

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

234

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 20 2009

RE: S.B. No. 696

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2009
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Energy and Environment, to which was referred S.B. No. 696 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO COQUI FROGS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to appropriate funds for grants-in-aid to the counties for the eradication of coqui frogs.

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by the Mayor of the County of Hawaii and three organizations. One organization supported the intent of the measure. Two state agencies and one organization submitted comments. Written testimony presented to your Committee may be reviewed on the Legislature's website.

Your Committee finds that coqui frogs injure wildlife and are an invasive pest. Coqui frogs were introduced into Hawaii from Puerto Rico in 1988, and have become a major noise nuisance and pose a serious threat to Hawaii's island ecosystem. Coqui frogs have a voracious appetite that puts Hawaii's unique insects and spiders at risk. The coqui frogs compete with endemic birds and other native fauna that rely on insects for food. Your Committee believes that if eradication efforts are not financially supported in all counties, the coqui frogs will continue to expand and endanger endemic bird species and the State ecosystem.

Your Committee further finds that the coqui frogs have a limited distribution on Kauai, Maui, and Oahu. Significant progress at controlling the coqui frog populations has been made,

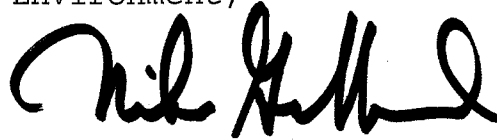
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and critical research continues on the island of Hawaii where the coqui frog population is well established and distributed. These accomplishments across the State are at risk of failing if continued funding is not available. Your Committee notes that without consistent control efforts, new coqui frog populations will become established and sites where they were almost eradicated will balloon to previous levels.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Energy and Environment that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of S.B. No. 696 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be referred to the Committee on Ways and Means.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Energy and
Environment,

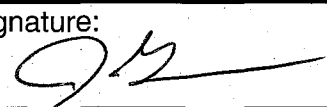


MIKE GABBARD, Chair



The Senate
 Twenty-Fifth Legislature
 State of Hawaii

Record of Votes
Committee on Energy and Environment
ENE

Bill / Resolution No.:*	Committee Referral:	Date:		
SB 696	ENE, WAM	2-17-9		
<input type="checkbox"/> The committee is reconsidering its previous decision on this measure. If so, then the previous decision was to: _____				
The Recommendation is:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Pass, unamended 2312	<input type="checkbox"/> Pass, with amendments 2311	<input type="checkbox"/> Hold 2310		
<input type="checkbox"/> Recommit 2313				
Members	Aye	Aye (WR)	Nay	Excused
GABBARD, Mike (C)	✓			
ENGLISH, J. Kalani (VC)				✓
GREEN, M.D., Josh	✓			
HOOSER, Gary L.				✓
IHARA, Jr., Les	✓			
KOKUBUN, Russell S.				✓
HEMMINGS, Fred	✓			
TOTAL	4	0	0	3
Recommendation:				
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Adopted <input type="checkbox"/> Not Adopted				
Chair's or Designee's Signature:				
				
Distribution:				
Original	Yellow	Pink	Goldenrod	
File with Committee Report	Clerk's Office	Drafting Agency	Committee File Copy	

*Only one measure per Record of Votes