

PEST ALERT

STOP THE SPREAD OF CARIBBEAN FROGS!



DESCRIPTION

Be on the lookout for these two alien frogs: **the coqui** (left) and **the greenhouse frog** (right). These two invaders were accidentally introduced to the Big Island via infested horticultural plants from the Caribbean. Since their introduction to the Big Island within the last 10 years their numbers have ballooned, they have infested Maui and have been sighted on both Oahu and Kauai. The time to stop them is now!

EFFECTS OF FROGS INCLUDE:

1. Loud annoying calls that disturb sleep
2. May prevent the export of infested goods to areas with "No Pest" policies
3. Potential vector of nematodes in certified nurseries
4. Competition with Hawaiian birds for insect prey
5. Predation on Hawaiian insects and spiders
6. Could boost mongoose and rat populations by serving as an unlimited food source
7. Would provide an abundant food source for more damaging, potential invaders such as the brown treesnake

CALLS:

1. The coqui emits a raucous nocturnal call for which it is named: Ko-KEE! Ko-KEE! Ko-KEE!
2. The call of the greenhouse frog is an inconspicuous chirp.

APPEARANCE: The coqui (*Eleutherodactylus coqui*) is variable in color ranging from light to dark brown on the back with a white or yellowish belly and (occasionally) red flanks. The greenhouse frog (*Eleutherodactylus planirostris*) is small and dark in color with black and brown markings.

HABITS: Both frogs are active at night and are found on vegetation (coqui) or on the ground (greenhouse frog). During the day they favor moist protected areas, often hiding in the leaf axils of common ornamentals like dracaena, ginger and elephant ear. They have no tadpoles; tiny frogs hatch directly from eggs laid on foliage. They are terrestrial and not usually found in ponds or standing water.

TAKE ACTION

1. **REPORT** frog sightings, calls or locations. If you hear or see these frogs, call **961-3299** on the **Big Island** or **873-3502** on **Maui**. Sightings on other islands can be reported at either number.
2. **STOP** the spread of these frogs around our islands. This includes the intentional spread of frogs as pets, or their unintentional transport via infested nursery products. Let people know of the threats these frogs pose to our quality of life and wildlife.
3. **ELIMINATE** frogs in your area. These frogs can be hand-captured (they are not poisonous) and disposed of humanely. Call the above numbers for more information.