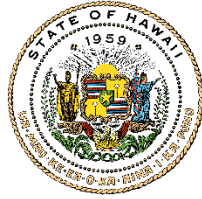


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
DAWN N. S. CHANG
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
and
WATER AND LAND

Friday, February 10, 2023
1:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 948
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Senate Bill 948 proposes to appropriate funds to the Division of Forestry and Wildlife of the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to coordinate the removal of hazard *Albizia* trees that potentially threaten public and private land. **The Department supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated the Department's Executive Budget request.**

Invasive *Albizia* trees are a major hazard to natural areas, private property and infrastructure. *Albizia* can thrive in a broad range of habitats and threatens native ecosystems. It produces large quantities of seeds which are wind dispersed and can be carried over long distances. *Albizia* in Hawai'i is one of the fastest growing trees on Earth. The rapid growth rate produces massive trunks and limbs that are prone to the sudden failure and collapse of enormous live branches without apparent cause.

As such, *Albizia* are a hazard to life and property in many settings. Removal of a mature *Albizia* tree can cost upwards of \$10,000 per tree. There is a need to increase the removal of *Albizia* trees to protect life, property, and infrastructure, including roads and powerlines, as a routine matter and during severe storm events. The Department supports the measure to proactively deal with *Albizia* and appropriate funds to the removal of *Albizia* trees from priority areas. A continued and sustained effort to remove invasive *Albizia* from the landscape is a benefit to the public for health and safety, economically, and ecologically.

Mahalo for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of this measure.

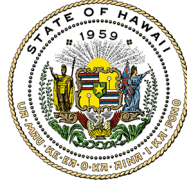
DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE
MANAGEMENT

LAURA H.E. KAAKUA
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

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR
KE KIA'ĀINA



KENNETH S. HARA
DIRECTOR OF EMERGENCY
MANAGEMENT

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR OF
EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT

STATE OF HAWAII
KA MOKU'ĀINA O HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
KA 'OIHANA PILI KAUA
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY
4204 DIAMOND HEAD ROAD
HONOLULU, HAWAI'I 96816-4420

STATE OF HAWAI'I
DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

TESTIMONY ON SENATE BILL 948
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON **AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT AND
WATER AND LAND**

BY

JAMES DS. BARROS
ADMINISTRATOR
HAWAI'I EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY

FEBRUARY 8, 2023

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Chair Inouye, Vice-Chair Richards, Vice-Chair Elefante, and members of the committees:

I am James Barros, Administrator of the Hawai'i Emergency Management Agency (HI-EMA).

HI-EMA provides written testimony in **SUPPORT** of SB948.

This bill would appropriate funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to coordinate the removal of albizia trees pose a hazard to public and private land. While HI-EMA has a role defined in statute in mitigating certain public hazards relating to albizia trees, that role is limited and strictly circumscribed. We support the devotion of additional resources to address the hazard posed by these trees, which may readily topple or lose branches in high winds that can damage property and endanger life.

We support this bill to the extent its passage does not replace or adversely impact the priorities set forth in the administration's executive budget request.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

James Barros: james.barros@hawaii.gov; 808-733-4300



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Friday, February 10, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

By

Anna Wieczorek, Interim Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 948 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice Chairs Richards and Elefante, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment and Senate Committee on Water and Land:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent of SB 948 relating to invasive species.

The albizia tree is an invasive species that can grow rapidly up to one hundred fifty feet tall, adapts to grow in nutrient deficient soils, and produces large quantities of wind-dispersed seeds. Albizia can quickly disrupt and replace native ecosystems and has the potential to cause major damage to property, infrastructure and human life. The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds for the removal of hazard albizia trees that threaten public and private land.

Thank for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent of SB 948, and we defer to the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources regarding the appropriation to allow the Division of Forestry and Wildlife to coordinate the removal of albizia trees.



Environmental Caucus of
The Democratic Party of Hawai'i

Energy & Climate Action Committee

Friday, February 10, 2023, 1:00 pm

Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment and on Water and Land

SENATE BILL 948 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Position: Strong Support

Me ke Aloha, Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice-Chairs Richards and Elefante, and members of the Senate Committees on Agriculture and Environment and on Water and Land:

SB948 appropriates funds for the Division of Forestry and Wildlife to coordinate the removal of hazard albizia trees that potentially threaten public and private land..

The Energy & Climate Action Committee supports the eradication of *Albizia* as a fast-growing and flowering out-of-control menace to soils and water. It is particularly consumptive of soil moisture and ground water recharge as well as a prolific consumer of many soil nutrients, thus a major depleter of essential soil values. Moreover, as this bill notes, it is a brittle tree of substantial proportions that can do significant damage under windy conditions. With climate change upon us, windy conditions will be a more prevalent companion, so that all efforts to contain these hazards are important.

Because *Albizia* is such a serious consumer of nutrients, it is also a prime source of soil replenishment, and might be used productively in companionship with other programs to regenerate soils, possibly earning a return to recover some initial costs of removal.

Mahalo for the opportunity to address this matter.

/s/ Charley Ice & Ted Bohlen, Co-Chairs, Energy and Climate Action Committee
Environmental Caucus of the Democratic Party

SB-948

Submitted on: 2/7/2023 5:14:50 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2023 1:00:00 PM

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

Comments:

support

SB-948

Submitted on: 2/8/2023 9:17:14 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Will Caron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Please support SB948.

SB-948

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 2:04:55 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
John-Carl (JC) Watson	Individual	Support	In Person

Comments:

Aloha,

Mahalo nui to the Committee for the opportunity to testify on SB948. **I strongly support the proposed bill** and am relieved to see the State taking action to reduce the dangers caused by invasive albizia trees. As a global expert specializing in the management of albizia, I can attest to the dire need to effectively manage this invasive species in a timely manner. With the current infestation levels across the Islands ever expanding, and albizia rapidly colonizing critical infrastructure corridors, urban areas, and priority watersheds, it is of severe importance that mechanisms be put in place to address hazard trees and reduce future impacts caused by albizia.

Sincerely,

JC Watson

SB-948

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 3:41:31 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
jerry lam	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

i strongly support providing funds for the eradication and control of invasive albizia trees.

SB-948

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 8:56:39 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Legrande	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Sooner than later we must take care of the invasive albizia trees. Please appropriate the funds to do this. Thank you, Linda Legrande

SB-948

Submitted on: 2/9/2023 9:41:01 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/10/2023 1:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Gail Baron	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I write in support of SB 942 which: Appropriates funds to allow the Division of Forestry and Wildlife to coordinate the removal of hazard albizia trees that potentially threaten public and private land.

In my immediate neighborhood, massive albizia trees, situated on neighboring lands, threaten the homes of several long time residents of Manoa Valley at the end of Huelani Drive. These trees have grown to the size of 15 story buildings or higher in just a few years, are shallow rooted and very, very large in bulk and height. The next storm with near hurricane level winds could send these massive trees crashing into homes, cars and our streams. I urge passage of this bill with sufficient funding to get the job done.

Sincerely,

Gail Baron