

MINUTES COQUI FROG WORKING GROUP
 June 28, 2005; 2:00 – 4:00 pm
 Komohana Agric. Complex, Conference Room A, Hilo, HI

FACILITATOR: Billy Kenoi, Executive Assistant to Mayor Harry Kim, County of HI

FUNDS AVAILABLE FOR COQUI FROG CONTROL ON THE BIG ISLAND

<u>AMOUNT</u>	<u>SOURCE</u>	<u>COMMENTS</u>
\$750,000	COUNTY	(Mayor Harry Kim’s Emergency Declaration for the County of Hawai‘i. Funds will become available July 1, 2005.)
\$225,000	FEDERAL	(Sen. Daniel Inouye; first wave of federal funding to control coqui frogs on the Big Island and eventually transfer technology/ knowledge to other islands. Managed by HIEDB to County, State, Federal agencies)
\$100,000	STATE	(Rep. Clift Tsuji, House Bill 1301; other islands also received funding (\$100K Maui, \$50K Kaua‘i, \$50K O‘ahu). Legislator-Community meetings have been scheduled for the Big Island for two-way communication on the coqui frog situation in each area.)

(as of 8/2/05)

Legislators' Big Island Invasive Species Community Meetings on Coqui Frogs

<u>Date</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Place</u>
July 19 (Tuesday)	5:00 p.m.	Wainaku Gym
July 19 (Tuesday)	7:30 p.m.	Laupahoehoe High Band Room
July 20 (Wednesday)	7:00 p.m.	Honoka`a Armory
August 2 (Tuesday)	6:00 p.m.	UH Hilo UCB Bldg. #127
August 13 (Saturday)	10:00 a.m.	Ka`u High Cafeteria
August 13 (Saturday)	2:00 p.m.	Kahuku Park
August 24 (Wednesday)	5:00 p.m.	Kea`au Community Center
August 24 (Wednesday)	7:30 p.m.	Mt. View School Dining Hall
August 31 (Wednesday)	7:00 p.m.	Pahoa Neighborhood Center
September 1 (Thursday)	6:00 p.m.	Kealakehe High Cafeteria
September 19 (Monday)	6:00 p.m.	Waimea Elementary Cafeteria

? \$ **COMMUNITIES** Volunteer hours for scouting, planning, educating, spraying, costs of pesticide and personal protection equipment (PPE)

? \$ **PRIVATE**

FUNDING PRIORITIES

- EDUCATION / AWARENESS
- ERADICATION / CONTROL
- RESEARCH

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

What are the focus and responsibilities of each so that efforts are not duplicated?

- **USDA Wildlife Services:** Eradication, control operations (by funding, specific to nurseries and other floriculture operations to ensure sale of non-infested products), provide technical assistance to communities.
- **USDA National Wildlife Research Station:** Research on other potential pesticides, efficacy testing to submit to EPA and other regulatory agencies for use approval, fields some hot-line calls regarding chemicals (961-4482 ext. 26)
- **Hawai'i Department of Agriculture (HDOA)**
 - **Plant Quarantine Branch:** Inspection
 - **Pesticides Branch:** Getting EPA approval for use of chemicals, proper use of chemicals according to label
 - **Hot-line:** State-wide 586-PEST (7378) logs calls, may send someone out to verify ID of coqui frog and provide technical assistance.
- **Big Island Invasive Species Committees (BIISC):** Hot-line for coqui frog reporting and mapping, technical assistance to communities, loan sprayers, restricted eradication/control operations in specific areas (see below under ERADICATION/CONTROL), public education. Hawai'i Invasive Species Council (HISC) is co-chaired by Dept of Land and Natural Resources and HDOA. There are Invasive Species Committees also on other islands (MISC, KISC, OISC, MoISC).
- **University of Hawai'i, CTAHR:** Research on non-chemical control (hot water, barriers, traps, sterilization)
- **HI County:** Eradication, control operations (specific to county lands, parks), funding for residential and community efforts

COMMUNITY NEEDS AND CONCERNS

- Kaloko Mauka (Ron Morton, Chuck Fiebke, Marry Ann Blanchard, Norman Bezona): Background information: area is 5 mi outside of Kailua-Kona, 1500-5700' elevation, adjoins State Forest Preserve, 2000 acres (of which 30% is above optimal coqui frog elevation). Have been night spraying for 1 year 60 acres (6-7 property boundaries), including densely forested land, with 1-100 gal sprayer. Noticed insipient infestations on other properties probably from infested plant material purchased from retail stores.

