

DAVID IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
CARTY S. CHANG
Interim Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

**Monday, February 9, 2015
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 989
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES**

House Bill 989 proposes to expand the use of the Land Conservation Fund (LCF) to allow for invasive species control and mitigation by the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC). This measure also proposes to appropriate an unspecified amount of special funds from the LCF for the control of albizia trees on public and private property. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) opposes this measure.**

The Department recognizes the environmental and public safety threats posed by the invasive tree *Falcattaria moluccana*, commonly known as albizia, and supports control of albizia where possible. The interagency HISC, which is housed within the Department, is working with the Big Island Invasive Species Committee on a plan for strategic albizia control. The Department supports increased funding for the control of albizia; however, the Department does not support altering the purpose of the LCF, which funds the Legacy Land Conservation Program (Legacy Land).

This change in purpose for the LCF will negatively impact the ability of Legacy Land to meet its mandate to protect, through land acquisition, rare and important natural, cultural, and agricultural resources. Legacy Land's purpose is closely tied to its revenue source, the land conveyance tax; and the program is successfully leveraging federal, county, and private funds to protect lands at one-third of the cost. The Department notes that other measures in this legislative session propose appropriations from the general revenues of the State of Hawaii for albizia removal.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

CARTY S. CHANG
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THE TRUST *for* PUBLIC LAND

LAND FOR PEOPLE

THE TRUST FOR PUBLIC LAND'S TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION TO HB 989 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

House Committee on Water & Land

Monday, February 9, 2015, 10:00 a.m., Room 325

The Trust for Public Land strongly opposes HB 989 relating to invasive species, although it respects the intent of the bill and the spirit in which it was introduced. This bill proposes to take funds from the Legacy Land Conservation Program (LLCP) to pay for the removal of invasive albezia trees on private and public land.


While the removal of invasive albezia trees is a worthy goal, The Trust for Public Land opposes raiding the LLCP to do so. The LLCP has enjoyed amazing success, efficiently leveraging substantial federal, county, and private matching dollars to conserve agricultural land (which contribute to food security, jobs, and the economy), lands that protect our clean drinking water, lands that perpetuate Hawaiian culture, and lands that are enjoyed by residents and visitors for recreation, hiking, beach-going, and scenic views (supporting our tourism based economy).

Established in 2005, the LLCP receives 10% of the real estate conveyance tax, paid when a landowner sells land (other portions of the tax are allocated to the affordable housing rental trust fund, the natural area reserve fund, and the general fund). The LLCP has conserved over 6,600 acres of iconic and important land in every county – Black Pot Beach Park at Hanalei Bay on Kaua‘i, the sacred waters of Kawaikapu on Moloka‘i, the 1-mile of shoreline and coastal wetlands of Nu‘u on Maui, the ancient Hawaiian village and marine protected areas of Lapakahi State Historical Park on Hawai‘i Island, and agricultural land in Wai‘anae, O‘ahu that through the non-profit MA‘O Organic Farm, employs and finances the college education of over 50 youth from Leeward O‘ahu.

The LLCP efficiently uses funds, leveraging an average of one dollar or more for every dollar spent. For example, The Trust for Public Land assisted the State in acquiring 3,582 acres of the Honouliuli Forest Reserve in the Wai‘anae Mountain Range, raising \$3,7635,500 in federal funding. The LLCP contributed \$982,956, towards an over \$4 million purchase. Every dollar from the LLCP was matched by more than 3 additional federal dollars to purchase the property, which includes forests that protect clean drinking water for O‘ahu residents, and habitat for over 90 rare and endangered plant and animal species, including the O‘ahu Elepaio (endangered forest bird) and the famed “singing” endangered kahuli tree snail.

Land prices in Hawai‘i are expensive, and constantly rising. Raiding the LLCP for other purposes (even well intentioned purposes) will reduce the success and effectiveness of a program that allows public and non-profit partners to leverage substantial federal, county, and private dollars for conservation. Every dollar taken from the LLCP really takes away two or more dollars for conservation. The Trust for Public Land therefore strongly opposes this bill, although it respects its original intent.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify –



Lea Hong

Hawaiian Islands State Director, 1003 Bishop Street, Suite 740, 524-8563 (office), 783-3653 (cell)



Testimony of the O'ahu Invasive Species Committee
Opposing H.B. 989 Relating to Invasive Species
House Committee on Water and Land
Monday, February 9, 2015, 10:00 AM, Room 325

The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee (OISC) opposes H.B. 989 that would allow money from the Land Conservation Fund to be used for removal of albizia. While we agree that albizia removal should be funded, we prefer that the Legislature allocate specific amounts toward specific invasive species control by budget proviso instead of changing the statute.

