

MAR 06 2020

SENATE RESOLUTION

URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO CONVENE A
TASK FORCE OF GOVERNMENT AND PRIVATE STAKEHOLDERS TO
IDENTIFY LONG-TERM SOLUTIONS TO CONTROL AND ERADICATE
ALBIZIA IN HAWAII.

1 WHEREAS, the *Falcataria moluccana*, commonly known as the
2 Albizia tree, was first introduced to Hawaii in 1917; and
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4 WHEREAS, Albizia trees are capable of growing up to fifteen
5 feet per year, and this rapid growth rate produces trunks and
6 limbs that are structurally weak and brittle and prone to
7 "sudden limb shear" or "sudden branch drop"; and
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9 WHEREAS, the Albizia's rapid growth crowds out native
10 species, its nitrogen fixing abilities change natural
11 ecosystems, and the tree produces large quantities of seeds in
12 light pods that can easily be dispersed over large distances;
13 and
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15 WHEREAS, this combination of features makes Albizia trees
16 hazardous to public safety, native plant species, and critical
17 infrastructure systems; and
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19 WHEREAS, Senate Resolution No. 41, S.D. 1, Regular Session
20 of 2013, urged the Invasive Species Council to develop and
21 implement a comprehensive interagency plan for the control and
22 eradication of Albizia throughout the State and to find partners
23 to use Albizia trees that are removed, and urged the Department
24 of Agriculture to investigate biocontrol agents for the control
25 of Albizia; and
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27 WHEREAS, the 2018 report prepared by the Hawaii Invasive
28 Species Council and its partners, entitled "Strategic Plan for
29 the Control and Management of Albizia in Hawai'i" (Strategic
30 Plan), identified approximately twenty thousand acres of Albizia
31 infestation on Oahu and forty-three thousand acres on the



1 eastern side of Hawaii island, and gave Albizia a score of eight
2 (high risk invasive) on the Hawaii Pacific Weed Risk Assessment
3 scale; and
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5 WHEREAS, according to the Strategic Plan, the Department of
6 Transportation reportedly spent \$1,000,000 per mile to remove
7 one thousand Albizia trees on Kauai, with the removal of one
8 large tree costing as much as \$10,000, and the Hawaii island
9 branch of the Department of Transportation estimates that ninety
10 percent of all calls received for fallen trees for the past
11 several years have involved Albizia; and
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13 WHEREAS, public utilities spend thousands of dollars
14 annually on vegetation management programs to address Albizia
15 and other invasive species' encroachment on electrical and
16 telecommunication lines; and
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18 WHEREAS, in the wake of Tropical Storm Iselle in 2014,
19 hundreds of Hawaii island residents were stranded for days with
20 their roads blocked and without power for months because of
21 fallen Albizia, and according to the Strategic Plan, Hawaiian
22 Electric Light Company estimates it spent \$13,700,000 responding
23 to damage from Iselle; and
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25 WHEREAS, the susceptibility of Albizia trees to inclement
26 weather conditions combined with a tendency to grow in dense
27 stands make them an especially worrisome hazard in the event of
28 a hurricane or other natural disaster; and
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30 WHEREAS, the Strategic Plan identifies objectives and
31 implementation tasks to assess impacts; control methods;
32 planning; and legislative, policy, and funding work that needs
33 to be done; and
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35 WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor recognize that the
36 Albizia has become one of Hawaii's most detrimental invasive
37 plant species; now, therefore,
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39 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
40 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, that the
41 Department of Land and Natural Resources is urged to convene a
42 task force of government and private stakeholders to identify



1 long-term solutions to control and eradicate Albizia in Hawaii;
2 and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Albizia task force is
5 requested to be comprised of:

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7 (1) A member to be appointed by the President of the
8 Senate;

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10 (2) A member to be appointed by the Speaker of the House
11 of Representatives;

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13 (3) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
14 Resources, or the Chairperson's designee;

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16 (4) The Director of Transportation, or the Director's
17 designee;

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19 (5) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, or the
20 Chairperson's designee;

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22 (6) A representative of the Hawaii Invasive Species
23 Council;

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25 (7) A representative of the Office of the Mayor from each
26 of the counties with expertise in emergency management
27 and specifically, vegetation management;

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29 (8) A representative of Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.;

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31 (9) A representative of the Kauai Island Utility
32 Cooperative; and

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34 (10) A representative of a telecommunication company that
35 operates in Hawaii, to be selected by the Chairperson
36 of the Board of Land and Natural Resources;

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38 with the chairperson of the Albizia task force to be selected by
39 the task force members; and

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41 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is encouraged to
42 solicit participation from individuals as well as organizations



1 or agencies from the public and private sectors in areas
2 throughout the State that are affected by or perform work
3 related to invasive Albizia; and

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5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
6 Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife shall
7 provide administrative support to the task force; and

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9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, upon request of the task
10 force, the Legislative Reference Bureau shall assist in the
11 preparation of the report; provided that, before August 1, 2021,
12 the task force shall submit a draft to the Legislative Reference
13 Bureau, including any information and materials deemed necessary
14 by the Legislative Reference Bureau, for the preparation of the
15 final report; and

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17 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, with the
18 assistance of the Legislative Reference Bureau, is requested to
19 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
20 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
21 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
22 2022, which is requested to include:

- 23
- 24 (1) An analysis of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council's
- 25 "Strategic Plan for the Control and Management of
- 26 Albizia in Hawai'i" (2018), including its objectives
- 27 and implementation tasks and how government and
- 28 private stakeholders can assist in carrying out these
- 29 objectives and implementation tasks;
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- 31 (2) An estimate of the costs to the State, counties, and
- 32 private sector to address the control and eradication
- 33 of Albizia for the last three years;
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- 35 (3) Recommendations, if any, for changes to state or
- 36 county agencies' vegetation management programs to
- 37 assist with the control or eradication of Albizia;
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- 39 (4) Identification of funding sources, including federal,
- 40 state, county, or private sources, that are used or
- 41 may be used to control and eradicate Albizia; and



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(5) Recommendations, if any, for legislation relating to the following:

- (A) The ability of private landowners, public utilities, government agencies, or other entities to control or eradicate Albizia;
- (B) Addressing problems with Albizia and establishing a permanent funding source that could assist in the control or eradication of Albizia; and
- (C) Allowing government agencies and public utilities to control or eradicate Albizia and other species that might exist on private property, if such vegetation poses a threat to critical infrastructure or public safety; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Senate; Speaker of the House of Representatives; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources; Director of Transportation; Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture; Hawaii Invasive Species Council Program Supervisor; Mayors of each county; Chief Executive Officer of Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.; and Chief Executive Officer of Kauai Island Utility Cooperative.

OFFERED BY: Clarence K. Mikihana

[Handwritten signatures and names]

Clarence K. Mikihana
Araine R. Ironye
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Kal N...
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