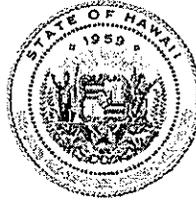


SCR 74 / SR 41

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ADD THE ALBIZIA TREE TO ITS NOXIOUS WEED LIST AND URGING THE INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE INTERAGENCY PLAN FOR THE CONTROL AND ERADICATION OF ALBIZIA ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT**

**Tuesday, March 19, 2013
3:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 225**

**In consideration of
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 74/SENATE RESOLUTION 41
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ADD THE ALBIZIA TREE TO
ITS NOXIOUS WEED LIST AND URGING THE INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL TO
DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE INTERAGENCY PLAN FOR THE
CONTROL AND ERADICATION OF ALBIZIA ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII**

Senate Concurrent Resolution 74/Senate Resolution 41 would: 1) Urge the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to designate Albizia (*Falcataria moluccana*) as a noxious weed and, 2) Urge the Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) to develop and implement a comprehensive interagency control and eradication plan for Albizia on Hawai'i Island. **With regard to the designation of Albizia as a noxious weed, the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DLNR) defers to DOA on the practicality and utility of such a designation. With regard to the development and implementation of a control and eradication plan by HISC, DLNR, as administrative host of the interagency HISC, offers the following comments:**

Albizia is widespread in its distribution across the State. Its large geographic distribution, unusual height and delicate structure make control of Albizia a very difficult, long-term, and costly effort.

With regard to HISC, in 2011 HISC resolved to formally designate Albizia as an "invasive species" once an administrative rule process for such a designation is in place. HISC staff have been working on a draft of these rules and in 2013 are anticipating the recruitment of additional capacity and expertise in a partner agency that would facilitate the completion of draft rules for approval. This designation would provide the authority for State department staff to enter private property for the purpose of control (pursuant to Section 194-6, Hawai'i Revised Statutes), but efficacy of control efforts would still depend on state capacity and funding for control.

With regard to planning, HISC does not currently have the in-house capacity to develop and implement a comprehensive plan for control or eradication (current staff include one coordinator

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ESTHER KIA'AINA
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
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
KAHOOLOAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

and one communications staff). However, HISC is currently engaged in active recruitment for new staff in 2013 with planning expertise to assist in: 1) The development of a five-year Strategic Plan for the HISC, as the current Strategic Plan expires in 2013, and, 2) The facilitation of species-specific management plans. Albizia could be one of the species targeted for management planning, though it is important to note that with limited resources, a heavy focus on Albizia would come at the expense of focusing on other species that may provide more urgent threats, such as Little Fire Ant (*Wasmannia auropunctata*), miconia (*Miconia calvescens*), vectors of human disease such as mosquitoes capable of transmitting yellow fever (e.g., *Aedes aegypti*), or axis deer (*Axis axis*).

Alternatively, HISC could solicit proposals pertaining to Albizia planning and/or control through its annual funding process. Again, it should be noted that limited resources may impact efficacy of these efforts, as the annual HISC budget has been cut from \$4M (approximately \$2M in general funds and \$2M in special funds from Fiscal Years 2005-2009) to \$1.8M (special funds only), and without the requested restoration of a historic general fund appropriation, the Fiscal Year 2014 HISC budget will likely decrease to \$1.4M in special funds. These funds are used to partially support other critical programs, including the Hawai'i Ant Lab, county-based invasive species committees, and the DLNR Division of Aquatic Resources Invasive Species Team.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor



RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF RUSSELL S. KOKUBUN
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT
TUESDAY, MARCH 19, 2013
3:15 P.M.
Room 225

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 74/SENATE RESOLUTION 41
URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ADD THE ALBIZIA TREE TO
ITS NOXIOUS WEED LIST AND URGING THE DINVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL TO
DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE INTERAGENCY PLAN FOR THE
CONTROL AND ERADICATION OF ALBIZIA ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SCR 74/SR 41. The purpose of this resolution is to urge the Hawaii Department of Agriculture to add the Albizia tree to its noxious weed list and for the Hawaii Invasive Species Council to develop and implement an interagency plan for control and eradication of the tree. The department defers to the Department of Land and Natural Resources regarding the development of an interagency plan. The department does not support adding Albizia to the list of weeds in Chapter 68 (HAR).

