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STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
WATER AND LAND

Friday, January 26, 2018
2:45 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 815
RELATING TO REAL ESTATE DISCLOSURE

Senate Bill 815 proposes to amend real estate disclosure requirements under Section 508D-15, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to require sellers of real property to disclose to potential buyers the presence of albizia (*Falcataria moluccana*) trees within 150 feet of the property in question. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure.**

Albizia trees pose a substantial threat to infrastructure and individuals through the potential for limb fall. Due to their extreme height, the threat posed by albizia is relevant not only to properties on which they are rooted, but on adjacent properties where branches and other debris may fall during high wind events.

The Department is the administrative host of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), and notes that on January 18, 2018, the HISC adopted the *Strategic Plan for the Control and Management of Albizia in Hawaii* as a guiding document for future policy and management actions regarding albizia. Objective L3.3 of this plan recommends requiring real estate disclosure for properties with large albizia (or for properties with large albizia on neighboring properties). The full plan is available at <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/plans/albizia/>.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4

Chair: Environmental
Management Committee



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Senator Russell Ruderman
Chair, Senate Water and Land Committee
Hawaii'i State Senate

January 25, 2018

Aloha Chair Ruderman and Committee Members:

I'm writing to express my support for Senate Bill 815, which requires disclosure of albizia trees within one hundred fifty feet of residential properties upon transfer of ownership. These trees are plentiful in the District of Puna, which I was elected to represent, and they negatively affect the lives of my constituents in a number of ways. This bill would allow for much-needed transparency and education regarding the hazards these trees pose.

Homeowners in Puna have long known of the damage these trees can do. Albizias grow quickly, with shallow roots and heavy trunks. Spreading roots damage streets, sidewalks, waterlines, and home foundations. Falling branches and trees damage power and telephone lines, fencing, roofs, and various structures. Finally, the extent of damage within Puna following Hurricane Iselle was overwhelmingly due to albizias coming down in the high winds. Homes were destroyed, power lines were ruined, and roads were impassable.

As a representative and decades-long resident of the District of Puna, I do not hesitate to support any measure to regulate the risk albizias pose. This bill would help those unfamiliar with albizias to understand an unforeseen potential risk in the purchase of their property. Please consider the amount of damage that could be thwarted by passing this bill, and contact me if you have any questions about my support or knowledge of the area.

Sincerely,

Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4

SB-815

Submitted on: 1/23/2018 10:30:18 AM

Testimony for WTL on 1/26/2018 2:45:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.		Support	No

Comments: