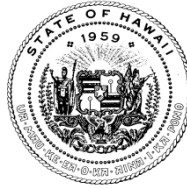


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



LATE

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

March 22, 2022

3:30 P.M.

State Capitol, Conference Room 224/Teleconference

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

Senate Committee(s) on Transportation & Agriculture and Environment

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.

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 SENATE COMMITTEES ON TRANSPORTATION AND
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2276, H.D. 1

March 22, 2022
3:30 p.m.
Room 224 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.

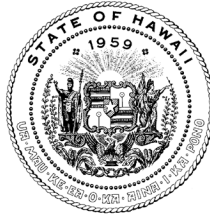
Further, the federal American Rescue Plan (ARP) Act requires that states receiving ARP ESSER funds must maintain state support for:

- 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 Senate Committees on
TRANSPORTATION
and
AGRICULTURE & ENVIRONMENT

Tuesday, March 22, 2022
3:30 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224, 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: 3/21/2022 11:28:27 AM

Testimony for TRS on 3/22/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Heather McMillen	Testifying for DLNR	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

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



**Hawaiian
Electric**

**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON
TRANSPORTATION AND
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT**

HB 2276, HD 1

Relating to Invasive Species

Tuesday, March 22, 2022

3:30 pm Agenda Item #1

State Capitol, Conference Room 224 & via Videoconference

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

Aloha Chairs Lee and Gabbard and members of the Committees,

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

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. The bill also requires a two-to-one matching requirement from a public utilities source.

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.

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

HB-2276-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 12:21:00 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/22/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Dana Keawe	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support HB2276 HD1

HB-2276-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 1:53:20 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/22/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Chad K Taniguchi	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill.

Some local residents on Kauai have suggested to DOT-Kauai to remove small albezia by the roadsides as soon as they are spotted, and offered volunteer help. An ounce of prevention is far less costly than a pound of cure.

I have heard that volunteers are able to kill the albezia by girdling off a strip of bark around the circumference of the tree. The tree will then die. Volunteers need right of entry and possibly some supervision. This would make the funds go farther and involve the community.

Small albezia can be allowed to rot in place. Large albezia that when dead have the potential to cause harm by falling on roadsides need to be cut down and can rot in place.

HB-2276-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/17/2022 7:44:28 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/22/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Azuma Chrupalyk	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

A year ago, I sent a proposal to every single email address in legislature that I found, and only 2 legislators responded to my communication. I don't know who is doing the research for legislators, but a simple google search indicates that it would be more profitable to the state and our lumber companies to contract an arborist/lumber company (I don't know how their contracts work) and to have the company remove the albizia trees safely. Albizia trees are held in high regards as lumber in about one-third of the geographical regions of the world, yet the State of Hawai'i is looking to allocate money for the costly removal and disposal of such a large tree.

According to trained accounting practices and research, the removal of albizia is more practical as a free *direct material* for production, marketing, and sales. Therefore to make taxpayers pay for the costly removal and disposal is an infraction against taxpayers.

HB-2276-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/18/2022 3:44:27 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/22/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Lois Crozer	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

And let's plant native trees in their place.

HB-2276-HD-1

Submitted on: 3/20/2022 7:27:01 PM

Testimony for TRS on 3/22/2022 3:30:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
James B Friday	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha chairs Gabbard and Lee, vice-chairs Nishihara and Inouye, and members of the Agriculture and Environment and Transportation committees,

I support HB2276 HD1 to help fund control of albizia trees. Here on Hawaii Island, storm-damaged albizia trees have blocked roads, taken down power lines, and damaged houses and other buildings. They are truly a safety hazard as well as an environmental threat. In addition, many small private properties on the island are now financially “under water” because it would cost the landowners more to remove the albizia than the property is worth. State leadership is needed to help control them. Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,

James B. Friday, PhD

Hilo, Hawaii