The purpose of Chapter 68 (HAR) is to designate plants as noxious weeds to give the department the authority to control and eradicate those weeds. Although this is often referred to as a state noxious weed list, it is not. This list is for a different function. It gives the authority to the department to enter into cooperative agreements with landowners to control or eradicate weeds on their property. Once controlled or eradicated the weeds are to be removed from the list.

The department considers Albizia a serious weed pest but has not placed it on our list for control or eradication because it does not meet the criteria in the rules for eradication and the department does not have the resources to implement an effective control program as described in chapter 68. Our strategy is to address this problem through our biocontrol program. Albizia is one of our target biocontrol species and we have begun discussions with potential partners to find effective natural enemies for this



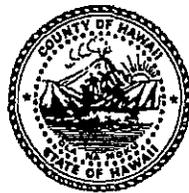
tree. There have been no attempts throughout the world to control Albizia so this is breaking new ground and will be a long-term project.

A proper listing for Albizia would be as an invasive species under HISC administrative rules. These rules are currently being drafted. A listing under these rules would give authority to HISC partners to enter private property for control and eradication purposes.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony.

William P. Kenoi
Mayor

Walter K.M. Lau
Managing Director



Darryl J. Oliveira
Director of Civil Defense

County of Hawaii

CIVIL DEFENSE AGENCY

920 Ululani Street • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720-3958
(808) 935-0031 • Fax (808) 935-6460

March 18, 2013

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment
State of Hawaii

Dear Senator Gabbard,

I would like to submit this letter of testimony in favor of Senate Concurrent Resolution 74 and Senate Resolution 41 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ADD THE ALBIZIA TREE TO ITS NOXIOUS WEED LIST AND URGING THE INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE INTERAGENCY PLAN FOR THE CONTROL AND ERADICATION OF ALBIZIA ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII. Through these two resolutions a comprehensive plan to control and eradicate the invasive Albizia tree can be developed. This invasive species not only poses a threat to native forests but poses a risk to the health and safety of residents and motorists of Hawaii Island. Stands of these very large, weak, and vulnerable trees can be found along primary roadways and throughout many residential subdivisions. It is not uncommon for these trees to break under mild to moderate wind and rain conditions and to have large limbs and even whole trees fall across roadways and damage utilities.

I would like to thank for this opportunity to provide you with this written testimony and strongly encourage and request your support and passage of these resolutions as written.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Darryl Oliveira".

Darryl Oliveira, Acting Administrator
County of Hawaii Civil Defense Agency



THE SENATE
THE TWENTY-SEVENTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2013

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair

NOTICE OF HEARING

Tuesday, March 19, 2013
3:15 p.m.
Conference Room 225

**URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ADD THE ALBIZIA TREE TO ITS
NOXIOUS WEED LIST.**

Dear Chair Gabbard and Vice Chair Ruderman,

We the Piihonua Community Association are in support of Resolution SCR 74 and SR 41 that addresses the issue of albizia trees as a noxious weed. Our community is located at the end of Waianuenu Avenue (turns to Piihonua Road after you cross the bridge at the Wailuku River); there is only one way in and out. Albizia trees are starting to pose a hazard should they fall across the road blocking access or falling into the river causing a "dam" or water diversion to residences.

With the help of Dr. James Leary, UH Extension, our community team of volunteers experimented with a herbicide (milestone); detail data has been collected on the time, quantity of herbicide, number trees treated and effect of the treatment. It works, but the threat of the tree sprouting up is overwhelming and will take more than one team of volunteers to control the spread.

