

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 16 2024

RE: S.B. No. 3013

Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi
President of the Senate
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committees on Transportation and Culture and the Arts and Agriculture and Environment, to which was referred S.B. No. 3013 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES,"

beg leave to report as follows:

The purpose and intent of this measure is to:

- (1) Appropriate funds to the Department of Transportation for the coordinated removal of albizia and other invasive trees; and
- (2) Require matching funds from public utilities.

Your Committees received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Transportation, Hawai'i Forest Industry Association, Hawaiian Electric, and one individual.

Your Committees received comments on this measure from the Hawaii Invasive Species Council and Public Utilities Commission.

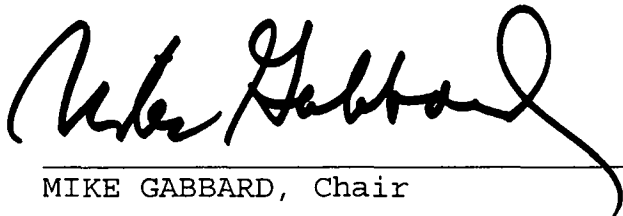
Your Committees find that invasive albizia trees present a threat to Hawaii due to their fragility and tendency to fall in windy, rainy, or stormy weather conditions. Your Committees further find that albizia trees can threaten public safety by blocking evacuation routes; damaging homes; downing utility lines; or impeding access to emergency care facilities, schools, and



polling places after weather events like tropical storm Iselle in 2020. This measure will increase public safety and safer roadways by requiring the removal of albizia trees near public roadways and utility infrastructure.

As affirmed by the records of votes of the members of your Committees on Transportation and Culture and the Arts and Agriculture and Environment that are attached to this report, your Committees are in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 3013 and recommend that it pass Second Reading and be referred to your Committees on Ways and Means and Commerce and Consumer Protection.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committees on Transportation
and Culture and the Arts and
Agriculture and Environment,



MIKE GABBARD, Chair



CHRIS LEE, Chair



