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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO ALBIZIA TREES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that albizia trees are an  
2   invasive species capable of damaging forests with native species  
3   through rapid growth and effects on the soil. Albizia trees are  
4   one of the fastest growing trees in the world, capable of  
5   growing up to fifteen feet per year. Once albizia trees have  
6   attained the height of the canopy, they expand their own canopy,  
7   blocking the sunlight and suppressing the growth of neighboring  
8   trees. Further, albizia trees, through leaf litter, provide a  
9   nitrogen boost to the soil that benefits weeds while  
10   simultaneously suppressing native species.

11           The legislature further finds that, contrary to traditional  
12   opinions on the utility of albizia wood, projects have  
13   demonstrated that albizia wood may be used in the construction  
14   of homes. Through innovative projects at the University of  
15   Hawaii, albizia wood is proving to be a viable building  
16   material.



1           The legislature further finds that with twenty thousand  
2 acres on Oahu and forty-three thousand acres on Hawaii island  
3 infested with albizia trees, the State must do more to curb the  
4 growth and expansion of the albizia tree population.

5           The purpose of this Act is to direct the University of  
6 Hawaii to conduct an economic analysis of a potential  
7 restoration pilot project to remove albizia trees from a certain  
8 area, plant native species to replace the removed albizia trees,  
9 and sell the albizia trees for lumber.

10           SECTION 2. (a) The economic research organization at the  
11 University of Hawaii shall conduct an economic analysis of a  
12 potential restoration pilot project in Manoa valley that would:

- 13           (1) Remove albizia trees over two hundred acres of Manoa  
14           valley;
- 15           (2) Plant native species to replace the removed albizia  
16           trees and restore the site; and
- 17           (3) Sell the removed albizia trees for use as lumber in  
18           local architecture and furniture.

19           (b) The economic research organization at the University  
20 of Hawaii shall collaborate with the Hawaii invasive species



1 council and shall invite the Albizia Project to participate in  
2 the economic analysis.

3 (c) The economic analysis shall examine the economic costs  
4 and benefits of the potential restoration pilot project,  
5 including:

- 6 (1) Projected costs for removal of albizia trees;
- 7 (2) Projected costs of replanting with native species and  
8 site restoration; and
- 9 (3) The sum of projected monetized benefits, avoided  
10 damages, including but not limited to avoided damage  
11 to the watershed and any property or infrastructure  
12 within the project area, and revenue to be generated  
13 by albizia lumber sales.

14 The costs and benefits shall be aggregated over a twenty-five-  
15 year to fifty-year time horizon, as appropriately determined by  
16 the economic research organization at the University of Hawaii.  
17 The economic research organization at the University of Hawaii  
18 shall demonstrate net present value and benefit-cost ratios  
19 under various scenarios of discount rates and assumptions of  
20 relevant biological and economic parameters.



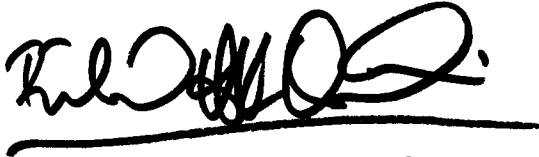
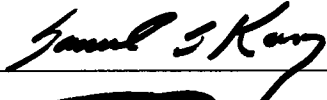
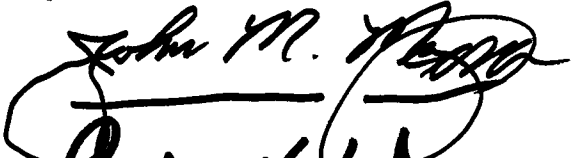



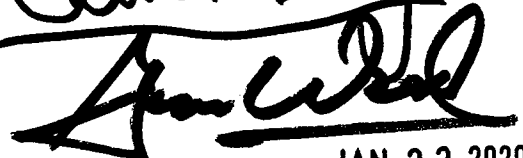
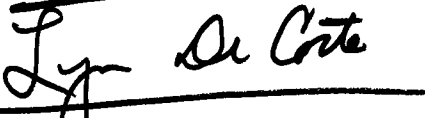
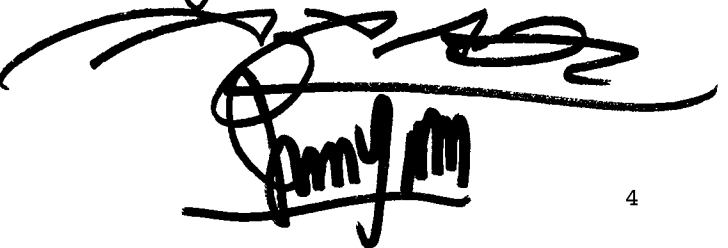
1 (d) The economic research organization at the University  
 2 of Hawaii shall submit a report of its findings and  
 3 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
 4 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
 5 the regular session of 2021.

6 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
 7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
 8 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for  
 9 the economic research organization at the University of Hawaii  
 10 to conduct the economic analysis as mandated by this Act.

11 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
 12 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

13 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.  
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INTRODUCED BY:



# H.B. NO. 2639

**Report Title:**

UH; UHERO; Albizia Trees; Restoration Pilot Project; Economic Analysis; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires UHERO to conduct an economic analysis of a potential restoration pilot project in Manoa valley that removes albizia trees, plants native species, and sells the albizia tree lumber for use in local architecture and furniture. Requires a report before the regular session of 2021. Appropriates funds.

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