A plan will need to include ways to utilize these trees as part of an eradication program.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on the albizia issue that is overtaking the East side of Hawaii Island.

Sincerely,
Julie Tulang
Vice President
Piihonua Community Association

Hawaiian Shores Community Association

15-2793 S. HONU STREET PAHOA, HAWAII 96778

PHONE (808) 965-8140 FAX (808) 965-0802

EMAIL: hsca@hawaii.rr.com

WEBSITE: www.hawaiianshores.org

March 16, 2013

Energy and Environment Committee
Hawaii State Senate

RE: SR41 and SCR74 – Support resolutions making Albizia a Noxious Weed in Hawaii

Dear Senator Gabbard, Chair; Senator Ruderman, Vice Chair; and Committee Members

This testimony is the result of observing the growth of the noxious weed tree Albizia on the Big Island for the past 30 years; along with extensive research and discussion with agencies and horticulture/plant organizations. As a homeowners association that operates a private wellhead/water distribution system for its nearly 1300 private lots, the economic costs of the State's policy of turning a blind eye to this extremely aggressive pest is hitting everyone in their pocketbooks! Let's share the facts first:

- According to the U.S. Forest Service, Albizia is the fastest growing tree in the world. In Hawaii it has been observed to grow 16' a year reaching heights well over 120' in less than 10 years.
- According to an employee who worked on the project, Department of Transportation (DOT) spent \$1 MILLION attempting to control Albizia along just one (1) mile of Kuhio Highway on Kauai a couple years ago. Since they didn't follow protocols to remove Albizia successfully, DOT will double back this year and anticipates spending close to \$2 MILLION to repeat the exercise – hopefully using proper eradication methods!
- The tree is easily controlled if eradicated in a proper manner which involves either girdling the trunks or making wedge cuts every 6 inches around the circumference of the tree trunk and injecting a very small amount of a non-toxic herbicide - Milestone Plus.
- Albizia spreads like wildfire from its extensive lateral root system such that if you chain saw down a large tree, you will have an Albizia forest sprout from the lateral root system (the drip line of the tree's canopy) which can encompass up to a ¼ acre in the case of a very large tree. It also spreads annually when it drops its seed.
- The tree is not a desirable species for biomass due to its highly invasive reproduction from seed and/or sprouts from the root system. There are many far better plants for biomass production in Hawaii that are not highly invasive and have higher BTU content.
- The tree does not have economic value for wood working or canoe building. Less than 10% of a growth of long standing Albizia may be considered useful for these purposes.
- The root tips of the Falcataria moluccana, aka Albizia, exude a natural selective herbicide that kills off other plant species resulting in Albizia forests forming. This chemical is being studied for production as a commercial herbicide.
- The roots are very strong. The roots contort and invade underground utility conduit and water pipes causing expensive underground repairs and potentially imparting undesirable chemicals and contamination into human drinking water systems.

Department of Health (DOH) does not currently require testing for this specific chemical in public and private water systems in Hawaii, although it should be studied by DOH to determine if testing is needed.

- It has spread as an alien species throughout the Pacific and is rated by the U.S. Forest Service as a HIGH RISK tree in tropical environments. Although a leguminous tree, nitrogen fixing plants are not part of tropical forests and do not enhance our native soils.
- In Hawaii, the refusal of the Department of Agriculture (DOA) to place this tree on the noxious plant list, even though it was requested to do so by the Big Island Invasive Species Committee two years ago, shows the power of large land owners to protect their own interests by avoiding the cost of controlling Albizia on large tracts of land in Kauai, Maui, and Big Island. Meantime, the economic cost to the citizens of this State is well into the MILLIONS of DOLLARS. The names of specific large land owners who have been blocking this action are known, but not provided in this public testimony out of respect for the political process.
- The Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii refers to Albizia as a "sudden limb drop" tree. Albizia growing close to roadways and residential properties pose an extreme threat to humans and property.

