
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 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
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



1 specie. This plan focuses on three primary areas: eradication
2 and control, 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.



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

2

INTRODUCED BY:

Matthew B. Lee

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]

Kirk Caldwell

[Signature]

Josh Breen

[Signature]

Barbara Marmont

[Signature]

Wendie Thrite

[Signature]

Cindy Evans

[Signature]



Report Title:

Invasive Species; Coqui Frogs; Appropriation

Description:

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

