

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
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

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Tuesday, March 1, 2022
11:00 AM**

State Capitol, Via Videoconference, Conference Room 308

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1497, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

House Bill 1497, House Draft 1 proposes to require the Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to establish a two-year pilot program to remove invasive species such as *Albizia* in and around Waiāhole stream on O‘ahu. **The Department appreciates the intent and offers the following comments.**

The Department has jurisdiction over certain public lands throughout the state and assists private forest landowners through the Forest Stewardship Program, the Watershed Partnership Program, and the Hawai‘i Invasive Species Committee. The Governor recognizes the need for improved forest management as reflected in his budget request. Forest management projects have the potential to increase water infiltration and reduce runoff, thereby mitigating downstream flooding. Forest management also improves forest health and reduces invasive species impacts, allowing the forest to perform the ecosystem services that healthy forests naturally deliver. Reducing invasive trees such as *Albizia* would also benefit the debris and sediment loading to the downstream drainageways commonly seen in extreme weather events. The Department highlights the benefits of an actively managed watershed in their educational outreach video entitled “The Rain Follows the Forest”. <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=N0oHdMPYSq8>

The Department understands the value of a pilot program in Waiāhole to remove invasive species, specifically *Albizia*, and the Hawaii Invasive Species Council has developed the *Strategic Plan for Control and Management of Albizia in Hawaii*. Funding would allow DOFAW to contract with partners like the Ko‘olau Mountains Watershed Partnership and O‘ahu Invasive Species Committee to research the feasibility of establishing a two-year pilot program

for forest management in Waiāhole that could serve to quantify the positive impact of forest management and strategic *Albizia* control.

The Department would like to note that the Governor's budget request includes forest health line items including Restore Recurring Funds for Operating Costs for Forest Resource Management and Development (\$589K), Fire and Emergency Response (\$1.8M), Forest Health (\$1.7M), Biological Control of Forest Pests (\$250,000), and Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (\$1M), and a CIP request for Watershed Protection and Initiatives Statewide (\$4M).

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

HB-1497-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 9:06:23 AM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Marigold Zoll	DLNR	Comments	Yes

Comments:

I am available for questions to DLNR. Please allow me Zoom access.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
P.O. BOX 150
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EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

ADMINISTRATIVE AND RESEARCH OFFICE
BUDGET, PROGRAM PLANNING AND
MANAGEMENT DIVISION
FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1497, H.D. 1

March 1, 2022
11:00 a.m.
Room 308 and Videoconference

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

The Department of Budget and Finance (B&F) offers comments on this bill.

House Bill No. 1497, H.D. 1, requires the Division of Forestry and Wildlife of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) to establish a two-year pilot program to remove invasive species in and around Waiahole Stream on O'ahu; appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds for FY 23 to be expended by DLNR for the pilot program; and requires a report to the Legislature.

B&F notes that, with respect to the general fund appropriation in this bill, the federal Coronavirus Response and Relief Supplemental Appropriations Act requires that states receiving Elementary and Secondary School Emergency Relief (ESSER) II funds and Governor's Emergency Education Relief II funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and

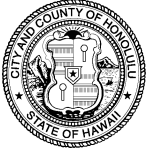
- Higher education in FY 22 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- Elementary and secondary education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for elementary and secondary education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19; and
- Higher education in FY 22 and FY 23 at least at the proportional level of the state's support for higher education relative to the state's overall spending, averaged over FYs 17, 18 and 19.

The U.S. Department of Education has issued rules governing how these maintenance of effort (MOE) requirements are to be administered. B&F will be working with the money committees of the Legislature to ensure that the State of Hawai'i complies with these ESSER MOE requirements.

Thank you for your consideration of our comments.



KAHALU'U NEIGHBORHOOD BOARD NO. 29

(He'eia Kea, 'Āhuimanu, Kahalu'u, Waihe'e, Ka'alaea, Waiāhole, Waikāne, Hakipu'u, Kualoa)

C/o Neighborhood Commission Office ♦ 925 Dillingham Boulevard, Suite 160 ♦ Honolulu, Hawaii 96817
PHONE (808) 768-3710 ♦ FAX (808) 768-3711 ♦ INTERNET: <http://www.honolulu.gov/nco>

"LET US NOT EVER HAVE AN UNHAPPY MINORITY; RATHER, LET US BUILD A COMMUNITY CONSENSUS."

