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

11 In their native habitat in Puerto Rico, coqui frog
12 populations can reach densities greater than eight thousand
13 frogs per acre and consume an estimated forty-seven thousand
14 five hundred prey per night. Because Hawaii is similar in
15 climate to Puerto Rico, it is estimated that the coqui frog
16 population on the island of Hawaii could reach ten times the
17 reported population in its native forests of Puerto Rico, since
18 Hawaii does not have any of the coqui frog's natural predators.



1 The infestation of coqui frogs is in such concentrations that
2 the sounds they emit have been measured at sustained levels
3 exceeding the department of health's maximum permissible sound
4 level of seventy decibels, thereby becoming a threat to human
5 health and welfare as well as unreasonably interfering with the
6 comfortable enjoyment of 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.

14 In response to this threat on the island of Hawaii, the
15 mayor of the county of Hawaii issued a Declaration of Emergency
16 in February, 2004. The county of Hawaii, department of
17 agriculture, University of Hawaii at Hilo, University of Hawaii
18 at Manoa, United States Department of Agriculture's Wildlife
19 Services Division, and the National Wildlife Research Center
20 have formed the coqui frog working group and have produced the
21 coqui frog working group incident action plan to combat this
22 invasive specie. This plan focuses on three primary areas:



1 eradication and control, research, and community education and
2 support.

3 To this eradication effort, the county of Hawaii has
4 contributed \$1,000,000, the State has contributed \$100,000, and
5 the federal government has contributed \$200,000. The
6 legislature finds that:

- 7 (1) A greater level of state aid is needed to deal with a
8 problem that has not been effectively dealt with for
9 over a decade;
- 10 (2) The coqui frog invasion is not limited to the county
11 of Hawaii and should be addressed in all counties; and
- 12 (3) With proper legislative funding, increased control,
13 research, and community education, the coqui frog
14 eradication efforts will bring a reduction in the
15 economic, environmental, and public health threats
16 posed by the coqui frog.

17 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof
19 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 for a grant-in-aid
20 to the county of Hawaii for the support and implementation of
21 the coqui frog working group incident action plan.



1 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the county of
2 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof
5 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 for a grant-in-aid
6 to eradicate and control the coqui frog in the county of Maui.

7 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the county of
8 Maui for the purposes of this Act.

9 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof
11 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 for a grant-in-aid
12 to eradicate and control the coqui frog in the county of Kauai.

13 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the county of
14 Kauai for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$1 or so much thereof
17 as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007 for a grant-in-aid
18 to eradicate and control the coqui frog in the city and county
19 of Honolulu.

20 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the city and
21 county of Honolulu for the purposes of this Act.

22 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.

S. B. No. 2417

S.O.2, H.O.1

Report Title:

Appropriations; Coqui Frog Eradication; Counties

Description:

Makes appropriations for grants-in-aid for each county to eradicate and control the coqui frog. (SB2417 HD1)

SB2417 HD1 HMS 2006-3042

