Work update at Lawai infestation site

Upcoming control work is scheduled to continue the week of May 21, 2007. Crews will be arriving in the early morning and working until 9:30 pm., at the latest.

This week, work is scheduled Monday through Friday.

Last week, crews were able to herbicide in section 5. They sprayed citric acid in sections 3, 4, 5, 9 and 17. Hydrated lime was applied in section 8. Survey work was conducted again in sections 18, 19, 20, 21 as well as the spillway. On nights where the wind dies out, the noise from sections 16 and 17 carries quite far and reports of calling frogs are being made by neighboring residents.

Workers will focus this week doing herbicide control in sections 2 and 4. Spraying of citric acid will target sections 2, 3, 4, 5, 9, 16-20. Lime application will take place in sections 6, 7, and 8.

The contractor with the heavy machinery was unable to make it to our project so the scheduled work did not take place. We are hoping that this work will get underway this coming week. It will focus on road improvements and clearing of sections 12 - 16 and 18 - 20. The machinery will access these work areas from the coffee-field side of the project.

The crew has also been working to remedy the problem of the waterline connection coming apart. They have tried tightening the connections, tying with rope, and are now experimenting with Velcro straps.

We would appreciate it if anyone notices a disconnect to please shut the valve immediately and call the Crew Supervisor so that we can return to the hydrant and reconnect the line.

Reports of frogs continue to be called into the pest hotline. Either the Hawaii Department of Agriculture or KISC crews respond promptly to all reports. We must eradicate all arriving coqui before they establish another population.

Management Area Map

The map to the left shows the entire infestation area. This area has been broken into management units, and numbered accordingly.

Work at the site will reference these numbers.

If you hear calling frogs in an area near you, please contact our office so that we can schedule treatment in that unit.

Coqui or Greenhouse frogs?

The main pathway for spread has been through the nursery trade and there are concerns that there may be a negative effect on the export nursery trade, should shipments be banned for harboring frogs.
Coqui or Greenhouse frog?

Many of the coqui reports that are called into the Hawaii Department of Agriculture’s (HDOA) pest hotline on Kauai (643-PEST) are in fact not Coqui at all but rather its cousin the Greenhouse frog, *Eleutherodactylus planirostris*.

This small frog, however, only slightly resembles the coqui. There are many differences that can be noticed including coloring and vocalization.

The adult greenhouse frog is **usually smaller than one inch** and has a narrower body. Usually copper colored, mottled with black spots. It has no mid-dorsal line (along the back from nose to tail) with a warty textured skin. The Greenhouse frog has a narrower snout, claw-like toes with toe pads that are not distinct.

The differences in the calls are quite distinct. It emits a soft, bird-like or cricket-like chirping sound rather than a loud, two-tone call sounding like “Ko-kee” that the coqui frog has.

The Greenhouse frog is known to be widely distributed on Kauai and is transported inter-island as well as intra-island mostly by plant movements.

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"We stopped bringing in things from the Big Island because of this," said Robin Petersen, vice president of Sharon’s Plants, another Waimanalo nursery. "Now we’re 100 percent coqui-free."

Anthropocentric concerns ("People problems")

*Eleutherodactylus coqui* has a loud, piercing call that often disturbs people’s sleep (calls are typically measured at **90-100 decibels** at a distance of 0.5m [1.5’] from the frog).

The list below shows you exactly how loud the Coqui is in relation to other sounds in our world.

- 160 Ram jet
- 140 (Threshold of pain)
- 120 Power riveter
- 115-120 Rock concert
- 100 Semitrailer, 10 feet away
- **90-100 Eleutherodactylus coqui**
- 80 Vacuum cleaner
- 60 Normal conversation
- 40 Sounds in an average living room
- 20 Whisper
- 0 (Threshold of hearing)

Although the call of the coqui is often beloved by residents of the coqui’s native habitat, the extremely loud noise they make in Hawaii (presumably louder than in native habitats because of higher concentrations of populations) has been reported to be extremely annoying to numerous Hawaii residents and visitors.

Check out the hear.org web site for more information.

Informational Links

Please visit the following sites for more info:

- **Work Notification Policy:**
  
  http://www.hear.org/kisc/pdfs/200704coquiworknotificationpolicy.pdf
- http://www.hear.org/AlienSpeciesInHawaii/species/frogs/
- http://www.hear.org/AlienSpeciesInHawaii/species/frogs/