The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee works island-wide to remove incipient invasive species from O'ahu before they become so abundant that they begin to damage ecosystems.

Thank you for your support.

Sincerely,
The O'ahu Invasive Species Committee

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Opposing H.B. 989 Relating to Invasive Species
House Committee on Water and Land
Monday, February 9, 2015, 10:00AM, Room 325

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which life in these islands depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 35,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i. We also work closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative land and marine management projects.

The Nature Conservancy opposes H.B. 989 as it would dilute the original intent of the Legislature to establish a State revenue source to leverage non-state funds for purchase and protection important land areas.

Since its inception in FY2006, the Legacy Land Conservation Program has funded a diverse variety of public park, environmental, cultural, historical, and agricultural land protection projects supported by the public, State agencies, counties and non-profits. State funds have been more than doubled with matches of federal, county and private funds, and significant price discounts from sellers.

Applicants for Legacy Land funding participate in a transparent competitive process. Proposals are reviewed and ranked by a diverse Commission of experts from a variety of fields as required by the Legacy Land authorizing law. The Legacy Land Commission makes recommendations on funding. Then, Senate and House leadership is consulted prior to approval by the Board of Land and Natural Resources. Following BLNR approval, funds are released by the Governor.

We appreciate that the Legislature must balance fiscal priorities and make difficult decisions regarding the State budget. While you may have to take action in the budget like allocating a portion of accrued balances from special funds to address specific needs, we are hopeful that you will not permanently carve up the same funding for natural resources conservation into smaller and smaller pieces, which is what H.B. 989 proposes.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 06, 2015 9:09 PM
To: waltestimony
Cc: bwmabry@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB989 on Feb 9, 2015 10:00AM*

HB989

Submitted on: 2/6/2015

Testimony for WAL on Feb 9, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian W. Mabry	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE

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February 9, 2015

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
WATER AND LAND

TESTIMONY ON HB 989
RELATING TO THE INVASIVE SPECIES

Room 325
10:00 AM

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

I am Christopher Manfredi, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,932 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports HB 989. Along with other pressing invasive species control initiatives, our farmer and rancher members across the islands could benefit from a well-coordinated and cost-effective effort to manage and remove albizia trees that threaten public and private property.

We have noticed that there are other bills that would also allocate significant funding for invasive species control. Given that there are finite resources, HFB trusts that due consideration of each of these proposals will be afforded and that an effort will be made to prioritize the needs and equitably divide the available budgetary resources.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of this bill.

LATE



**HAWAIIAN ISLANDS LAND TRUST'S TESTIMONY
IN OPPOSITION TO HB 989 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES
House Committee on Water & Land
Monday, February 9, 2015, 10:00 a.m., Room 325**

Hawaiian Islands Land Trust strongly opposes HB 989 relating to invasive species, although it respects the intent of the bill and the spirit in which it was introduced. This bill proposes to take funds from the Legacy Land Conservation Program (LLCP) to pay for the removal of invasive albizia trees on private and public land.

While removal of invasive albizia trees is a worthy goal, Hawaiian Islands Land Trust opposes raiding the LLCP to do so. The LLCP has enjoyed amazing success, efficiently leveraging substantial federal, county, and private matching dollars to conserve agricultural land (which contribute to food security, jobs, and the economy), lands that protect our clean drinking water, lands that perpetuate Hawaiian culture, and lands that are enjoyed by residents and visitors for recreation, hiking, beach-going, and scenic views (supporting our tourism based economy).

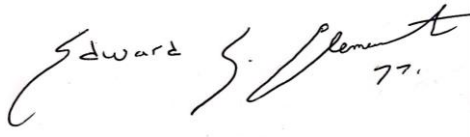
Established in 2005, the LLCP receives 10% of the real estate conveyance tax, paid when a landowner sells land (other portions of the tax are allocated to the affordable housing rental trust fund, the natural area reserve fund, and the general fund). The LLCP has conserved over 6,600 acres of iconic and important land in every county – Black Pot Beach Park at Hanalei Bay on Kauaʻi, the sacred waters of Kawaikapu on Molokaʻi, the 1-mile of shoreline and coastal wetlands of Nuʻu on Maui, the ancient Hawaiian village and marine protected areas of Lapakahi State Historical Park on Hawaiʻi Island, agricultural land in Waiʻanae, Oʻahu, and recently Maunawila Heiau in Hauʻula, Oʻahu.

