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 continues to present a threat to life,

3   property, public roads, and utility infrastructure in Hawaii.

4   The legislature also finds that albizia trees are more likely

5   than many other species of trees of comparable size to fall or

6   break in windy, rainy, or 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.

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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 by a public utility.

6   SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general

7 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of $1,000,000 or so much

8 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for the

9 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 a public utility provides

14 matching funds.

15   The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of

16 transportation for the purposes of this Act.

17   SECTION 3. The appropriation made by this Act shall not

18 lapse at the end of the fiscal biennium for which the

19 appropriation is made; provided that all moneys from the

20 appropriation unencumbered as of June 30, 2026, shall lapse as

21 of that date.

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2   SECTION 4. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of

3 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,

4 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the

5 appropriations contained in H.B. No.   , will cause the state

6 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be

7 exceeded by $ or   per cent. In addition, the

8 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund

9 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further

10 exceeded by $ or   per cent. The combined total

11 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these

12 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling

13 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by

14 $ or   per cent. The reasons for exceeding the

15 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

16   (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to

17   serve the public interest; and

18   (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs

19   addressed by this Act.

20   SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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INTRODUCED BY: _____

JAN 2 3 2024

H.B. NO. 2650

Report Title:
Department of Transportation; Public Utilities; Invasive Species; Albizia Trees; Removal; Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

Description:
Appropriates funds to the Department of Transportation for the coordinated removal of albizia and other invasive trees. Requires matching funds from public utilities.

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