

MAR 06 2020

SENATE CONCURRENT 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

3
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

8
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

14
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

26
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



S.C.R. NO. 160

1 Plan), identified approximately twenty thousand acres of Albizia
 2 infestation on Oahu and forty-three thousand acres on the
 3 eastern side of Hawaii island, and gave Albizia a score of eight
 4 (high risk invasive) on the Hawaii Pacific Weed Risk Assessment
 5 scale; and

6
 7 WHEREAS, according to the Strategic Plan, the Department of
 8 Transportation reportedly spent \$1,000,000 per mile to remove
 9 one thousand Albizia trees on Kauai, with the removal of one
 10 large tree costing as much as \$10,000, and the Hawaii island
 11 branch of the Department of Transportation estimates that ninety
 12 percent of all calls received for fallen trees for the past
 13 several years have involved Albizia; and

14
 15 WHEREAS, public utilities spend thousands of dollars
 16 annually on vegetation management programs to address Albizia
 17 and other invasive species' encroachment on electrical and
 18 telecommunication lines; and

19
 20 WHEREAS, in the wake of Tropical Storm Iselle in 2014,
 21 hundreds of Hawaii island residents were stranded for days with
 22 their roads blocked and without power for months because of
 23 fallen Albizia, and according to the Strategic Plan, Hawaiian
 24 Electric Light Company estimates it spent \$13,700,000 responding
 25 to damage from Iselle; and

26
 27 WHEREAS, the susceptibility of Albizia trees to inclement
 28 weather conditions combined with a tendency to grow in dense
 29 stands make them an especially worrisome hazard in the event of
 30 a hurricane or other natural disaster; and

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 32 WHEREAS, the Strategic Plan identifies objectives and
 33 implementation tasks to assess impacts; control methods;
 34 planning; and legislative, policy, and funding work that needs
 35 to be done; and

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 37 WHEREAS, the Legislature and Governor recognize that the
 38 Albizia has become one of Hawaii's most detrimental invasive
 39 plant species; now, therefore,

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 41 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirtieth Legislature
 42 of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2020, the House of



1 Representatives concurring, that the Department of Land and
2 Natural Resources is urged to convene a task force of government
3 and private stakeholders to identify long-term solutions to
4 control and eradicate Albizia in Hawaii; and

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

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9 (1) A member to be appointed by the President of the
10 Senate;
- 11
12 (2) A member to be appointed by the Speaker of the House
13 of Representatives;
- 14
15 (3) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
16 Resources, or the Chairperson's designee;
- 17
18 (4) The Director of Transportation, or the Director's
19 designee;
- 20
21 (5) The Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, or the
22 Chairperson's designee;
- 23
24 (6) A representative of the Hawaii Invasive Species
25 Council;
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27 (7) A representative of the Office of the Mayor from each
28 of the counties with expertise in emergency management
29 and specifically, vegetation management;
- 30
31 (8) A representative of Hawaiian Electric Company, Inc.;
- 32
33 (9) A representative of the Kauai Island Utility
34 Cooperative; and
- 35
36 (10) A representative of a telecommunication company that
37 operates in Hawaii, to be selected by the Chairperson
38 of the Board of Land and Natural Resources;

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



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is encouraged to
2 solicit participation from individuals as well as organizations
3 or agencies from the public and private sectors in areas
4 throughout the State that are affected by or perform work
5 related to invasive Albizia; and

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

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

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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force, with the
20 assistance of the Legislative Reference Bureau, is requested to
21 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
22 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
23 twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of
24 2022, which is requested to include:

- 25
26 (1) An analysis of the Hawaii Invasive Species Council's
27 "Strategic Plan for the Control and Management of
28 Albizia in Hawai'i" (2018), including its objectives
29 and implementation tasks and how government and
30 private stakeholders can assist in carrying out these
31 objectives and implementation tasks;
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33 (2) An estimate of the costs to the State, counties, and
34 private sector to address the control and eradication
35 of Albizia for the last three years;
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37 (3) Recommendations, if any, for changes to state or
38 county agencies' vegetation management programs to
39 assist with the control or eradication of Albizia;