The LLCP efficiently uses funds, leveraging an average of one dollar or more for every dollar spent. For example, when Hawaiian Islands Land Trust acquired 81 acres of coastal wetlands and shoreline in Nuʻu, Maui, the LLCP contributed \$1.8 million for a \$4 million purchase. Because of the LLCP, Hawaiian Islands Land Trust was able to leverage \$2.2 million in federal and private dollars to purchase a property that contains some of the healthiest coastal wetlands in the State, numerous pre-contact archaeological sites, and recreational fishing areas that have been used by local fishermen for centuries. The property is now forever conserved and open to Hawaiʻi residents and visitors for education, camping, hiking, fishing, and general recreation.

Land prices in Hawaiʻi are expensive, and constantly rising. Raiding the LLCP for other purposes (even well intentioned purposes) will reduce the success and effectiveness of a program that allows public and non-profit partners to leverage substantial federal, county, and private dollars for conservation. Every dollar taken from the LLCP really takes

away two or more dollars for conservation. Hawaiian Islands Land Trust therefore strongly opposes this bill, although it respects its original intent. Mahalo for this opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, reading "Edward S. Clement, Jr." with a stylized flourish at the end. The signature is written on a light-colored background.

Edward Sortwell Clement, Jr.
Executive Director, Hawaiian Islands Land Trust
P.O. Box 965, Wailuku, HI 96793
Office: 808-244-5263
Direct: 808-633-1057



**Conservation Council
for Hawai'i**

Hawai'i's voice for wildlife

Kō Hawai'i / leo no nā holoholona lōhiu

LATE

Testimony Submitted to the
House Committee on Water and Land
Hearing: Monday, February 9, 2015 10 am, Room 325
In Opposition of HB 989 Relating to Invasive Species

Aloha. The Conservation Council for Hawai'i opposes the HB 989, which amends the land conservation fund uses to allow for albizia tree removal. Makes an appropriation to DLNR for the removal of albizia trees on both public and private land.

We support the intent of HB 989, however, the Land Conservation Fund is not an appropriate source for albizia tree removal. Removal and control programs for any given single invasive species in Hawai'i, such as albizia, strawberry guava, miconia, or coqui frog could wipe out the LCF, and this is not the purpose for which the fund was established.

The Legacy Land Conservation Program, supported by the Land Conservation Fund, has helped protect over 6,600 acres of important natural areas, cultural sites, and recreation areas in Hawai'i. Furthermore, the LCF leverages private, county, and federal funds. We thank the legislature for having the wisdom to create this program for the people and generations to come. Please resist the urge to raid this fund, and fund the removal of albizia trees using the general fund instead.

The albizia situation is a classic and tragic example of what happens when we fail to keep invasive species out of Hawai'i (albizia was intentionally introduced to Hawai'i) and when we wait too long to eradicate an invasive species once begins to take over.

We urge the legislature to appropriate a total of at least \$50,000,000 annually to address invasive species in Hawai'i as estimated by the legislative reference bureau study "Filling the Gaps in the Fight Against Invasive Species." Should this amount ever be appropriated, some of it could be used to control albizia on public and private land.

Here is a photograph of one of many special areas that has been protected by the Land Conservation Fund. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.



Sincerely,

Marjorie Ziegler

Marjorie Ziegler

Conservation Council for Hawai'i is a nonprofit, environmental membership organization dedicated to protecting native Hawaiian plants, animals, and ecosystems for future generations. Established in 1950 and based in Honolulu, CCH is one of the largest and most effective wildlife organizations in Hawai'i with more than 5,000 members and supporters, including concerned citizens, educators, scientists, government agencies, and elected officials.

Through research, education, service, organizing, and legal advocacy, CCH works to stop the destruction of native wildlife and wild places in Hawai'i.

Since 1973, CCH has served as the Hawai'i state affiliate of the National Wildlife Federation.

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HB989

Submitted on: 2/8/2015

Testimony for WAL on Feb 9, 2015 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
nani pogline	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please reconsider the war on albizia. We now live in a different world, a world of global climate change. Scientists have proven that climate change is endangering native species. Trees, all trees, and especially albizia, fight climate change caused by carbon dioxide and green house gasses. Albizia absorb more carbon than most trees, because they are fast growing and tall. The albizia mitigate the carbon and heat rising off of our cities and towns. The albizia create a cooling system, to counter the hotter temperatures. Albizia forests attract rain and hold moisture. Albizia create mulch and nitrogen that help other ecosystems, and provide a resource for farmers. The albizia that are threatening homes and roads should be controlled, but when not a threat, should be left alone. It is a maintenance issue, as so many things are, that's all. We must seek balance, and value trees in this new age.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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