



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI'I SYSTEM

TESTIMONY

HB 2763 HD 1

MAKING AN APPROPRIATION TO ERADICATE AND
CONTROL THE COQUI FROG

Testimony Presented Before the
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 27, 2006

by

Dr. Andrew G. Hashimoto, Dean
College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Testimony for
House Bill 2763 HD 1

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Chair Takamine, Vice Chair Kawakami, and Members of the Committee:

I am pleased to contribute the expertise of the College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) to provide input to the decision-making process on House Bill 2763 HD 1, which appropriates funds to control or eradicate priority invasive species, including the coqui frog.

I support HB2763 HD1. Invasive species threaten Hawai'i's unique plants and animals. Many invasive pests also hurt agricultural operations by damaging crops, lowering crop yields, or spreading diseases. Limiting the spread of invasive species is crucial to protecting Hawai'i's environment and farmers.

In Hawai'i, the coqui frog has no predators and reaches population densities three to four times greater than in its native Puerto Rico. It eats insects and spiders, putting native and endemic prey species at risk. It competes with native birds for food. The male's loud, shrill mating call disrupts human activities, especially sleep. The coqui frog also adversely impacts our nursery industry. Because the transportation of potted plants can spread the frogs to new locations, plants must be disinfested before they can be shipped, which is an added cost to the industry. Controlling established coqui frog populations and eradicating smaller populations before they get too large will benefit our environment, communities, and businesses.

For these reasons, I support HB2763 HD1.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.