

---

---

# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO SEEK FEDERAL FUNDING TO BE USED FOR PROGRAMS AND MEASURES INTENDED TO CONTAIN AND ERADICATE COQUI FROGS IN HAWAII.

1           WHEREAS, preserving and protecting our natural environment  
2 and resources are critical to ensure a promising future for our  
3 residents, especially our children; and  
4

5           WHEREAS, invasive alien species, such as coqui frogs, brown  
6 tree snakes and other invasive species, represent dangerous  
7 threats to Hawaii's fragile and complex ecosystem; and  
8

9           WHEREAS, coqui frogs, which have reproduced at a  
10 frightening rate with distinct populations numbering over 270 on  
11 the island of Hawaii alone, are not only a nuisance but, if left  
12 unchecked, may also affect the tourism industry and disrupt  
13 native bird populations that compete with the frogs for insect  
14 prey; and  
15

16           WHEREAS, Act 51, Session Laws of Hawaii 2005, appropriated  
17 \$300,000 to the counties for response and control efforts for  
18 programs and initiatives that are found to be most effective in  
19 the control and eradication of the coqui frog; and  
20

21           WHEREAS, Hawaii's Congressional delegation have worked to  
22 secure federal funds for the control and eradication of the  
23 brown tree snake, which has been directly responsible for the  
24 extinction or local extirpation of 12 of 25 native forest bird  
25 and lizard species in Guam; and  
26

27           WHEREAS, federal funding received for various control  
28 measures, research, prevention and eradication of the brown tree  
29 snake has significantly reduced the threat that the brown tree



1 snake poses to Hawaii's natural ecosystem and economy, and  
2 similar funding for coqui frog control and eradication can have  
3 the same effect; and  
4

5 WHEREAS, Act 85, Session Laws of Hawaii 2003, established  
6 the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (Council), a body that  
7 provides leadership, direction, and coordination for invasive  
8 species prevention and eradication programs statewide; and  
9

10 WHEREAS, prior to the Council, the Coordinating Group on  
11 Alien Pest Species, primarily comprised of management-level  
12 participants from every major federal, state, county and private  
13 agency and organizations, conducted various initiatives to  
14 combat invasive species, including media campaigns, research,  
15 improving coordination and collaboration among agencies, and  
16 facilitating the formation of invasive species committees on all  
17 major islands; and  
18

19 WHEREAS, funding for the activities and programs of the  
20 Council, the Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species and the  
21 invasive species committees come from a combination of federal,  
22 state, and private sources; and  
23

24 WHEREAS, their efforts have been weakened by recent actions  
25 of the federal government that have drastically reduced the  
26 resources necessary to effectively combat invasive species; and  
27

28 WHEREAS, a recent funding proposal for nearly \$9,000,000 in  
29 United States Department of Agriculture grant money to address  
30 the coqui frog problem was denied by the federal Office of  
31 Management and Budget; and  
32

33 WHEREAS, the denial of the United States Department of  
34 Agriculture grants may jeopardize the eradication efforts under  
35 way and planned for the island of Hawaii where the coqui frog  
36 problem is most severe; and  
37

38 WHEREAS, actions like these deprive Hawaii of the funding  
39 desperately needed to protect the native environment and  
40 preserve the native ecosystem; now, therefore,  
41



1 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
 2 Twenty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
 3 of 2006, the Senate concurring, that members of Hawaii's  
 4 Congressional delegation are requested to renew their efforts in  
 5 obtaining federal funding for coqui frog eradication and to  
 6 attempt to achieve levels of funding that is similar to the  
 7 funding provided for the control of the brown tree snake; and

8  
 9 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that members of Hawaii's  
 10 Congressional delegation are urged to use the same vigor and  
 11 commitment that they have used in obtaining funding for the  
 12 brown tree snake; and

13  
 14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
 15 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the members of Hawaii's  
 16 Congressional delegation.  
 17  
 18  
 19

OFFERED BY:

*[Signature]*  
*Heline H. Hui*

*[Signature]*

*Cindy Brown*

*[Signature]*

*[Signature]*  
*[Signature]*

JAN 27 2006

