
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 of Hawaii
2 has become infested by the Caribbean tree frog
3 (eleutherodactylus coqui) or more commonly known as coqui frogs,
4 since their accidental introduction on the island of Hawaii in
5 the early 1990s. In early 1992, there were only sporadic
6 sightings of coqui frogs. In 1998, there were eight reported
7 occurrences. In 2001, over eighty-five occurrences were
8 documented and another sixty-five occurrences that were
9 undocumented. Now there are over one hundred fifty established
10 specific sites on the 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 47,500 preys per night. Because
14 Hawaii is similar in climate to Puerto Rico, it is estimated
15 that coqui frog population on the island of Hawaii could reach
16 ten times the reported amount in the native forests of Puerto
17 Rico because Hawaii does not have any of the coqui frog's
18 natural predators. The infestation of coqui frogs is in such



1 concentrations that the sounds they emit have been measured at
2 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 of Hawaii has contributed
3 \$100,000, and the federal government has contributed \$200,000.
4 The 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 to the State of Hawaii.

15 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,000,000, 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 shall be expended by the
22 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 shall be expended by the
7 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 shall be expended by the
14 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 shall be expended by the
21 city and county of Honolulu for the purposes of this Act.

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

SB2417, SD1

Report Title:

Appropriation; Invasive Species; Coqui Frog

Description:

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