Our homeowner association is currently assessing its water wellhead and distribution system, which consists of ~3 miles of a main line and 11 miles of lateral lines, for leaks caused by Albizia root invasion. We have uncovered an area of about 1 mile of underground water pipes where roots from Albizia have either restricted flow or created holes in the pipes. The roots then fill the holes blocking flow rates and we don't know the impact on water quality. As a small private water system, we cannot afford the sophisticated tests required to identify contaminants associated with chemicals exuded by Albizia roots.

The State must step up to the plate, admit this is a noxious weed tree (as if everyone living in the District of Puna doesn't already know this!) and develop a control program – period! The economic costs to utility rate payers from overhead and underground Albizia threats; the economic cost to taxpayers from Albizia roots undermining State and County roads along with fallen limbs and trees obstructing and hitting motorists; the loss to private property when Albizia falls on homes, fences and other private property are reasons enough to control this undesirable invasive tree. The fact that it poses a threat to human health and safety is unquestionable. Home and property values are being negatively impacted by the close proximity of uncontrolled Albizia growth. We can't believe the legislature has ignored this HUGE problem as long as they have and we are grateful to Senator Ruderman for proposing this much needed legislation.

STOP THE SPREAD OF ALBIZIA NOW!!!!!!

Please support these Resolutions as a first step to control of this noxious weed tree.

Sincerely,



David Johnson, Vice President, Board of Directors

On behalf of the Hawaiian Shores Community Association

Hawaiian Shores Community Association

15-2793 S. HONU STREET PAHOA, HAWAII 96778

PHONE (808) 965-8140 FAX (808) 965-0802

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March 16, 2013

Energy and Environment Committee
Hawaii State Senate

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- The Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii refers to Albizia as a "sudden limb drop" tree. Albizia growing close to roadways and residential properties pose an extreme threat to humans and property.

Our homeowner association is currently assessing its water wellhead and distribution system, which consists of ~3 miles of a main line and 11 miles of lateral lines, for leaks caused by Albizia root invasion. We have uncovered an area of about 1 mile of underground water pipes where roots from Albizia have either restricted flow or created holes in the pipes. The roots then fill the holes blocking flow rates and we don't know the impact on water quality. As a small private water system, we cannot afford the sophisticated tests required to identify contaminants associated with chemicals exuded by Albizia roots.

The State must step up to the plate, admit this is a noxious weed tree (as if everyone living in the District of Puna doesn't already know this!) and develop a control program – period! The economic costs to utility rate payers from overhead and underground Albizia threats; the economic cost to taxpayers from Albizia roots undermining State and County roads along with fallen limbs and trees obstructing and hitting motorists; the loss to private property when Albizia falls on homes, fences and other private property are reasons enough to control this undesirable invasive tree. The fact that it poses a threat to human health and safety is unquestionable. Home and property values are being negatively impacted by the close proximity of uncontrolled Albizia growth. We can't believe the legislature has ignored this HUGE problem as long as they have and we are grateful to Senator Ruderman for proposing this much needed legislation.

STOP THE SPREAD OF ALBIZIA NOW!!!!!!

Please support these Resolutions as a first step to control of this noxious weed tree.

Sincerely,



David Johnson, Vice President, Board of Directors
On behalf of the Hawaiian Shores Community Association



P.O. Box 893953
Mililani, Hawaii 96789-0953
(808) 581-1342 Fax (808) 625-4287

March 18, 2013

Senate Committee on Energy and Environment

Subject: Testimony on SR41

The Aloha Arborist Association (AAA) supports SR41 relating to the control and eradication of albizia (*Falcataria moluccana*) with proposed revisions. Albizia is a problem not just on the Island of Hawaii but on all of the major Hawaiian Islands. The Senate Resolution should be amended to reflect the State of Hawaii as the area affected in lieu of the Island of Hawaii.

We would also like to point out that a long term solution for combating albizia should include the introduction of one or more biocontrol agents.

We are an organization of 79 individuals and companies who work in the tree care industry. Mahalo for considering our testimony.

