



**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**
KA 'OIHANA HO'OMOHALA PĀ'OIHANA, 'IMI WAIWAI
A HO'OMĀKA'IKA'I

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Statement of
CHRIS J. SADAYASU
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism
before the
SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM

Tuesday, March 28, 2023
1:05 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229

In consideration of
SCR 22 / SR 17

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai and members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism (DBEDT) offers the following comments on SCR 22 / SR 17 which requests DBEDT to promote the use of Albizia in commercial products by establishing a grant program and conducting a Study.

DBEDT recommends these resolutions be deferred because there are no demonstrated purposeful economic uses for Albizia so a grant program is premature.

A study would require expertise and funding that we do not have.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



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 Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism
Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 1:05 p.m.

By

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

And

Michael Bruno, Provost
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SCR 22/SR 17 – 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

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SCR 22/SR 17 requesting the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) to establish a grant program to assist persons who use albizia trees to create usable commercial products or are developing new ways of using albizia trees to create usable commercial products. Requests DBEDT in consultation with the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) and the University of Hawai'i School of Architecture to study economically feasible ways in which businesses may use albizia trees to produce usable commercial products, including housing, throughout the State.

CTAHR respectfully offers its support to be a source of reference information on subjects such as biology, plant disease, plant pests, control of the spread of disease and pests during harvest and transport, etc. for the study about albizia trees, but defers to DBEDT on their requirements for an economic feasibility study and grant program.

Thank for the opportunity to provide comments.

SCR-22

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 2:53:57 PM

Testimony for EET on 3/28/2023 1:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
JC Watson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on SCR22 relating to Albizia. As a natural resource manager and global expert with regards to albizia management in Hawai'i, I cannot overstate the need to proactively manage albizia. The rapid growth rate and wide distribution across the state poses a dire threat to critical infrastructure, native forersts, agricultural practices, and human health. While **I support the intent of this bill**, I would like to see some language added to prohibit new plantings of albizia, or at least require that any grant recipient only be allowed to remove existing trees. The last thing we need to do is to create financial incentives for future albizia plantations. Please seriously consider moving SCR22 forward with this minor amendment.

With sincere gratitude,

JC Watson