

JAN 19 2007

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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the State has become  
2 infested by the Caribbean tree frog (*eleutherodactylus coqui*) or  
3 more commonly known as coqui frogs, since their accidental  
4 introduction on the island of Hawaii in the early 1990s. In  
5 early 1992, there were only sporadic sightings of coqui frogs.  
6 Since then, the coqui frog population has grown exponentially.  
7 Currently, there are over one hundred fifty established specific  
8 sites infested with coqui frogs on the island of Hawaii.

9           In their native habitat in Puerto Rico, coqui frog  
10 populations can reach densities greater than eight thousand per  
11 acre and can consume an estimated forty-seven thousand five  
12 hundred preys per night. It is estimated that the coqui frog  
13 population on the island of Hawaii could reach ten times the  
14 reported amount in the native forests of Puerto Rico because  
15 Hawaii does not have any of the coqui frog's natural predators.  
16 The coqui frog population is in such high concentrations that  
17 the sounds they emit have been measured at sustained levels



1 exceeding the department of health's maximum permissible sound  
2 level of seventy decibels. Thus, the frogs have become a threat  
3 to human health and welfare and have unreasonably interfered  
4 with the comfortable enjoyment of life and property.

5 The coqui frog was declared an agricultural pest in Hawaii  
6 on September 27, 2001, and shipments of plants infested with  
7 coqui frogs were subject to quarantine pursuant to chapter 150A,  
8 Hawaii Revised Statutes, and sections 4-72-3 and 4-72-4, Hawaii  
9 Administrative Rules. The coqui frog has a great potential to  
10 negatively impact the sales of Hawaii's floriculture industry,  
11 which totaled \$61,187,000 in 2002.

12 In the county of Kauai, only one coqui frog colony is known  
13 and documented, which is contained on fifteen acres in Lawai.  
14 Additional funding will assist in the control and complete  
15 eradication of that colony and prevent the frogs from  
16 overrunning the island like it has on the island of Hawaii.

17 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the  
18 county of Kauai to assist in the control and eradication of the  
19 coqui frogs in Lawai.

20 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
21 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$300,000, or so much  
22 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2007-2008, and the



# S.B. NO. 719

1 same sum, or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
2 2008-2009, for the control and eradication of the coqui frog  
3 population on the island of Kauai.

4 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the county of  
5 Kauai for the purposes of this Act.

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

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INTRODUCED BY: Gay L. Hoan

Rossy de Bal

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A.S.T.H.



**Report Title:**

Coqui Frogs; Eradication and Control; Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the county of Kauai for the control and eradication of coqui frogs.

