

CFWG Minutes

Friday, May 2, 2003; 9-11:30am, Institute for Astronomy Auditorium, Hilo

Coordinator: Arnold Hara

Facilitator: Billy Kenoi

Attendance: See attachment

Presentation: “Chytridiomycosis, a Recently Described Amphibian Disease” by Dr. Richard Speare, D.V.M, M.D., visiting researcher from the School of Public Health and Tropical Medicine of the University of Queensland in Townsville, Australia.

Committee Updates:

1. Public Education (M. Jones): New coqui/greenhouse frog posters available, homeowner’s brochure is in process of publication, please comment on draft. Will list both S. Veriato’s number and the BIISC hotline number on brochure for people needing more information.
2. Research (S. Chun) Citric acid more effective on coqui eggs if they are not rinsed one hour after treatment. 3.5% hatch rate (some degree of hatching in 2 of 7 egg masses) without rinse, but 23.9% hatch rate (6 of 10 masses) with rinse. Control hatch rate is 94%.
3. Nurseries (S. Spellicy, Big Island Association of Nurserymen): Citric acid phytotoxicity noticed on young, tender leaves of citrus trees. K. Onuma, HI DOA, indicated that even though he rinsed the citric acid off after 1 hour, he didn’t direct the water at different angles and may have left enough residue to cause burning.
4. Quarantine (M. Enriques & V. Kashiwamura, HI DOA, Plant Quarantine): Lower incidence of frogs in plants that are inspected prior to being sent to other islands.
5. Legislative
6. Tracking Funding & Resources (S. Veriato, USDA): Reviewed the budget of the Hawaii Invasive Species Management Plan (>\$3 million/year) that is being proposed for USDA funding – may be approved for 2003 or 2004, or may be approved as a line item (\$900,000/year).
7. Public Relations
8. Operations: S. Veriato, B. Kenoi, and G. Santos resolved to write a letter to Wal-Mart asking them to take a more proactive approach in keeping their Hilo and Kona garden shops from spreading coqui frogs. Other local nurseries and horticultural/agricultural suppliers have made it their policy not to purchase or sell frog-infested plants and to control their spread by treating infested plants and

surroundings, while Wal-Mart has neglected to even sanitize their greenhouse area regularly.

B. Sugihara and his crew are going to Kauai to disinfest irrigation boxes on resort property of greenhouse frogs with citric acid.

L. Nakahara stated the need for native plant propagative material for Lava Tree State Park.

Next meeting will be held sometime during the first week of June depending on scheduling Dr. Karen Beard, an assistant professor of wildlife ecology at Utah State University as tentative guest speaker. We will notify the CFWG of the date as soon as B. Sugihara finalizes her itinerary.