucca albizia trees with native
17 flora.

18 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
19 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

20 SECTION 3. The department of land and natural resources
21 shall submit to the legislature its findings and recommendations



1 from the study, including any proposed legislation, no later
2 than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session
3 of 2017.

4 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.

5

INTRODUCED BY: *Franzanne Chun Aakland*



S.B. NO. 491

Report Title:

Natural Resources; Reforestation; Molucca Albizia; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to study the risks, characteristics, uses, and effects of the molucca albizia tree on surrounding environments, and alternatives for the reforestation of these areas with native flora. Requires report by the department of land and natural resources to the legislature.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

