

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



CRAIG K. HIRAI
DIRECTOR

GLORIA CHANG
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF BUDGET AND FINANCE**

P.O. BOX 150
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96810-0150

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 WATER & LAND
ON
HOUSE BILL NO. 2276

**February 10, 2022
8:30 a.m.
Room 430 and Videoconference**

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

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

House Bill No. 2276 appropriates an unspecified amount of general funds in FY 23 for the Department of Transportation for the coordinated removal of albizia trees on public and private property, including other trees 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
WATER & LAND

Tuesday, February 10, 2022
8:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 430, Via Videoconference

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2276
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

House Bill 2276 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.

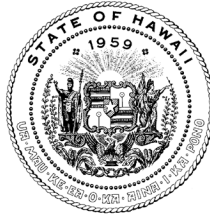
The Department recommends a strategic targeted removal of trees and seedlings in areas of concern. In addition to protecting human lives and infrastructure, removing *Albizia* proactively also promotes forest health and has a wider impact than just the footprint of the sites from which they are removed.

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.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
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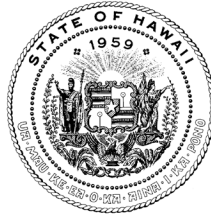
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The problems with *Albizia* being widespread and extremely costly to control illustrate the need for an enhanced biocontrol facility or facilities in Hawaii.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



**TESTIMONY BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
WATER & LAND**

HB 2276

Relating to Invasive Species

Thursday, February 10, 2022
8:30 a.m. Agenda Item #5
State Capitol, Conference Room 430

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

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Branco, 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.

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

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

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/7/2022 7:35:07 PM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Invasive albizia trees create a menace to residents of Hawaii Island during high wind events. Please pass this measure to control them.

HB-2276

Submitted on: 2/9/2022 12:17:34 AM

Testimony for WAL on 2/10/2022 8:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Remote Testimony Requested
Kimeona Kane	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

Mahalo for taking on this very destructive species. Albizia is a menace the the fabric of our delicate ecosystems. If allowed to go unchecked, unmanaged, as it has, our watersheds will die. It is no secret that these trees can kill off an entire complex native forest, sucking the very life of everything around through its extensive root systems and towering canopies. We must act now as we have decades of work to catch up on not just for the protection of infrastructure, but the protection of the watersheds as a whole.

Mahalo nui,
Kimeona Kane