Q: How can we apply for funding?

A: A mini-grant program will be implemented by the County of HI (similar to its "Healing Our Island") to fund projects up to \$5,000. This will be ready in approximately 2 weeks with a 2-page format (non-501c3) covering who is accountable, what is being applied at what frequency and rate and on how many acres, etc. Funds will be for chemicals, equipment, personal protection equipment (PPE), supplies for mailings, etc. A volunteer waiver form, a notice to owner form, and a reporting information form will also be made available.

Q: Can we get a tanker truck to use for large-scale applications? It needs to have a high capacity (e.g., 4000 gal) with an agitator to keep hydrated lime in suspension (Tanker truck? Fire hoses? Washing machine? Cement truck? Water truck? Helicopter for aerial spraying?) This may be a more viable option than purchasing more small capacity sprayers (100- or 300-gal)

A: A retrofitted vehicle has been used in Wahiawa, O‘ahu by HISC – BIISC will check on whether this vehicle was successful and if it can be used on the Big Island. Leasing versus purchasing a modified tanker truck will also be investigated (economics, feasibility, efficiency).

Q: What is the legal procedure for going onto private property to spray? (Hawaiian Paradise Park)

A: By showing due diligence in serving notice to the owner (by tax map key and last known mailing address), a person from DOA (or a person authorized by DOA) can go on private property if the pest is a “declared pest”(HRS 141-3.6). This does not include the coqui frog since the law only covers invertebrate pests. The law needs to be changed to include vertebrates such as the coqui frog. Rep. Tsuji will be working on getting that law amended (expected time: 1 year). An agency can then be set up to provide technical advice and provide umbrella coverage to individuals entering private property to spray after giving notice to the owners.

ERADICATION / CONTROL

Q: From where are the loan sprayers available on the Big Island?

A: Mālama O Puna (Rene Siracusa, 965-2000 ext 2):

1-100 gal sprayer available at Nanawale Baseyard (Puna)

1-100 gal sprayer being used in Volcano (Kim Tavares)

Big Island Invasive Species Committee (Julie Leialoha c/o HDOA at 974-4140):

2 -100 gal sprayers in Hilo

1-100 gal sprayer in Hilo

Hawai‘i Department of Agriculture (Hilo, Kyle Onuma 974-4140)

2-100 gal sprayers in Kona

1-100 gal sprayer in Hilo

USDA Wildlife Services (Time Ohashi 933-6955)

10 (soon to be 12)-100 gal sprayers

3-300 gal sprayer in Pāhoā

5 small trailers for hauling

Delivery or transport can be arranged through the County (Billy Kenoi 961-8316).

An additional 10 x 100 gal and 10 x 300 gal sprayers may be purchased if that is what the communities need; this will be considered along with a large capacity tanker truck with agitator.

When borrowing the sprayer, you need to complete and submit a standardized form to keep track of the dates, amount of chemical sprayed and the area sprayed.

While hydrated lime is cost-effective, it does not go into solution and so the tank must be agitated constantly. Both citric acid and hydrated lime are corrosive, so rinse all parts of the sprayer thoroughly before returning it.

Q: How can I get financial assistance in purchasing chemicals?

A: Mālama O Puna (Rene Siracusa 965-2000 ext 2):

Vouchers for hydrated lime available when borrowing a sprayer can be redeemed at BEI.

BIISC (Julie Leialoha c/o HODA 974-4140)

BIISC has allocated up to \$15,000 for purchase of citric acid for the loan sprayer program. Arrangements can be made to pick up citric acid directly from BIISC. (We have no voucher program). Currently, we are unable to provide hydrated lime.

