

DAVID Y. IGE  
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI  
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
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SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER  
Deputy to the Chairperson

TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

February 19, 2015  
8:30 A.M.  
CONFERENCE ROOM 312

HOUSE BILL NO. 1138  
RELATING TO ALBIZIA TREES

Chairperson Tsuji and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on HB 1138. The purpose of this bill is to appropriate moneys from the pest inspection, quarantine, and eradication fund for the removal of Albizia trees from public and private land. The department respectfully opposes this measure.

Chapter 68 (HAR) gives the department the authority to control and eradicate weeds by designating them as noxious weeds if they meet specific criteria. This rule gives the authority to the department to enter into cooperative agreements with landowners to control or eradicate weeds on their property. Once controlled or eradicated the weeds are to be removed from the list.

The department considers Albizia a serious weed pest but has not placed it on our list for control or eradication because it does not meet the criteria in the rules for eradication as described in chapter 68. Our strategy is to address this problem through our biocontrol program. Albizia is one of our target biocontrol species and we have begun discussions with potential partners to find effective natural enemies for this tree. There have been no attempts throughout the world to control Albizia so this is breaking new ground and will be a long-term project.

A comprehensive plan and authorities for Albizia control could be appropriately developed through the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC). Albizia is a widespread problem throughout the state and will require a multi-agency approach. HISC is ideally suited for this and was established for this purpose. HISC is drafting administrative rules and, if appropriate, Albizia should be added to their list of invasive pests. A listing



under the HISC rules would give authority to HISC partners to enter private property for control and eradication purposes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

DAVID IGE  
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of  
CARTY S. CHANG  
Interim Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on  
AGRICULTURE**

**Thursday, February 19, 2015  
8:30 AM  
State Capitol, Room 312**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 1138  
RELATING TO ALBIZIA TREES**

House Bill 1138 proposes to appropriate an unspecified amount of special funds from the Pest Inspection, Quarantine, and Eradication Fund for the control of albizia trees on public and private property. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers the following comments.**

The Department recognizes the environmental and public safety threats posed by the invasive tree *Falcataria moluccana*, commonly known as albizia, and supports control of albizia where possible. The Department understands that the interagency Hawaii Invasive Species Council, which is administratively housed within the Department and includes the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (DOA) as a co-chair, is working with the Big Island Invasive Species Committee on a plan for strategic albizia control, and that other measures in this legislative session propose appropriations from the general revenues of the State of Hawaii for albizia removal.

The Department defers to DOA on how an appropriation from the Pest Inspection, Quarantine, and Eradication Fund would impact the ability of the Fund to address the issues for which it is currently mandated.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

**CARTY S. CHANG**  
INTERIM CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

**DANIEL S. QUINN**  
INTERIM FIRST DEPUTY

**W. ROY HARDY**  
ACTING DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2015 10:13 PM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: skaye@hawaii.edu  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1138 on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM

**HB1138**

Submitted on: 2/16/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Springer Kaye	Big Island Invasive Species Committee	Support	No

Comments: Our committee strongly supports this measure. The availability of accurate, up to date maps of agricultural areas provides the foundation for sound agricultural, resource, and land use planning decisions. In invasive species management, these maps can help predict the locations, and allocation of resources needed, to respond to new invasive species pests. A surprising gap exists between the lands in ag production and those lands designated as important lands, limiting access to farming support systems. Protecting prime agricultural lands from the threat of urban sprawl and invasive pests has never been as critical and time-sensitive as it is today. Thank you for your consideration.

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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 19, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1138  
RELATING TO THE ALBIZIA TREES

Room 312  
8:30 AM

Aloha Chair Tsuji, Vice Chair Onishi, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,932 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**HFB supports HB 1138.** Along with other pressing invasive species control initiatives, our farmer and rancher members across the islands could benefit from a well-coordinated and cost-effective effort to manage and remove albizia trees that threaten public and private property.

We have noticed that there are other bills that would also allocate significant funding for invasive species control. Given that there are finite resources, HFB trusts that due consideration of each of these proposals will be afforded and that an effort will be made to prioritize the needs and equitably divide the available budgetary resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

## **Testimony before the Senate Committee On Agriculture**

**By Jay M. Ignacio  
President, Hawai'i Electric Light**

**Thursday, February 19, 2015  
8:30 a.m., Conference Room 312**

### **House Bill No. 1138 –Relating to the Albizia Trees**

Chair Clift Tsuji, Vice Chair Richard Onishi, and Members of the Committee,

My name is Jay Ignacio and I am testifying on behalf of the Hawaiian Electric Company and its subsidiaries, Hawai'i Electric Light Company and Maui Electric Company (collectively, the "Hawaiian Electric Companies") in support of HB 1138.

