

FEB - 2 2023

SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, AND
TOURISM TO PROMOTE THE USE OF ALBIZIA IN COMMERCIAL
PRODUCTS BY ESTABLISHING A GRANT PROGRAM AND CONDUCTING A
STUDY.

1 WHEREAS, the albizia tree is an invasive species that can
2 grow up to one hundred fifty feet tall; and
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4 WHEREAS, albizia trees can grow in nutrient-deficient
5 soils, produce large quantities of wind-dispersed seeds, and
6 grow at a very rapid rate, gaining up to fifteen feet in height
7 each year; and
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9 WHEREAS, albizia trees can very quickly disrupt and replace
10 native ecosystems and can easily take over a cleared area in
11 just a few years; and
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13 WHEREAS, albizia trees have very brittle trunks and limbs
14 that are structurally weak and prone to "sudden limb shear", a
15 phenomenon in which live branches collapse without warning or
16 apparent cause; and
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18 WHEREAS, branch collapses can occur even if a tree appears
19 to be healthy; and
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21 WHEREAS, the phenomenon of "sudden limb shear", combined
22 with the albizia tree's large size and fast growth, gives the
23 tree the potential to cause major damage to property,
24 infrastructure, and human life; and
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26 WHEREAS, as a result, state and county agencies and utility
27 companies must constantly remove albizia trees; and
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29 WHEREAS, there are currently few beneficial uses for
30 removed albizia trees; and
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32 WHEREAS, in 2018, a former University of Hawaii student led
33 a team that successfully constructed a full-size prototype
34 single-family home built from albizia wood, demonstrating that



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1 albizia could be used as a locally sourced building material;
2 and

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4 WHEREAS, the team conducting the project indicated that
5 there remained questions about whether the use of albizia wood
6 for construction was economically feasible and whether builders
7 could achieve economies of scale using the wood; and

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9 WHEREAS, if questions like these could be answered, the
10 State could turn its overabundance of albizia trees into an
11 economic opportunity; now, therefore,

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13 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second
14 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023,
15 that the Department of Business, Economic Development, and
16 Tourism is requested to establish a grant program to assist
17 persons who:

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19 (1) Use albizia trees to create usable commercial
20 products; or

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22 (2) Are developing new ways of using albizia trees to
23 create usable commercial products; and

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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
26 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to study
27 economically feasible ways in which businesses may use albizia
28 trees to produce usable commercial products, including housing,
29 throughout the State; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in conducting the study, the
32 Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism is
33 requested to consult with the University of Hawaii College of
34 Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources and University of
35 Hawaii School of Architecture; and

36
37 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Business,
38 Economic Development, and Tourism is requested to submit a
39 report of its findings and recommendations, including any
40 proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty
41 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2024; and
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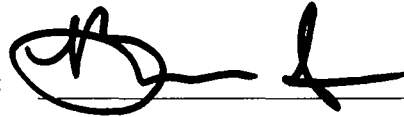


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1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Business, Economic
3 Development, and Tourism; Dean of the College of Tropical
4 Agriculture and Human Resources of the University of Hawaii at
5 Manoa; and Dean of the School of Architecture of the University
6 of Hawaii at Manoa.

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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, consisting of a large, stylized initial 'A' followed by a horizontal line and a vertical stroke.