(revised per J Leialoha 7/6/05)

County of Hawai‘i (Billy Kenoi 981-8316)

Through the mini-grant program (*described above under Q: How can we apply for funding?*)

State

Meet with your legislators at a meeting scheduled in communities throughout the Big Island to begin in July (see schedule on p. 1) to help them secure more funding and build momentum to next legislative session.

Q: What is being done to prevent the spread of coqui frogs through retail store sale of infested plants? Shouldn't people be told to check out stores at night for coquis calling to avoid buying infested plants and to pressure the store to clean up?

A: USDA WS will be focusing on this area on the Big Island. They will have 3 full-time employees and will also provide 30% of their budget to USDA NWRS for research as requested by the plant nursery industry.

Q: Who will do the spraying for communities?

A: Reliance is still heavily on the communities themselves for providing voluntary labor. Most of the agencies are available to provide technical assistance in helping communities get organized, and many community associations are willing to share their experiences with newly infested communities. There are some for-hire companies on the Big Island, and they may be budgeted into mini-grants (*described above under Q: How can we apply for funding?*). Meet with your legislators at a meeting scheduled in communities throughout the Big Island to begin in July (see schedule on p. 1) to help them secure more funding for “eradication teams” and build momentum to next legislative session.

Control in non-residential areas

- **BIISC:** \$115,000 (*corrected per J Leialoha 7/6/05*) for 2005-06 will be used for containment in areas identified as high resource areas, natural areas, such as Volcano National Park and Waipi'o Valley. Specific to insipient coqui infestations outside the “core” (Hilo, lower Puna, Hawaiian Acres, Fern Acres, Kurtistown), such as Kohala.
- **HI County:** County lands and parks (call 961-8316 to report any infestations)

- **USDA WS:** Specific to plant nurseries and other floriculture operations. Emergency funding may mobilize them to do residential and county spraying as well with the necessary prioritizing and bidding.

EDUCATION / AWARENESS

- **USDA National Wildlife Research Station:** Fields some hot-line calls regarding chemicals (961-4482 ext. 26, Bob Sugihara)
- **HDOA:** Provides technical assistance to communities, gives presentations and provides educational displays (974-4140, Kyle Onuma), website for hydrated lime and citric acid information (see attached)
- **Big Island Invasive Species Committees (BIISC):** Hot-line for coqui frog reporting and mapping (961-3299), technical assistance to communities (974-4140, Julie Leialoha), HEAR website (see attached). Ninety-percent of their hot-line calls are erroneously assuming BIISC will send someone out to spray. They have been flooded with >200 calls over 2 days and numerous e-mails – they do a 100% call-back, which takes up a lot of time and they are understaffed at the moment but are in the process of hiring.
- **University of Hawai‘i, CTAHR:** website (see attached), gives presentations and provides educational displays (981-5194), distributes CFWG Homeowners brochure, Difference between Coqui and Greenhouse Frog poster, and Coqui Frog Invasion in Hawai‘i DVD/video

None of the agencies have a public relations officer and all of them do some degree of public outreach and education. The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) allocated \$50,000 for a PR campaign (public service announcements, brochures and posters with specific focus points, county fair displays). Perhaps a cadre of volunteers can be trained to speak to communities.

RESEARCH

- USDA NWRS:** Will be receiving funds from USDA WS to conduct research on other chemical control methods. (Will Pitt, Bob Sugihara). They will be evaluating chemicals for efficacy to submit to EPA and other regulatory agencies for approval.
- University of Hawai‘i CTAHR:** Will be focusing on non-chemical control methods (hot water, barriers, traps, sterilization) (Arnold Hara). Required by Institutional Animal Care & Use Committee guidelines to conduct all research in a humane manner.
- HDOA:** Received a food additive containing some citric acid to evaluate on coqui frog eggs (Kyle Onuma). It is less expensive than citric acid.

Attachments: Kaloko Mauka handout, CFWG contact list, Coqui Frog Resources sheet