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

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SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
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
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT
AND
WATER AND LAND**

**Friday, February 7, 2020
1:30 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 3135
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENT**

Senate Bill 3135 proposes to appropriate funds to the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) to conduct an albizia prevention and control pilot project in the Luluku corridor of Kāneʻohe. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

The Department is the administrative host of the interagency HISC, which has previously awarded research and control funds related to albizia. Mitigation of albizia along roadways to avoid infrastructure damage is a core concept in the HISC's *Strategic Plan for the Control and Management of Albizia in Hawaii*, adopted in January 2018. As a small coordinating body, the HISC would likely use the funds appropriated by this measure to solicit proposals from qualified government field programs that have expertise in albizia control.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



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February 7, 2020

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON SB 3135
RELATING TO ENVIRONMENT

Room 224
1:30 PM

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

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 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 SB 3135, which appropriates funds for the Hawaii invasive species council to conduct an albizia prevention pilot project.

In 2014, Hurricane Iselle devastated areas of Puna by toppling albizia. This only exacerbated the danger that albizzia already posed to Hawaii. 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 access to critical emergency services and transportation routes.

HFB strongly supports this measure which seeks to protect the people, environment, and agriculture in Hawaii.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify on this important matter.

SB-3135

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 6:45:30 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|------------------------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D. | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

SB-3135

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 1:27:00 PM

Testimony for AEN on 2/7/2020 1:30:00 PM

LATE

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|--------------|--------------|--------------------|--------------------|
| JC Watson | Individual | Support | No |

Comments:

Aloha and mahalo for this opportunity to submit testimony on SB3135.

I strongly support this bill.

Albizia removal projects on Oahu are vital to protecting critical infrastructure from major damage caused by invasive albizia trees. These trees are naturally very brittle and grow at a very rapid rate. This makes them prime to drop large branches and fall over causing severe damage and roads. The pilot project proposed in this bill will be the first step towards managing this damaging species on Oahu. Success will bring this issue to the forefront on this island and serve as a catalyst on other removal projects.

mahalo nui

John-Carl Watson