

JAN 30 2006

SENATE 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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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
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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,
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1 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
2 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the
3 House of Representatives 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

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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

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

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OFFERED BY: Russell Kohl