House Committee on Finance
Tuesday, March 1, 2022, at 11:00 a.m.
Via Videoconference
Conf. Rm. 308
State Capitol

RE: HB 1497, HD1, Relating to Invasive Species

Aloha e ka Luna Ho'omaluku, ka Hope Luna Ho'omaluku Yamashita, a me nā lālā o ke Kōmike Waiwai o ka Hale o nā Lunamaka'āinana.

In our regular board meeting on February 9, 2022, the Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board #29 voted unanimously to **support the concepts** of HB 1497, HD1, which requires the division of forestry and wildlife of the department of land and natural resources to establish a two-year pilot program to remove invasive species in and around Waiāhole stream on O'ahu.

Mahalo for this opportunity to offer testimony and please do advance this measure.

Me ka ha'aha'a,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read "Ka'ano'i Walk".

Ka'ano'i Walk, Chair
Kahalu'u Neighborhood Board #29



Environmental Caucus of The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

To: The Honorable Sylvia Luke, Chair
The Honorable Kyle T. Yamashita, Vice Chair
Committee on Finance

Re: **HB 1497, HD 1 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

Hearing: Tuesday, March 1, 2022, 11:00 a.m., Conference Room 308 and Via
Videoconference

Position: Strong Support

Aloha, Chair Luke and Vice Chair Yamashita and Members of the Committee on Finance:

The Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i strongly supports HB 1497, HD1 and requests that this measure be PASSED by your Committee. This bill would require the division of forestry and wildlife of the department of land and natural resources to establish a two-year pilot program to remove invasive species in and around Waiahole stream on Oahu.

The Environmental Caucus supports this measure as it is designed to protect valuable watersheds and aquifers. Aquifers cannot replenish with the overgrowth of invasive species, namely albizia, which prevents water from recharging the aquifers through heavy clogging of streams and crowding out of native species diminishing their survival. A two-year pilot program implemented by the division of forestry and wildlife of the DLNR at Waiahole stream will help with proper management and maintenance of our watersheds.

Mahalo nui loa for this opportunity to testify. Please pass this bill.

Respectfully submitted,

Melodie Adyja

Alan Burdick

Co-Chairs, Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Email: legislativepriorities@gmail.com

Good afternoon Chair Sylvia Luke, Vice Chair Kyle T. Yamashita, and members of the committee. My name is Lexi Siliado. I am a 6th grader at Waiahole Elementary School and have been in this community for seven years. I am here to testify in strong support of funding HB1497 relating to invasive species.

I care about this bill because this is a problem happening in my community. I know many people that live in Waiahole Valley who will be affected by this if these invasive species don't get cleared. I also know many people who have helped me out so now it is my turn to do the same.

I am in strong support of funding this bill because these invasive species can and will take over the Waiahole aquifers and they won't be able to get recharged. If aquifers can't get recharged this will cause flooding and major damage to the residents of Waiahole Valley when it storms. This could also cause flooding to the school and then we won't be able to learn.

Another reason why I strongly support the funding of HB1497 is because if the Albizia tree doesn't get cut down it could damage houses and it could block the stream leading to once again flooding. This tree can grow up to 15 feet a year. Branches can fall without any warning because it is so brittle. This can hurt others because we won't know when branches fall.

In Waiahole Valley, many residents do kalo farming and this is another reason why I strongly encourage the funding of the bill to go through. With all the flooding that will be caused it can damage a lot of the lo'i patches, and kalo farming is something that is very important to us.

I'm available for any questions. My email is 3261600132@k12.hi.us. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Have a great day, mahalo!

HB-1497-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/28/2022 12:32:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 3/1/2022 11:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Ryan Ringuette	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a resident in Waiahole and I support HB 1497.