
A BILL FOR AN ACT

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO ERADICATE AND CONTROL THE COQUI FROG.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that Hawaii has become
2 infested by the Caribbean tree frog (*eleutherodactylus coqui*),
3 more commonly known as the coqui frog, since their accidental
4 introduction into the island of Hawaii in the early 1990s. In
5 early 1992, there were only sporadic sightings of coqui frogs.
6 In 1998, there were eight reported occurrences. In 2001, there
7 were over eighty-five documented occurrences, with another
8 sixty-five occurrences that were undocumented. Now, there are
9 over one hundred fifty firmly established specific sites on the
10 island of Hawaii alone.

11 In their native habitat in Puerto Rico, coqui frog
12 populations can reach densities greater than eight thousand per
13 acre and consume an estimated forty-seven thousand five hundred
14 insects per night, per acre. Because Hawaii is similar in
15 climate to Puerto Rico but without any of the coqui frogs'
16 natural predators, it is estimated that coqui frog populations
17 on the island of Hawaii alone could reach ten times that
18 reported in the native forests of Puerto Rico. The infestation



1 of coqui frogs is so intense that the sounds they emit have been
2 measured at sustained levels exceeding the department of
3 health's maximum permissible sound level of seventy decibels,
4 and therefore have become a threat to human health and welfare
5 and unreasonably interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of
6 life and property.

7 The coqui frog was declared an agricultural pest on
8 September 27, 2001, making shipments of plants infested with
9 coqui frogs subject to quarantine pursuant to chapter 150A,
10 Hawaii Revised Statutes, and sections 4-72-3 and 4-72-4, Hawaii
11 Administrative Rules. The coqui frog has the potential to
12 negatively impact sales of Hawaii's floriculture industry, which
13 totaled \$61,187,000 in 2002. The majority of the industry is
14 located in East Hawaii where the coqui frog infestation is
15 greatest.

16 In 2003, the legislature recognized the invasion of alien
17 species as the single greatest threat to Hawaii's economy,
18 natural environment, and the health and lifestyle of Hawaii's
19 people and visitors. This problem has grown exponentially over
20 the past decade due to lack of dedicated funding, personnel, and
21 political support.



1 In response to this threat, the mayor of the county of
2 Hawaii issued a Declaration of Emergency in February, 2004. The
3 county of Hawaii, department of agriculture, University of
4 Hawaii at Hilo, University of Hawaii at Manoa, United States
5 Department of Agriculture's Wildlife Services Division and the
6 National Wildlife Research Center have formed the coqui frog
7 working group and have produced the coqui frog working group
8 incident action plan to combat this invasive specie. This plan
9 focuses on three primary areas: eradication and control;
10 research; and community education and support. While the county
11 of Hawaii has contributed \$1,000,000, the State of Hawaii has
12 contributed \$100,000, and the federal government has contributed
13 \$200,000 to this eradication effort. Greater levels of aid are
14 needed to deal with a problem that has not been effectively
15 dealt with for over a decade. Assistance is needed on other
16 islands of the state, which, like the island of Hawaii, have
17 also experienced explosive growth in coqui frog populations.
18 With legislative funding, increased control, research, and
19 community education, this Act will lead to a reduction in the
20 economic, environmental, and public health threats posed by the
21 coqui frog.



1 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to each
2 county of the State for coqui frog control and eradication.

3 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 to fund
6 coqui frog control and eradication programs in each county of
7 Hawaii as follows:

8 (1) \$ for the county of Hawaii;

9 (2) \$ for the county of Maui;

10 (3) \$ for the city and county of Honolulu; and

11 (4) \$ for the county of Kauai.

12 The sum appropriated shall be expended by each county of
13 the state specified in this section for the purposes of this
14 Act.

15 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.



HB 2763 HD1

Report Title:

Appropriation; Invasive Species; Coqui Frog

Description:

Makes an appropriation to eradicate and control the coqui frog.
(HB2763 HD1)

HB2763 HD1 HMS 2006-1737

