

**SR-17**

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 3:22:49 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Paul Zweng	Testifying for 'Ohulehule Forest Conservancy, LLC	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha e DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND TOURISM,

Please support the use of albizia in commerical products as an incentive to harvest and eradicate this highly invasive tree from our landscape. If albizia can be viewed as a commerical product, then an incentive would be created to harvest it.

However, please be aware that the SR17 needs to be modified with added language. As the it stands now, SR17 could backfire and do more harm than good. Suggested language includes:

1) SR17 should not advocate for the commerical planting of albizia in an effort to promote the use of albizia in commerical products. SR17 should instead propose to make it illegal to plant albizia, or at a minimum, to require a permit before planting can go forward.

2) SR17 should not lead to the building of logging roads on conservation/preservation lands to transport felled albizia trees (or any portion of albizia trees) to market. The building of logging roads would be disasterous to our forests, resulting in erosion, loss of soil, influx of sediments into our streams, rivers, and ocean, culminating in reef loss. The logging roads would promote the introduction and establishment of invasive plants into our forest. Please say "no" to logging roads.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

Paul Zweng

Managing Member, 'Ohulehule Forest Conservancy, LLC

**SR-17**

Submitted on: 3/22/2023 2:51:20 PM

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

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
John-Carl (JC) Watson	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on SR17 relating to Albizia. As a natural resource manager and global expert with regards to albizia management in Hawaii, 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 SR17 forward with this minor amendment.

With sincere gratitude,

JC Watson