

JAN 23 2015

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ENVIRONMENT.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that *albizia*, *Falcataria*
2 *moluccana*, is an invasive species that presents an increasingly
3 costly threat to the economy, critical infrastructure, and
4 public safety on Hawaii island. The pre-planned removal of each
5 albizia tree costs significantly less than the combined direct
6 and indirect costs of removal if and when it falls into a road,
7 power line, or building. The likelihood of albizia trees
8 falling and the long distances between residential areas and
9 emergency services add significantly to the uncertainty of
10 emergency response capability, resulting in the potential loss
11 of property and human life following a hurricane. Such
12 circumstances were evident in 2014 following tropical storm
13 Iselle. Despite the storm never reaching hurricane strength,
14 falling albizia trees caused a majority of the damage to power
15 lines and property on Hawaii island.

16 The legislature further finds that the Hawaii invasive
17 species council and the Big Island Invasive Species Committee, a



1 voluntary partnership of private citizens, community
2 organizations, businesses, land owners, and government agencies,
3 have demonstrated the effectiveness and necessity of a
4 coordinated approach to controlling the growth and spread of
5 albizia trees. Their work has led to a coordinated management
6 plan and the development of a list of priority projects,
7 including the removal of hazardous albizia trees from high
8 priority roads and transmission lines, chemical control of all
9 non-hazardous trees adjacent to where hazardous albizia trees
10 have been removed, and community outreach. The priority
11 projects identified are based on the number of residents served,
12 availability of alternate access routes, and the long-term, most
13 cost-effective approach to mitigating albizia impacts.

14 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the
15 Hawaii invasive species council to coordinate the management and
16 removal of albizia trees that threaten access to critical
17 emergency services and transportation routes.

18 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,100,000 or so much
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2015-2016 and the
21 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year



1 2016-2017 for the Hawaii invasive species council to coordinate
2 the management and removal of albizia trees that threaten access
3 to critical emergency services and transportation routes.

4 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
5 of land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

6 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2015.
7

INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 591

Report Title:

Invasive Species; Albizia Trees; Appropriation

Description:

Makes an appropriation to the Hawaii invasive species council for the coordinated management of albizia trees on Hawaii island and throughout the State.

The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.