Respectfully submitted,

Steven Connolly
President

**Testimony before the Committee on
Energy and Environment**

**March 19, 2013
3:15 pm**

**Curtis Beck
Manager, Energy Services Department
Hawaii Electric Light Company**

SCR 74/SR 41 – URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO ADD THE ALBIZIA TREE TO ITS NOXIOUS WEED LIST AND URGING THE INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A COMPREHENSIVE INTERAGENCY PLAN FOR THE CONTROL AND ERADICATION OF ALBIZIA ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII.

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Ruderman, and Members of the Committee:

The Hawaii Electric Light Company supports the intent of these resolutions.

Albizia trees are a major cause of electric service disruptions on the Island of Hawaii. This invasive plant forces us to spend a disproportionate amount of time, energy and resources to address issues created by this plant. For example, although Albizia trees comprise less than 4% of the trees located near HELCO power lines and substations, they are the majority cause of tree related service outages for our company, and in 2012 affected thousands of our customers.

We hope that one of the results of this resolution will be increased public awareness of the Albizia tree problem and lead to better education on how to deal with stopping the proliferation of this invasive plant.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on these resolutions.



LANDSCAPE INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF HAWAII

March 15, 2013

TESTIMONY FOR SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION N.O. 74

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

The Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii SUPPORTS Senate Concurrent Resolution 74 Relating to controlling and eradicating of Albizia trees.

The Landscape Industry in Hawaii has been a leader in limiting the use of invasive species and understands first hand the enormous problems that Albizia trees create for landowners.

Introduced to Hawaii in 1917 by Joseph Rock as an ornamental and for reforestation, it is now naturalized. It is found on all the Hawaiian Islands. Albizia can grow up to 15 feet a year, reaching heights of 130 feet tall quickly colonizing disturbed areas in wet environments. The tree is prone to shedding large branches responsible for damaging power lines, houses, and other infrastructure in Hawaii. Albizia trees pose a high risk for the tree workers by commonly harbouring bee nests, brittle branches, falling branches and occasionally unpredictable breaks during cutting. Albizia is a very dangerous tree in Hawaii for tree worker safety.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 74 requests Department of Agriculture add *Falcataria moluccana* to the list created through the HRS 4:6:68, "Noxious Weed Rules."

The Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii supports the bill but strongly believes the only solution to Albizia is a biocontrol and that any solution should be applied statewide for ensured success. LICH would suggest amending the resolution to recommend developing a biocontrol at the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Chris Dacus
President
Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii
P. O. Box 22938, Honolulu, Hawaii 96823-2938

Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii

Hawaii's landscape industry has an economic impact of over \$520 million annually and full time employment of over 11,000 landscape professionals. Formed in 1986, LICH is a statewide alliance representing Hawaii's landscape trade associations. LICH can be found online at www.landscapenhawaii.org



LANDSCAPE INDUSTRY COUNCIL OF HAWAII

March 15, 2013

TESTIMONY FOR SENATE RESOLUTION N.O. 41

COMMITTEE ON ENERGY AND ENVIRONMENT

The Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii SUPPORTS Senate Resolution 41 Relating to controlling and eradicating of Albizia trees.

The Landscape Industry in Hawaii has been a leader in limiting the use of invasive species and understands first hand the enormous problems that Albizia trees create for landowners.

Introduced to Hawaii in 1917 by Joseph Rock as an ornamental and for reforestation, it is now naturalized. It is found on all the Hawaiian Islands. Albizia can grow up to 15 feet a year, reaching heights of 130 feet tall quickly colonizing disturbed areas in wet environments. The tree is prone to shedding large branches responsible for damaging power lines, houses, and other infrastructure in Hawaii. Albizia trees pose a high risk for the tree worker by commonly harbouring bee nests, brittle branches, falling branches and occasionally unpredictable breaks during cutting. Albizia is a very dangerous tree in Hawaii for tree worker safety.

