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# 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 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 were undocumented.  
9 Now there are over one hundred fifty firmly established specific  
10 coqui frog 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 populations on the island of Hawaii could reach  
16 ten times that reported in the native forests of Puerto Rico  
17 because Hawaii does not have any of the coqui frog's natural



1 predators. The infestation of coqui frogs is in such  
2 concentrations that the sounds they emit have been measured at  
3 sustained levels exceeding the department of health's maximum  
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.

7 The coqui frog was declared an agricultural pest on  
8 September 27, 2001, making shipments of plants infested with  
9 coqui frogs subject to quarantine pursuant to chapter 150A,  
10 Hawaii Revised Statutes, and sections 4-72-3 and 4-72-4, Hawaii  
11 Administrative Rules. The coqui frog 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  
15 mayor of the county of Hawaii issued a Declaration of Emergency  
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  
22 specie. This plan focuses on three primary areas: eradication



1 and control, research, and community education and support.

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

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 county  
10 of Hawaii and should be addressed in all counties; and

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

16 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$2,000,000, or so  
18 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, for  
19 a grant-in-aid to the county of Hawaii for the support and  
20 implementation of the coqui frog working group incident action  
21 plan.



1           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the county of  
2 Hawaii for the purposes of this Act.

3           SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$           , or so  
5 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, for  
6 a grant-in-aid to eradicate and control the coqui frog in the  
7 county of Maui.

8           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the county of  
9 Maui for the purposes of this Act.

10          SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000, or so much  
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, for a  
13 grant-in-aid to eradicate and control the coqui frog in the  
14 county of Kauai.

15          The sum appropriated shall be expended by the county of  
16 Kauai for the purposes of this Act.

17          SECTION 5. There is appropriated out of the general  
18 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$           , or so  
19 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, for  
20 a grant-in-aid to eradicate and control the coqui frog in the  
21 city and county of Honolulu.



1           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the city and  
2 county of Honolulu for the purposes of this Act.

3           SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2007.



**Report Title:**

Invasive Species; Coqui Frog; Appropriations

**Description:**

Appropriation funds to the counties to eradicate and control the coqui frog. (SD1)