HB 1138 would appropriate funds to the Department of Agriculture for the removal of albizia trees on public and private land. Under the direction of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council, management and removal of albizia trees in critical emergency services and transportation routes have been identified. The Hawaiian Electric Companies support the bill for the following reasons:

- Albizia trees are a hazard to public safety and critical infrastructure.
- Stands of brittle, invasive Albizia trees up to 250 feet tall grow along many roadways, highways, and electric utility lines statewide. Tropical Storm Iselle and this past weekend's severe weather brought down many of these trees, blocked roadways, and caused extensive damage to homes and important electric utility lines. Broken tree trunks continue to send out new growth creating even more unstable conditions, while seedlings are rapidly germinating in disturbed areas.
- A coordinated interagency strategy under the direction of Hawaii Invasive Species Council, to remove narrow bands of hazard trees and surrounding source populations of non-hazard trees can prevent similar damage in future storm events, providing substantial net savings in avoided future maintenance costs and ensuring long-term control.
- A strong partnership between agencies and federal, state and county governments is essential to mitigating Albizia hazards and ensuring that Hawai'i's public safety and critical infrastructure needs are met.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this matter.

## Testimony

I own a house in Hawaiian Beaches, where I have lived since 2009. While my property has been cleared of albizia trees, they are all around my property. After Hurricane Iselle, my back yard had at least 40 albizias in it from the neighbors' yards. It took a month and quite a bit of money to clear those trees from my yard. And, since the neighbors' lots weren't completely cleared, broken trees are piled up 6 feet high on the other side of my fence. The entire block, in fact, looks like a disaster area where trees were snapped off by the wind and left on their sides.

We were without power, telephone, internet and cable service for 2 weeks after Hurricane Iselle, due entirely to the damage wrought by albizias. The first damage on our property with the first gust of wind was the snapping of our power lines by an albizia from the neighbor's lot next door. After the storm was over, our entire street was blocked by fallen albizias, and all of the power and telephone lines were down in our street.

Of course, Kahakai Boulevard was in much worse shape so even if our power lines hadn't come down on our street, we still would not have had power because of the damage to the main lines on Kahakai.

It doesn't take a hurricane, though, to interrupt our power. As I write this, we are still without cable service after the February 14, 2014, high winds. We were without electricity, cable, internet and telephone service for nearly 2 days. Our water company was on generator power during part of that time so we also had to conserve water during that time.

I have lived all over the United States and in Europe, and I have never had the problems with services there that we have here. As soon as the wind picks up on any given day, we know that we are in danger of losing our electricity, telephone, internet and cable.

Please either do something with the albizias so that we no longer have to live this way.

Thank you,

Marcia Brinkley

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2015 6:19 PM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: carolan.cash@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1138 on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM

**HB1138**

Submitted on: 2/16/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
carolan cash	Individual	Support	No

Comments: MY HOME IN LELANI ESTATES SUBDIVISION BIG ISLAND SUFFERED MAJOR DAMAMGE FROM ALBIZIA TREES FALLING ON TOP OF OUR HOME DURING T.S. ISELLE. MYSELF AND MY 100% DISABLED VET HUSBAND WERE IN HOUSE AND HAD TO EVACUATE.WE ARE STILL NOT BACK INTO OUR HOME.IT HAS YET TO BE REPAIRED.ACCORDING TO CLAIMS CO.& A CONTRACTOR, OUR HOME WAS THE MOST DAMAGED THEY'D SEEN. REP. GABBARD POSTED A PHOTO OF OUR HOME ON HER WEB SITE WHILE TOURING HERE AFTER ISELLE.THE LOT WHERE THE TREES CAME FROM IS OWNED BY A PERSON WHOM LIVES & WORKS LESS THAN 5 MI.'S FROM OUR HOME.SHE HAS STATED SHE HAS NO INTENTION TO DO ANYTHING ABOUT HER DEADLY TREE FILLED LOT.SO WHEN WE MOVE BACK IN WE ARE LIVING WITH A DEADLY DESTINY CREATED BY IRRESPONSIBLE NEIGHBORS.WE CANNOT AFFORD TO CLEAR HER LOT.I FILED "HAZARDOUS FLORA' COMPLAINT 8/22/2104 W/ HI.CO. DPW. I HAVE FOLLOWED UP W CALLS 4 X'S NOW.'I'VE BEEN TOLD THEY ARE OVERLOADED W/ COMPLAINTS RE:HARDOUS ALBIZIA TREES.THIS IS A CRISIS SITUATION HERE.WE NEED HELP IN PUNA A LONG TIME AGO.PLEASE HELP US NOW.I DO NOT WANT MY HUSBAND NOR MYSELF KILLED BY THE NEIGHBORS TREES.BUT THATS INEVITABLE AS THINGS PROCEED AS USUAL WITHOUT ANYONE TO HELP US.WE LIVE WITH THIS FEAR SERIOUSLY AND SO MANY TREES WERE PARTIALY UPROOTED FROM ISELLE, WELL SEE WHAT HAPPENED IN LELANI ESTATES AND LOWER PUNA DURING 02/14/2015 WINDSTORM. SAME OLD STORY. BUT THE DANGER AND FEAR IS VERY REAL.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2015 9:28 AM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: cushmanzoo@hawaiiantel.net  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1138 on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM

