



**Hawaiian  
Electric**

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
FINANCE**

**HB 2276, HD 1**

**Relating to Invasive Species**

Friday, February 25, 2022  
12:30 pm Agenda Item #11  
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

Jennifer Zelko-Schlueter  
Director, Government and Community Affairs  
Hawaiian Electric

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Yamashita, and members of the Committee,

My name is Jennifer Zelko-Schlueter and I am testifying on behalf of Hawaiian Electric in support of HB 2276, HD 1.

Albizia trees are a hazard to public safety and critical infrastructure. Strands of brittle, invasive Albizia trees up to 250 feet tall grow on many public and private properties. Tropical Storm Iselle brought down many Albizia trees, blocked roadways, and caused millions of dollars in damage to homes and important electric utility lines. Broken tree trunks continue to send out new growth creating even more unstable conditions, while seedlings are rapidly germinating in disturbed areas.

The Kona Low storm in December 2021 brought down many hazardous trees in east and west Hawaii on Hawaii island, which resulted in extended outages to many customers.

Albizia and other hazardous trees on public roadways and rights of way for public utilities threaten public roadways and utility infrastructure. This bill would appropriate funds for fiscal year 2022-2023 to the Department of Transportation to coordinate the

removal of albizia trees and other invasive trees that potentially threaten public roadways and utility infrastructure rights of way on public and private land.

Accordingly, Hawaiian Electric supports HB 2276, HD 1. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI  
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

EMPLOYEES' RETIREMENT SYSTEM  
HAWAII EMPLOYER-UNION HEALTH BENEFITS TRUST FUND  
OFFICE OF THE PUBLIC DEFENDER

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**  
P.O. BOX 150  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

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. 2276, H.D. 1

**February 25, 2022**  
**12:30 p.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. 2276, H.D. 1, appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 for the Department of Transportation for the coordinated removal of albizia and other invasive trees on public and private property that potentially threaten public roadways and utility infrastructure. This bill requires that the funds are matched on a two-to-one basis from a public utilities source.

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.

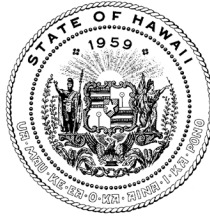
Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- 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.

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**

**Friday, February 25, 2022**  
**12:30 PM**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 308, Via Videoconference**

**In consideration of**  
**HOUSE BILL 2276, HOUSE DRAFT 1**  
**RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

House Bill 2276, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to the Department of Transportation for the coordinated removal of *Albizia* trees on public and private property, including other trees that potentially threaten the public roadways and utility infrastructure. Requires a two-to-one matching requirement from a public utilities source. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) provides the following comments.**

*Albizia* trees are a threat to public safety. *Albizia* is an introduced and invasive tree species that currently infests large swaths of our islands. Its rapid growth crowds out native species, its nitrogen fixing abilities change natural ecosystems, and its large limbs break easily and are a hazard to life and property.

The Department recommends a strategic targeted removal of trees and seedlings in areas of concern. In addition to protecting human lives and infrastructure, proactively removing *Albizia* improves forest health and has a wider impact than just the footprint of the sites from which they are removed.

In 2018, the Hawaii Invasive Species Council published the Strategic Plan for the Control and Management of *Albizia* in Hawaii. The link for the paper on the Department's home page is <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/files/2018/01/Strategic-Plan-for-the-Control-and-Management-of-Albizia-In-Hawaii-1.pdf>.

The problems with *Albizia* being widespread and extremely costly to control illustrate the need for an enhanced biocontrol facility or facilities in Hawaii. A joint state and federal planning process for such facilities is currently underway.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

**HB-2276-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 10:48:10 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Heather McMillen	DLNR	Comments	Yes

Comments:

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

**HB-2276-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 12:38:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 12:30:00 PM

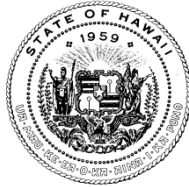
<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Robert K. Masuda	DLNR	Comments	Yes

Comments:

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



DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



**TESTIMONY BY:**

JADE T. BUTAY  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
ROSS M. HIGASH  
EDUARDO P. MANGLALLAN  
PATRICK H. MCCAIN  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 25, 2022  
12:30 P.M.  
State Capitol, Teleconference

**H.B. 2276, H.D. 1**  
**RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

House Committee on Finance

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) **supports** this measure that appropriates funding to the DOT for the coordinated removal of Albizia and other invasive trees.

Due to their extreme height and brittle branches, Albizia trees pose a threat where branches and other debris may fall during high wind events. Albizia trees pose a threat not only to DOT facilities, but to overhead utilities as well.

The DOT supports measure that funds the eradication of Albizia and other invasive trees by this cooperative effort between the DOT and public utilities. For every two dollars from a public utility source, the State will match one dollar to fund this effort.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony.

**HB-2276-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2022 2:14:25 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Albizia is a big hazard on the Big Island. Please pass HB2276 to help get rid of it.

**HB-2276-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 1:35:40 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

aloha nui,

Mahalo for taking a step forward to work on the invasive species taking a toll on our ecosystems. It is critical that resources be provided to these departments to work on getting these species under control and eventually working towards full eradication. I support this effort and hope more is done to restore our native and critical ecosystems.

Mahalo nui,

Kimeona Kane

**HB-2276-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2022 12:37:31 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Kapua Medeiros	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Finance Chair and Committee members,

I am in SUPPORT of HB2276 HD1 as well as HB1872 HD1.

These Bills both offer viable solutions to help insure that our Natural Conservation and Preservation lands remain Sustainable and free from Desecration.

Mahalo for this opportunity.

Me ke aloha nui,

Kapua Medeiros

Waimānalo Raised Resident

**HB-2276-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/25/2022 9:54:15 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/25/2022 12:30:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Remote Testimony Requested</b>
Jody M Green	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this important Bill. Mahalo for the opportunity