

FEB 02 2023

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM TO PROMOTE THE USE OF ALBIZIA IN COMMERCIAL
PRODUCTS BY ESTABLISHING A GRANT PROGRAM AND CONDUCTING A
STUDY.

1 WHEREAS, the albizia tree is an invasive species that can
2 grow up to one hundred fifty feet tall; and

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4 WHEREAS, albizia trees can grow in nutrient-deficient
5 soils, produce large quantities of wind-dispersed seeds, and
6 grow at a very rapid rate, gaining up to fifteen feet in height
7 each year; and

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9 WHEREAS, albizia trees can very quickly disrupt and replace
10 native ecosystems and can easily take over a cleared area in
11 just a few years; and

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13 WHEREAS, albizia trees have very brittle trunks and limbs
14 that are structurally weak and prone to "sudden limb shear", a
15 phenomenon in which live branches collapse without warning or
16 apparent cause; and

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18 WHEREAS, branch collapses can occur even if a tree appears
19 to be healthy; and

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21 WHEREAS, the phenomenon of "sudden limb shear", combined
22 with the albizia tree's large size and fast growth, gives the
23 tree the potential to cause major damage to property,
24 infrastructure, and human life; and

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26 WHEREAS, as a result, state and county agencies and utility
27 companies must constantly remove albizia trees; and

28
29 WHEREAS, there are currently few beneficial uses for
30 removed albizia trees; and

31



S.C.R. NO. 22

1 WHEREAS, in 2018, a former University of Hawaii student led
2 a team that successfully constructed a full-size prototype
3 single-family home built from albizia wood, demonstrating that
4 albizia could be used as a locally sourced building material;
5 and
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7 WHEREAS, the team conducting the project indicated that
8 there remained questions about whether the use of albizia wood
9 for construction was economically feasible and whether builders
10 could achieve economies of scale using the wood; and
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12 WHEREAS, if questions like these could be answered, the
13 State could turn its overabundance of albizia trees into an
14 economic opportunity; now, therefore,
15

16 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
17 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, the
18 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
19 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to
20 establish a grant program to assist persons who:
21

22 (1) Use albizia trees to create usable commercial
23 products; or
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25 (2) Are developing new ways of using albizia trees to
26 create usable commercial products; and
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28 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
29 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to study
30 economically feasible ways in which businesses may use albizia
31 trees to produce usable commercial products, including housing,
32 throughout the State; and
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34 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the
35 Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is
36 requested to consult with the University of Hawaii College of
37 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and University of
38 Hawaii School of Architecture; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
41 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to submit a
42 report of its findings and recommendations, including any



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1 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
2 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024; and

3
4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
5 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of
6 Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; Dean of the College
7 of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources of the University of
8 Hawaii at Manoa; and Dean of the School of Architecture of the
9 University of Hawaii at Manoa.

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OFFERED BY: _____

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'A' followed by a horizontal line and a vertical stroke.