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# 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*) or  
3 more commonly known as coqui frogs, since their accidental  
4 introduction on 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, over  
7 eighty-five occurrences were documented and another sixty-five  
8 occurrences that were undocumented. Now there are over one  
9 hundred fifty established specific sites on the island of Hawaii  
10 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 47,500 preys per night.  
14 Because Hawaii is similar in climate to Puerto Rico, it is  
15 estimated that the coqui frog population on the island of Hawaii  
16 could reach ten times the reported amount in the native forests  
17 of Puerto Rico because Hawaii does not have any of the coqui  
18 frog's natural predators. The infestation of coqui frogs is in



1 such concentrations that the sounds they emit have been measured  
2 at sustained levels exceeding the department of health's maximum  
3 permissible sound level of 70 decibels, and therefore they have  
4 become a threat to human health and welfare and unreasonably  
5 interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property.

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

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



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

5 (1) A greater level of State aid is needed to deal with a  
6 problem that has not been effectively dealt with for  
7 over a decade;

8 (2) The coqui frog invasion is not limited to the county  
9 of Hawaii and should be addressed in all counties; and

10 (3) With proper legislative funding, increased control,  
11 research, and community education, the coqui frog  
12 eradication efforts will bring a reduction in the  
13 economic, environmental, and public health threats  
14 posed by the coqui frog.

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

21 SECTION 3. The sum appropriated in section 2 shall be  
22 expended by the county of Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

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

6 SECTION 5. The sum appropriated in section 4 shall be  
7 expended by the county of Maui for the purposes of this Act.

8 SECTION 6. There is appropriated out of the general  
9 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ , or so  
10 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for  
11 a grant-in-aid to eradicate and control the coqui frog in the  
12 county of Kauai.

13 SECTION 7. The sum appropriated in section 6 shall be  
14 expended by the county of Kauai for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 8. There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ , or so  
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2006-2007, for  
18 a grant-in-aid to eradicate and control the coqui frog in the  
19 city and county of Honolulu.

20 SECTION 9. The sum appropriated in section 8 shall be

1 expended by the city and county of Honolulu for the purposes of  
2 this Act.

3 SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2006.



HB2763, SD1

**Report Title:**

Appropriation; Invasive Species; Coqui Frog

**Description:**

Makes appropriations to eradicate and control the coqui frog.  
(SD1)

