



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## ‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

### Legislative Testimony

### Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment  
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
Friday, February 10, 2023 at 1:00 p.m.

By

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And

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#### SB 948 – RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Chairs Gabbard and Inouye, Vice Chairs Richards and Elefante, and Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment and Senate Committee on Water and Land:

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.