



# 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 Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism  
Tuesday, March 28, 2023 at 1:05 p.m.

By

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College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources

And

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SCR 22/SR 17 – 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

Chair DeCoite, Vice Chair Wakai, and Members of the Senate Committee on Energy, Economic Development, and Tourism:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide comments on SCR 22/SR 17 requesting the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism (DBEDT) to establish a grant program to assist persons who use albizia trees to create usable commercial products or are developing new ways of using albizia trees to create usable commercial products. Requests DBEDT in consultation with the University of Hawai'i College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) and the University of Hawai'i School of Architecture to study economically feasible ways in which businesses may use albizia trees to produce usable commercial products, including housing, throughout the State.

CTAHR respectfully offers its support to be a source of reference information on subjects such as biology, plant disease, plant pests, control of the spread of disease and pests during harvest and transport, etc. for the study about albizia trees, but defers to DBEDT on their requirements for an economic feasibility study and grant program.

Thank for the opportunity to provide comments.