

STAND. COM. REP. NO. 463-24

Honolulu, Hawaii
FEB 15, 2024

RE: H.B. No. 2650
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Transportation, to which was referred H.B. No. 2650 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds, to be matched by public utilities companies, to the Department of Transportation for the coordinated removal of *Albizia* and other invasive trees.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Land and Natural Resources; Hawaiian Electric; Big Island Invasive Species Committee; Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species; and one individual. Your Committee received comments on this measure from the Public Utilities Commission.

Your Committee finds that *Albizia* and other invasive trees present a threat to life, property, public roads, and utility infrastructure in the State. *Albizia* presents a particular danger, as it is a fast-growing tree with large, brittle branches that are more likely to fall or break in windy, rainy, or stormy weather conditions than trees of a comparable size, leading to road closures, cut utility lines, and property damage. This measure is intended to promote public safety by appropriating

2024-1494 HB2650 HD1 HSCR HMSO



funds, including matching funds, for the coordinated removal of *Albizia* and other invasive trees that threaten the State's public roadways.

Your Committee has amended this measure by changing the effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Transportation that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2650, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2650, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Transportation,



CHRIS TODD, Chair



