



**UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM**

**‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII**

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Thursday, March 2, 2023 at 10:00 a.m.

By

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College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

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### SB 948 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Senate Committee on Ways and Means:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent of SB 948 relating to invasive species.

The albizia tree is an invasive species that can grow rapidly up to one hundred fifty feet tall, adapts to grow in nutrient deficient soils, and produces large quantities of wind-dispersed seeds. Albizia can quickly disrupt and replace native ecosystems and has the potential to cause major damage to property, infrastructure and human life. The purpose of the bill is to appropriate funds for the removal of hazard albizia trees that threaten public and private land.

Thank for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of the intent of SB 948, and we defer to the Hawai'i Department of Land and Natural Resources regarding the appropriation to allow the Division of Forestry and Wildlife to coordinate the removal of albizia trees.