**HB1138**

Submitted on: 2/16/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Sharron Cushman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I live in Puna that has been heavily impacted by albizia trees damaging homes, power lines, and phone lines. I also am a homeowner who cannot afford to cut down the extremely large albizia tree that looms over my own home. It would cost me over \$2000 to do so. I'm hoping with the passage of this bill that other homeowners including myself will get the help we need to eradicate these trees that have done so much harm to our communities.

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onishi3 - Timothy

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Sunday, February 15, 2015 10:03 PM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: steven\_jacquier@hotmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1138 on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM

**HB1138**

Submitted on: 2/15/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Steven Jacquier	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support HB 1138 -each dollar spent in effective albezia control will save many times that amount in damaged or destroyed infrastructure and lost revenues.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2015 8:15 AM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: shadybrady\_96778@yahoo.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1138 on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM

**HB1138**

Submitted on: 2/16/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
brady metcalf	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The Albizua problem has grown unchecked for decades posing danger to life and property throughout the many and various subdivisions of the big island but particularly in Lower Puna, where a mere storm such as the wind storm of Valentines Day 2015 has left residents without power for indefinite periods of time, with official estimates upwards of a week. To those on catchment systems, that means no running water,. Also no refrigeration. The Albizua threat is such that it deprives citizens of the most basic of necessities and has negative impact financially through major and minor repairs brought on by albeit damage. Please support this bill and allow for the removal of the albezia menace from public lands and also from private lands where the land owner is absentee. The cost of repairing utility lines every time the wind blows is prohibitive to fair rates and reasonable service. These trees are not indigenous and the threat they pose to persons and property is an unreasonable danger to the public.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2015 1:28 PM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: gina1645@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1138 on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM

**HB1138**

Submitted on: 2/16/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Mary Regina Miller	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Living in the Puna District, Hawaiian Paradise Park, and running a business here (a legal guest house), it has become VERY obvious that the albizias need to go! Please find funding to get them gone... Thank you

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onishi3 - Timothy

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Sent: Monday, February 16, 2015 6:01 PM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: shannonkona@gmail.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1138 on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM

**HB1138**

Submitted on: 2/16/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2015 3:20 PM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: slwsurfing@yahoo.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1138 on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM

**HB1138**

Submitted on: 2/16/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
sharon	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support Where do we sign up?

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2015 10:30 PM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: occupyhilomedia@yahoo.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB1138 on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM\*

**HB1138**

Submitted on: 2/16/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Kerri Marks	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 5:31 AM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: lance.duncan@live.com  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1138 on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM

**HB1138**

Submitted on: 2/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Lance Duncan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support passage of this bill. The concept is sound and the timing couldn't come sooner for this bill to be approved. The only criteria that appear to need adjustment is the matching funds requirement, and administrative procedures. We need to be sensitive to and distinguish between absentee speculative property investors who let unimproved lots turn into albizia nurseries, from the resident poor and elderly who may have financial and/or physical hardship reasons for needing assistance in albizia removal. Let us please not penalize local families in hardship situations, while doing the right thing for the environment and community by removing these dangerous and expensive pests. I would propose giving owners of investment type vacant lots a short but reasonable opportunity to clear and regularly maintain their land (malama 'āina). If this does not occur and their lack of maintenance endangers other properties, infrastructure, or life, then the new program proposed by this legislation should kick in along with some heavy fines and property liens up to and including foreclosure on lots that continue to pose a risk to the community.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Tuesday, February 17, 2015 11:52 PM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: billgail@retiredinparadise.net  
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB1138 on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM

**HB1138**

Submitted on: 2/17/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Gail Jackson	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha Agriculture Committee members, I support this bill. After our "almost" hurricane and then the latest high wind storms, it should be obvious to all that the invasive albizia trees are a serious danger. Sincerely, Gail Jackson

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 9:48 PM  
To: AGRtestimony  
Cc: amybrinker@mac.com  
Subject: \*Submitted testimony for HB1138 on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM\*

**LATE**

**HB1138**

Submitted on: 2/18/2015

Testimony for AGR on Feb 19, 2015 08:30AM in Conference Room 312

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Amy Brinker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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