

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

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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 Senate Committees on
WATER AND LAND
and
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Wednesday, March 16, 2022
1:00 PM**

State Capitol, Conference Room 229, Via Videoconference

**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 Waiahole 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 Waiahole 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 Waiahole that could serve to quantify the positive impact of “improved 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: 3/15/2022 10:26:00 AM

Testimony for WTL on 3/16/2022 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Marigold Zoll	Testifying for DLNR	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

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

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM
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FINANCIAL ADMINISTRATION DIVISION
OFFICE OF FEDERAL AWARDS MANAGEMENT (OFAM)

WRITTEN ONLY
TESTIMONY BY CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR, DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE
TO THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER AND LAND AND
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 1497, H.D. 1

March 16, 2022
1:00 p.m.
Room 229 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.



**Department of Land and Natural Resources
Hawaii State Aha Moku
State of Hawaii
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Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

Testimony of
Hawaii State Aha Moku

Before the Senate Committees on
Water and Land
Agriculture and Environment

Wednesday, March 16, 2022
1:00 P.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

In **SUPPORT** of
House Bill 1497 HD1
Relating to Invasive Species

House Bill 1497 HD1 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 Waiahole stream on Oahu.

Aha Moku participants have found, much to their dismay, invasive species are multiplying on O'ahu. The Waiahole Stream is an important cultural and natural resource to the people of Waiahole.

House Bill 1497 HD1 provides the means for DLNR-DOFAW to begin the extermination of the invasive species from taking further root in the Waiahole Stream.

We **SUPPORT** the passage of House Bill 1497 HD1 and ask that this measure be adopted. We are grateful for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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Good afternoon Senator Chairs and Vice Chairs as well as members of the committees. 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 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 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.

In Waiahole Valley, many residents do kalo farming and this is another reason why I strongly encourage 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.

The reason why I also strongly support 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. For example, what happens if a farmer is working and a branch falls on him or her. This will be tragic for his or her family and also the community.

Again, I am in strong support of this bill. Thank you for the opportunity to testify. Have a great day, mahalo!

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



DENISE ISERI-MATSUBARA
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

STATE OF HAWAII

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TOURISM
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IN REPLY REFER TO:

LATE

Statement of
DENISE ISERI-MATSUBARA
Hawaii Housing Finance and Development Corporation
Before the

**SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND
AND
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

March 16, 2022 at 1:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 229

In consideration of
H.B. 1497 HD1
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES.

HHFDC supports H.B 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 Waiahole stream on Oahu.

HHFDC owns nearly 900 acres of leased and open-space lands in the *ahupuaa* of Waiahole. Over 90 lots are subject to long-term leases for residential and agricultural uses, with many of the lots abutting Waiahole Stream. Under the lease agreements, lessees are responsible for clearing the stream along their property. Many lessees lack the financial means to remove large albizia trees that may fall in or near the stream, thereby exacerbating existing flooding risks. Additionally, the climate crisis is causing more frequent and extreme weather events, as witnessed during the particularly damaging March 2021 floods in Waiahole.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide written comments on this bill.