

Distribution of albizia on the island of Hawaii (above). The trees are most readily identified as those forming the "tree tunnel" near Lava Tree State Park (below).



The U.S. Department of Agriculture (USDA) prohibits discrimination in all its programs and activities on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, religion, age, disability, political beliefs, sexual orientation, or marital or family status. (Not all prohibited bases apply to all programs.) Persons with disabilities who require alternative means for communication of program information (Braille, large print, audiotape, etc.) should contact USDA's TARGET Center at (202) 720-2600 (voice and TDD).

To file a complaint of discrimination, write USDA, Director, Office of Civil Rights, Room 326-W, Whitten Building, 1400 Independence Avenue, SW, Washington, D.C. 20250-9410 or call (202) 720-5964 (voice and TDD). USDA is an equal opportunity provider and employer.



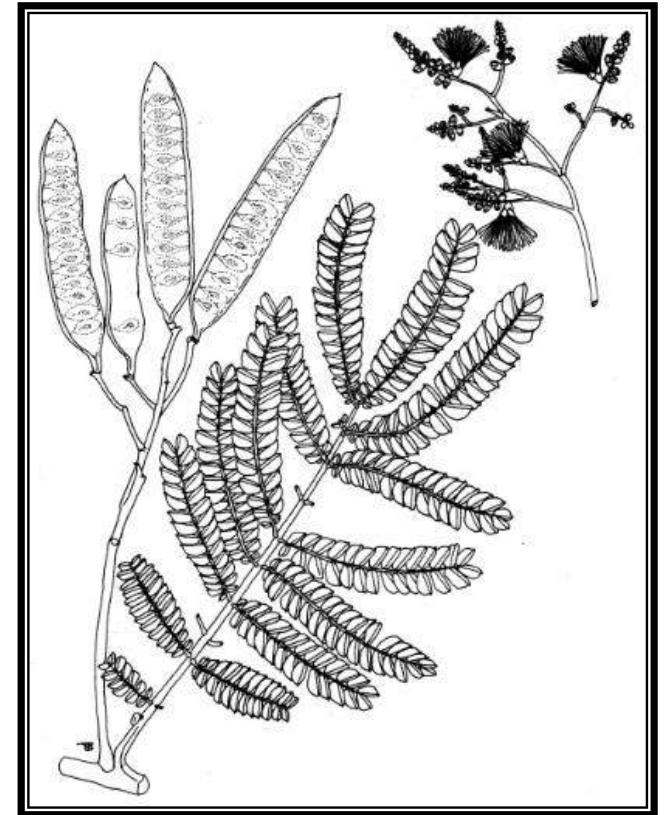
Comfort Sumida, Flint Hughes, Kathleen Friday, James Leary

60 Nowelo St., Hilo HI 96720
 (808) 933-8121
 kfriday@fs.fed.us
 fhughes@fs.fed.us
 leary@hawaii.edu

ALBIZIA

THE TREE THAT ATE PUNA

May 2013



Albizia is a fast growing tree that is invasive (weedy) in native `ohi`a forests as well as on land disturbed by human activities. Albizia causes `ohi`a to die off, and makes the environment more favorable for other invasive species (clidemia, guava, and possibly miconia and the coqui frog).

Because of their brittle wood and weak structure, large albizia trees pose a hazard to nearby infrastructure. Strong winds can cause large limbs to drop onto whatever may be underneath, potentially causing costly damage to homes and power lines.

Albizia grows at a rapid rate. Trees can reach heights of more than 20 feet in their first year, 45 feet in their third year, and 60 feet by the end of their tenth year. The crown of an albizia tree is broad, capable of shading over half an acre.



Above: The crown of a mature albizia forms a wide canopy with a distinctive shape.

What you can do:

- ❖ Leave the natural vegetation untouched—don't bulldoze—until you are ready to utilize the land. Albizia grows rapidly in bulldozed areas
- ❖ Eliminate albizia seedlings and small trees before they become a problem.
- ❖ Deal responsibly with "hazard trees." Trees that are posing a hazard to infrastructure should be removed professionally.

Methods of control:

- ❖ For any large trees near infrastructure, contact a certified arborist for consultation on the safest and most cost effective tree removal methods.

- ❖ In natural areas, large trees can also be treated with an injection of Milestone® (active ingredient: Aminopyralid) under the Hawaii sec. 24(c) Special Local Need registration HI-120003. *Caution should be taken with the hazards posed by a standing dead tree.*
- ❖ Fell saplings and young trees and apply herbicide to cut stumps immediately. Triclopyr amine is effective at concentrations of 7-10%. Before applying any pesticide, applicators must determine that the product under consideration is correct for the intended use site according to the label on the container or package.

For more information on registered pesticides in Hawaii visit: <http://hdoa.hawaii.gov/pi/pest/licensed-pesticides/>. To learn proper pesticide application techniques Search "weed control" at <http://www.ctahr.hawaii.edu/Site/Info.aspx> or from the Komohana Agricultural Complex at 875 Komohana Street, Hilo, HI 96720, Phone (808) 981-5199.

NOTE: Only use pesticides that bear the EPA registration number and list the proper site where use is intended (i.e. natural area). Read, Understand and Follow all instruction in the label before proceeding with its use and heed all precautions and restrictions on the labels. **It is a violation of federal law to use any registered pesticide in a manner inconsistent with its labeling.**



U.S. DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE