
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that albizia trees are an
2 invasive species that present a threat to life, property, public
3 roads, and utility infrastructure in Hawaii. The legislature
4 also finds that albizia trees are more likely than many other
5 species of trees of comparable size to fall or break in windy,
6 rainy, and stormy weather conditions.

7 In natural disaster situations, such as the one created by
8 tropical storm Iselle when it struck the Puna district on the
9 island of Hawaii in 2020, and the Kona storms in 2021, fallen or
10 broken albizia trees may threaten public safety by blocking
11 evacuation routes, damaging homes, downing utility lines, or
12 impeding access to emergency care facilities, schools, and
13 polling places. Furthermore, the speed and manner in which
14 albizia trees grow inhibit the growth and health of native
15 plants. As such, the legislature finds that removal of albizia
16 trees along public roadways and the rights of way for public
17 utilities is in the public interest.



1 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the
2 removal of albizia and other invasive trees that potentially
3 threaten public roadways and utility infrastructure rights of
4 way on public and private land; provided that the funds are
5 matched on a two-to-one basis from a public utilities source.

6 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
8 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for
9 the department of transportation to coordinate the removal of
10 albizia and other invasive trees that potentially threaten
11 public roadways and utility infrastructure rights of way on
12 public and private land; provided that no funds shall be made
13 available under this Act unless matched on the basis of \$2 from
14 public utility sources for each dollar from the State.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
16 transportation for the purposes of this Act.

17 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.

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H.B. NO. 2276
H.D. 1

Report Title:

Invasive Species; Albizia Trees; Removal; Department of Transportation; Public Utilities; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the department of transportation for the coordinated removal of albizia and other invasive trees that potentially threaten the public roadways and utility infrastructure on public and private land. Requires a two-to-one matching requirement from a public utilities source. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD1)

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

