



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

**Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Energy and Environment and
Senate Committee on Education**
April 1, 2008 at 2:45 p.m.

by
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SCR 227 / SR 134: REQUESTING THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII TO CONDUCT A STUDY ON THE MOLUCCA ALBIZIA TREE.

Chair Menor, Chair Sakamoto, and Members of the Committees:

Albizia trees are found throughout Hawai'i and it would be highly desirable to eliminate this invasive species. Unfortunately, the only currently feasible approach to eradication is the sequential elimination of individual trees. This has been previously discussed in a variety of venues since the first studies of Albizia were conducted by the Lyon Arboretum in 1985. This will be a costly endeavor that will run into the millions of dollars. The most reasonable approach would be to begin with the removal of trees that are likely to cause injury to property or persons should they fall. As such, we do not believe that it is necessary to conduct a study on the albizia tree, including a field inventory of these trees in at least the Ala Wai watershed area, as well as other areas throughout the State. Moreover, the University of Hawai'i does not have recourse budgeted for such a significant undertaking. We respectfully recommend against support of this resolution.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.