Senate Resolution 41 requests Department of Agriculture add *Falcataria moluccana* to the list created through the HRS 4:6:68, "Noxious Weed Rules."

The Landscape Industry Council of Hawaii supports the bill but strongly believes the only solution to Albizia is a biocontrol and that any solution should be applied statewide for ensured success. LICH would suggest amending the resolution to recommend developing a biocontrol at the Department of Agriculture.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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SCR74

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for ENE on Mar 19, 2013 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barb Cuttance	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass this bill to have Albizia trees listed as a noxious weed. They are dangerous as they fall down or branches fall off them during windy conditions and they grow everywhere including along road verges causing all sorts of hazards for drivers, pedestrians and people of bicycles. Barb Cuttance 14/266 Papapya Farms Road Kapoho Puna

SCR74

Submitted on: 3/13/2013

Testimony for ENE on Mar 19, 2013 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Janeel Hew	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Greetings, I stand in support of SCR74. I respectfully thank you for your consideration on the facts that, Albizia is a fast growing tree that is invasive (weedy) in native `ohi`a forests as well as on land disturbed by human activities. Albizia causes `ohi`a to die off, and makes the environment more favorable for other invasive species (clidemia, guava, and possibly miconia and the coqui frog). Because of their brittle wood and weak structure, large albizia trees pose a hazard to nearby infrastructure. Strong winds can cause large limbs to drop onto whatever may be underneath, potentially causing costly damage to homes and power lines. Albizia grows at a rapid rate. Trees can reach heights of more than 20 feet in their first year, 45 feet in their third year, and 60 feet by the end of their tenth year. The crown of an albizia tree is broad, capable of shading over half an acre. It may be a beautiful species to see, yet is invasive and dangerous. I strongly urge you to protect our natural species, property and the people of Hawaii, by passing SCR74. Mahalo in advance, Janeel Hew

SCR74

Submitted on: 3/14/2013

Testimony for ENE on Mar 19, 2013 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steve Hirakmi	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Although we have another serious invasive specie prolem with fire ants here in Puna, we also have been plagued for years with albizia. Perhaps in solving the problem by eradicating the albizia, we can look at ways of using it. Albizia is a nitrogen fixing plant. It is soft, light wood which can be easily chipped and composted to provide these soil-less lands with much needed organic mulch and compost. The wood of the dark albizia is beautiful and could be used as wood for furniture. The lighter albizia can replace any use of balsa wood. Maybe we could "fell two trees with one ax".

SCR74

Submitted on: 3/16/2013

Testimony for ENE on Mar 19, 2013 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sheryl K. Palmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please add albizia to the noxious weed list. This action is long overdue. Thank you.

SCR74

Submitted on: 3/17/2013

Testimony for ENE on Mar 19, 2013 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cleon Bailey	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

SCR74

Submitted on: 3/14/2013

Testimony for ENE on Mar 19, 2013 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dave Kisor	Individual	Support	No

Comments: SCR74/SR41: Yes, please add albezia to the noxious weed list and get rid of it, if it isn't too late by this time. I've only been a resident of Hawai'i County for 3.5 years, but have watched all manner of desperation and frustration I'm told that had been going on for decades regarding albezia and heard horror stories about how they fell on homes and people, yet the government remained as disconnected as ever, as governments are so good at doing. It would be interesting to know exactly what precipitated this action, but it is highly doubtful we will ever be told that story. This is just my SWAG, but I would surmise a wealthy member of the leisure class has albezia on their property and would rather have the state pay for their removal. Whatever it takes, I suppose. For many decades, in the Naval Division Officer's Guide and the Army Officer's Guide, there was a phrase that seemed to last up into the present (although removed, the attitude remained) which read, "Enlisted men are stupid, but extremely cunning and sly and bear watching," and that I suspect is the regard in which Honolulu has for us, because I know someone who deals with our county and that is how Hilo views us in Puna, much like Ann Romney when she painfully exclaimed, "you people don't understand!" (1) "Institutions are products of past process, are adapted to past circumstances and are therefore never in full accord with the requirements of the present," which explains why governments are so lousy at planning for the future, because they haven't even made it all the way into the present. Problems on O'ahu are solved right away, problems in Puna? Are you kidding me? This is not the same Puna you have locked inside of your mind! "There's no trick to being a humorist when you have the whole government working for you." (2) 1. The Theory of the Leisure Class; Veblen, Thorsten; Dover Thrift Edition; 1899; pp 118-119 2. Will Rogers (1879 - 1935)

