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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONVENE A  
TASK FORCE OF GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS TO  
IDENTIFY LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS TO CONTROL AND ERADICATE  
ALBIZIA IN HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, the *Falcataria moluccana*, commonly known as the  
2 Albizia tree, was first introduced to Hawaii in 1917; and

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4           WHEREAS, Albizia trees are capable of growing up to fifteen  
5 feet per year, and this rapid growth rate produces trunks and  
6 limbs that are structurally weak and brittle and prone to  
7 "sudden limb shear" or "sudden branch drop"; and

8  
9           WHEREAS, the Albizia's rapid growth crowds out native  
10 species, its nitrogen fixing abilities change natural  
11 ecosystems, and the tree produces large quantities of seeds in  
12 light pods that can easily be dispersed over large distances;  
13 and

14  
15           WHEREAS, this combination of features makes Albizia trees  
16 hazardous to public safety, native plant species, and critical  
17 infrastructure systems; and

18  
19           WHEREAS, Senate Resolution No. 41, S.D. 1, Regular Session  
20 of 2013, urged the Invasive Species Council to develop and  
21 implement a comprehensive interagency plan for the control and  
22 eradication of Albizia throughout the State and to find partners  
23 to use Albizia trees that are removed, and urged the Department  
24 of Agriculture to investigate biocontrol agents for the control  
25 of Albizia; and

26  
27           WHEREAS, the 2018 report prepared by the Hawaii Invasive  
28 Species Council and its partners, entitled "Strategic Plan for  
29 the Control and Management of Albizia in Hawai'i" (Strategic



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1 Plan), identified approximately twenty thousand acres of Albizia  
2 infestation on Oahu and forty-three thousand acres on the  
3 eastern side of Hawaii island, and gave Albizia a score of eight  
4 (high risk invasive) on the Hawaii Pacific Weed Risk Assessment  
5 scale; and

6

7 WHEREAS, according to the Strategic Plan, the Department of  
8 Transportation reportedly spent \$1,000,000 per mile to remove  
9 one thousand Albizia trees on Kauai, with the removal of one  
10 large tree costing as much as \$10,000, and the Hawaii island  
11 branch of the Department of Transportation estimates that ninety  
12 percent of all calls received for fallen trees for the past  
13 several years have involved Albizia; and

14

15 WHEREAS, public utilities spend thousands of dollars  
16 annually on vegetation management programs to address Albizia  
17 and other invasive species' encroachment on electrical and  
18 telecommunication lines; and

19

20 WHEREAS, in the wake of Tropical Storm Iselle in 2014,  
21 hundreds of Hawaii island residents were stranded for days with  
22 their roads blocked and without power for months because of  
23 fallen Albizia, and according to the Strategic Plan, Hawaiian  
24 Electric Light Company estimates it spent \$13,700,000 responding  
25 to damage from Iselle; and

26

27 WHEREAS, the susceptibility of Albizia trees to inclement  
28 weather conditions combined with a tendency to grow in dense  
29 stands make them an especially worrisome hazard in the event of  
30 a hurricane or other natural disaster; and

31

32 WHEREAS, the Strategic Plan identifies objectives and  
33 implementation tasks to assess impacts; control methods;  
34 planning; and legislative, policy, and funding work that needs  
35 to be done; and

36

37 WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor recognize that the  
38 Albizia has become one of Hawaii's most detrimental invasive  
39 plant species; now, therefore,

40

41 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
42 Thirtieth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of



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1 2020, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Land and  
2 Natural Resources is urged to convene a task force of government  
3 and private stakeholders to identify long-term solutions to  
4 control and eradicate Albizia in Hawaii; and

5  
6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Albizia task force is  
7 requested to be comprised of:

- 8  
9 (1) A member to be appointed by the President of the  
10 Senate;
- 11  
12 (2) A member to be appointed by the Speaker of the House  
13 of Representatives;
- 14  
15 (3) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural  
16 Resources, or the Chairperson's designee;
- 17  
18 (4) The Director of Transportation, or the Director's  
19 designee;
- 20  
21 (5) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, or the  
22 Chairperson's designee;
- 23  
24 (6) A representative of the Hawaii Invasive Species  
25 Council;
- 26  
27 (7) A representative of the Office of the Mayor from each  
28 of the counties with expertise in emergency management  
29 and specifically, vegetation management;
- 30  
31 (8) A representative of Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.;
- 32  
33 (9) A representative of the Kauai Island Utility  
34 Cooperative; and
- 35  
36 (10) A representative of a telecommunication company that  
37 operates in Hawaii, to be selected by the Chairperson  
38 of the Board of Land and Natural Resources;

39  
40 with the chairperson of the Albizia task force to be selected by  
41 the task force members; and



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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is encouraged to  
2 solicit participation from individuals as well as organizations  
3 or agencies from the public and private sectors in areas  
4 throughout the State that are affected by or perform work  
5 related to invasive Albizia; and

6  
7 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and  
8 Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife shall  
9 provide administrative support to the task force; and

10  
11 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, upon request of the task  
12 force, the Legislative Reference Bureau shall assist in the  
13 preparation of the report; provided that, before August 1, 2021,  
14 the task force shall submit a draft to the Legislative Reference  
15 Bureau, including any information and materials deemed necessary  
16 by the Legislative Reference Bureau, for the preparation of the  
17 final report; and

18  
19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, with the  
20 assistance of the Legislative Reference Bureau, is requested to  
21 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including  
22 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than  
23 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of  
24 2022, which is requested to include:

- 25
- 26 (1) An analysis of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council's  
27 "Strategic Plan for the Control and Management of  
28 Albizia in Hawai'i" (2018), including its objectives  
29 and implementation tasks and how government and  
30 private stakeholders can assist in carrying out these  
31 objectives and implementation tasks;
  - 32  
33 (2) An estimate of the costs to the State, counties, and  
34 private sector to address the control and eradication  
35 of Albizia for the last three years;
  - 36  
37 (3) Recommendations, if any, for changes to state or  
38 county agencies' vegetation management programs to  
39 assist with the control or eradication of Albizia;



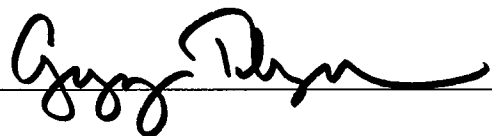
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- 1 (4) Identification of funding sources, including federal,
- 2 state, county, or private sources, that are used or
- 3 may be used to control and eradicate Albizia; and.
- 4
- 5 (5) Recommendations, if any, for legislation relating to
- 6 the following:
- 7
- 8 (A) The ability of private landowners, public
- 9 utilities, government agencies, or other entities
- 10 to control or eradicate Albizia;
- 11
- 12 (B) Addressing problems with Albizia and establishing
- 13 a permanent funding source that could assist in
- 14 the control or eradication of Albizia; and
- 15
- 16 (C) Allowing government agencies and public utilities
- 17 to control or eradicate Albizia and other species
- 18 that might exist on private property, if such
- 19 vegetation poses a threat to critical
- 20 infrastructure or public safety; and
- 21

22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 23 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the  
 24 Senate; Speaker of the House of Representatives; Chairperson of  
 25 the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Director of  
 26 Transportation; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; Hawaii  
 27 Invasive Species Council Program Supervisor; Mayors of each  
 28 county; Chief Executive Officer of Hawaiian Electric Company,  
 29 Inc.; and Chief Executive Officer of Kauai Island Utility  
 30 Cooperative.

31  
32  
33

OFFERED BY:



FEB 21 2020

