
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:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the island of Hawaii
2 has become infested by the Caribbean tree frog
3 (eleutherodactylus coqui), more commonly known as the coqui
4 frog, since its accidental introduction on the island of Hawaii
5 in 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 were
9 undocumented. Now there are over one hundred fifty firmly
10 established specific coqui frog sites on the island of Hawaii
11 alone.

12 In their native habitat in Puerto Rico, coqui frog
13 populations can reach densities greater than eight thousand per
14 acre and consume an estimated forty-seven thousand five hundred
15 preys per night. Because Hawaii is similar in climate to Puerto
16 Rico, it is estimated that coqui frog populations on the island
17 of Hawaii could reach ten times that reported in the native



1 forests of Puerto Rico because Hawaii does not have any of the
2 coqui frog's natural predators. The infestation of coqui frogs
3 has reached such concentrations that the sounds they emit have
4 been measured at sustained levels exceeding the department of
5 health's maximum permissible sound level of seventy decibels,
6 and therefore have become a threat to human health and welfare
7 and unreasonably interfere with the comfortable enjoyment of
8 life and property.

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

16 In response to this threat on the island of Hawaii, the
17 mayor of Hawaii county issued a Declaration of Emergency in
18 February, 2004. The county of Hawaii, department of
19 agriculture, University of Hawaii at Hilo, University of Hawaii
20 at Manoa, United States Department of Agriculture's Wildlife
21 Services Division, and the National Wildlife Research Center
22 have formed the coqui frog working group and have produced the



1 coqui frog working group incident action plan to combat this
2 invasive specie. This plan focuses on three primary areas:
3 eradication and control, research, and community education and
4 support.

5 The legislature finds that:

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

9 (2) The coqui frog invasion is not limited to the island
10 of Hawaii and this problem should be addressed
11 statewide; and

12 (3) With proper legislative funding to increase efforts to
13 control the spread of the coqui frog, research, and
14 community education, the coqui frog eradication
15 efforts will palliate the seriousness of the economic,
16 environmental, and public health plight posed by the
17 coqui frog to the state.

18 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
19 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
20 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008 to
21 eradicate and control the spread of the coqui frog statewide and



1 to support and implement the coqui frog working group incident
2 action plan.

3 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
4 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

5 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



Report Title:

Invasive Species; Coqui Frogs; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to eradicate and control coqui frogs statewide. (HB1924 HD1)