SCR74

Submitted on: 3/14/2013

Testimony for ENE on Mar 19, 2013 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Bidleman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Albizia is not just an invasive, it is dangerous. These trees are some of the biggest on the island adjacent to many heavily traveled roads. On larger trees, some of the limbs break off with no warning are a danger to passing vehicles.

SR41

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

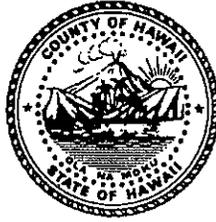
Testimony for ENE on Mar 19, 2013 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Orlo C. Steele	Individual	Support	No

Comments: As a professor of forestry at Hawaii Community College, I will testify that Albizia falcataria has become a noxious tree in East Hawaii. I feel that landowners who have these trees on their land need to be responsible for removing them.

Zendo Kern
Council Member
Council District 5

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Planning Committee Chair

*Environmental Management
Committee Chair*

March 18, 2013

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair,
Senator Russell E. Ruderman, Vice Chair, and
Members of the committee on Energy and Environment

Senators Gabbard and Ruderman,

I'm writing today in strong support of SCR74/SR41, adding Albizia to the list of Noxious Weeds and urging the Invasive Species Council to develop and implement a comprehensive interagency plan for the control and eradication of Albizia on the Big Island.

As the County Council representative for the 5th District, Puna Mauka, and as an individual that has lived in Puna most of my life, I can tell you from personal experience how this species of tree has quickly proliferated throughout the district threatening the health and safety of residents, private property, public facilities and infrastructure.

Please support SCR74 without delay.

Mahalo

SCR74

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

Testimony for ENE on Mar 19, 2013 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Verne Presnall	HPPOA	Support	No

Comments: I live on two acres in Hawaiian Paradise Park. I have pulled up albezas under 6 feet tall. Any taller then I use a saw. I have chainsawed albezas down on my two lots with trunks 20 inches in diameter fearful of damaging my telephone line, electrical lines, as well as falling onto my house. I have gone into my neighbor's adjoining acre to preemptively destroy any albezia renegades. There is a reason we call this tree a junk tree. It requires constant vigilance. After moving here five years ago I pulled an albezia out of my gutter whose roots were four feet long. Given enough time who knows how long it's roots could've grown towards my catchment tank or what kind of damage it could produce to the gutter or plumbing. Our community has spent upwards to \$1000 per day to control the advancement of albezas. We only budget so much money per year for tree trimming. We need help. More seedlings are sprouting every day. These albezia giants are growing even as we speak

SCR74

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

Testimony for ENE on Mar 19, 2013 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Page Else	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I live in a Puna (Big Island) subdivision heavily infested with albizia. Lots are 1/5 of an acre and trees many lots away block my sunlight and threaten the safety of my drive home. Many times Helco has had to come trim trees or restore power outages caused by falling trees. Mature trees are spreading seeds everywhere, no one can clear their lot without albizia sprouting up immediately. In a storm my access could be blocked by fallen trees. I am truly afraid one will fall on my car. These trees represent a serious safety and ecological hazard. Something must be done or the problem will just become ever greater.

SR41

Submitted on: 3/18/2013

Testimony for ENE on Mar 19, 2013 15:15PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rosemarie Patronette	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: As a resident of the County of Hawaii I strongly urge you to take measures to control the spread of the Albizia and to add it to the noxious weed list