



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

1115 PUNCHBOWL STREET, ROOM 325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
TEL: (808) 587-0401

TIMOTHY E. JOHNS, CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

DEPUTY
JANET E. KAWELO

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PLEASE REPLY TO: DOFAW

June 28, 2000

To members of the horticultural industry:

We need your help. Hawaii has been subjected in the past several years to a spreading invasion of two species of small frogs from the Caribbean. Their loud calls and dense populations are degrading the quality of life for our residents. They also pose a potential threat to our native forests and export nursery industry. These frogs arrived in Hawaii and are primarily spread as hitch-hikers in potted nursery materials, although intentional spread of the frogs by irresponsible individuals is also occurring. **The transport of frogs around the state is an illegal activity.** Current rules establish these frogs as injurious wildlife and make it illegal to "(1) release injurious wildlife into the wild; (2) transport them to islands or locations within the State where they are not already established and living in a wild state; (3) export any such species, or the dead body or parts thereof, from the State." (Hawaii Administrative Rules, Title 13, Subtitle 5, Chapter 124, Section 3d).

Populations currently are of limited extent and largely confined to the islands of Hawaii and Maui. DLNR staff are working with colleagues in U.S. Department of Agriculture and Hawaii Department of Agriculture to find an effective means of control of existing frog populations. We need your help in controlling this problem by complying with the law and taking all reasonable precautions to stop the spread of these frogs in nursery materials. Please take every effort to ensure that your business does not become infected by material received from infected nurseries. If you already have frogs at your business, please ensure by visual inspection that they do not leave your business in shipped product.

If desired, additional information on this problem may be obtained from Fred Kraus (DLNR) in Honolulu (587-0164), Tom Telfer (DLNR) on Kauai (274-3433), Fern Duvall (DLNR) on Maui (873-3502), or Earl Campbell (USDA) on Big Island (961-4482). Thanks for your help. Aloha.

Handwritten signature of Timothy E. Johns in cursive script.
TIMOTHY E. JOHNS

Chairperson, Department of Land and Natural Resources