HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES TWENTY-FOURTH LEGISLATURE, 2007 STATE OF HAWAII H.B. NO. 1924

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE ERADICATION AND CONTROL OF THE COQUI FROG.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the island of Hawaii 1 has become infested by the Caribbean tree frog \cdot 2 (eleutherodactylus coqui), more commonly known as coqui frogs, 3 since their accidental introduction on the island of Hawaii in 4 the early 1990s. In early 1992, there were only sporadic 5 sightings of coqui frogs. In 1998, there were eight reported 6 In 2001, over eighty-five occurrences were 7 occurrences. documented and another sixty-five occurrences were undocumented. 8 Now there are over one hundred fifty firmly established specific 9 coqui frog sites on the island of Hawaii alone. 10 In their native habitat in Puerto Rico, coqui frog 11 populations can reach densities greater than eight thousand per 12 acre and consume an estimated 47,500 preys per night. 13 Because Hawaii is similar in climate to Puerto Rico, it is estimated 14 that coqui frog populations on the island of Hawaii could reach 15 ten times that reported in the native forests of Puerto Rico 16

because Hawaii does not have any of the coqui frog's natural

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1 predators. The infestation of coqui frogs is in such 2 concentrations that the sounds they emit have been measured at sustained levels exceeding the department of health's maximum 3 4 permissible sound level of seventy decibels, and therefore have 5 become a threat to human health and welfare and unreasonably 6 interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property. The coqui frog was declared an agricultural pest on 7 September 27, 2001, making shipments of plants infested with 8 9 coqui frogs subject to guarantine pursuant to chapter 150A, 10 Hawaii Revised Statutes, and sections 4-72-3 and 4-72-4, Hawaii 11 Administrative Rules. The coqui frog also has the potential to 12 negatively impact sales of Hawaii's floriculture industry that 13 totaled \$61,187,000 in 2002. 14 In response to this threat on the island of Hawaii, the mayor of the county of Hawaii issued a Declaration of Emergency 15 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 have 20 formed the coqui frog working group and have produced the coqui 21 frog working group incident action plan to combat this invasive

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1	specie.	This plan focuses on three primary areas: eradication
2	and cont	rol, research, and community education and support.
3	The legislature finds that:	
4	(1)	A greater level of state aid is needed to deal with a
5		problem that has not been effectively dealt with for
6		over a decade;
7	(2)	The coqui frog invasion is not limited to the island
8		of Hawaii and this problem should be addressed state-
9		wide; 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.
15	SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general	
16	revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of $\$$, or so much	
17	thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, to	
18	eradicate and control the coqui frog state-wide and to support	
19	and implement the coqui frog working group incident action plan.	
20	The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of	
21	agriculture for the purposes of this Act.	

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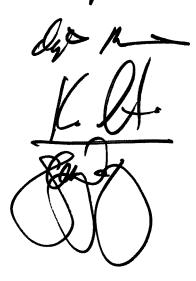
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SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.

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INTRODUCED BY: Hullman anly 19.



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Report Title:

Invasive Species; Coqui Frogs; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to eradicate and control the coqui frog state-wide.

