Work update at Lawai infestation site

Upcoming control work is scheduled to continue the week of July 2, 2007. Crews will be arriving mid-morning and working until around 9:30 pm.

Field crew work is scheduled for July 2, 3, and 5 (no work on the 4th due to a holiday).

This past week, the new KISC Frog Crew began with training on Monday, June 25. Training involved safety, Personal Protective Equipment issuing and care, herbicide training, and on-site training involving mixing and spraying hydrated lime and citric acid as well as how to reset the recorders and GPS use.

At the site, hydrated lime was sprayed in sections 12, 14, 15, and 16. Citric acid was sprayed in sections 15, 16, 18, 19 and 20. The weather was not entirely cooperative but it gave the crew a chance to try their skill with hand-capturing these pests. They were able to capture 7 on their first attempt.

For this upcoming week, the crew will focus on applying lime and citric acid in sections 2, 13, 14, 16, 17, and 18. They will also be applying herbicide for vegetation control in section 7 and 13. Some trail maintenance will take place in sections 12, 13, and 14.

One “escapee” frog was reported between section 1 and the spillway and the crew listened for it on both Wednesday and Thursday nights but did not hear it calling. Perhaps the wind played a part in this. They will attempt to either spray or capture this outlier next week when they resume work.

The contractor continues to clear hau on the intake side of the reservoir below Lawaioa Lane. This area is already starting to dry out and we are hopeful that this habitat modification will inhibit the frogs from moving into this area.

Thank you for everyone’s contribution in monitoring this site with special recognition to Gary Ueunten who reported the rogue frog.

New KISC crewmembers Cheryl and Lisa learn about mixing citric acid.

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.

Contact Phone Numbers:

- KISC: 246-0684 (from 7:00 am to 4:00 pm)
- Crew Supervisor: 651-8781
- Hawaii Department of Agriculture: 274-3069
- Pest Hotline: 643-PEST

Tidbit

The frog is covered by a soft, thin, moist skin composed of two layers, an outer epidermis and an inner dermis. The skin does not merely protect the frog but helps in respiration.
Coqui work-crew hired

On Monday, June 25, 2007 the new KISC Frog Crew began their 20 week adventure controlling coqui frogs in Lawai.

The crew, comprised of 3 men and 2 women, are all from Kauai. They all applied to fill this job with a desire to protect Kauai’s fragile environment from the threats that are posed by the introduction of coqui frogs.

Extensive training was conducted covering safety as well as different methods and techniques of control. “This is the most fun I’ve ever had at a job”, Lisa St. Amant said after conducting her first night spray with her fellow crew members.

The crew has been hired to help achieve a goal of no calling frogs by September. They are partially funded by money allocated by the County of Kauai and administered by the Office of Economic Development through Garden Island Resource Conservation and Development as well as the State of Hawaii through the Research Corporation of the University of Hawaii.

The crew is composed of: Cyrus Correia, Robert Diaz, Cherylann Lemalu, Duane Patricio, and Lisa St. Amant, with Joseph Aguon-Kona as their supervisor.

The Body Ear: to pinpoint a sound’s direction, coqui frogs may lend not only an ear but a lung as well

From dusk until midnight, nearly every day of the year, a deafening din floods Puerto Rico’s rain forests. Every few seconds, male Eleutherodactylus coqui frogs trumpet their “co-qui” mating call in competition with the blaring advertisements of seven other frog species and the dissonant chorus of rasping, chirping, buzzing insects. The animal orchestra creates such a loud cacophony that researchers working in the forest say they have a hard time hearing themselves think. Yet the male and female coqui frogs and their amphibian compatriots somehow sort through the pandemonium, separating the melodious acoustic wheat of their own species from the chaotic chaff of other creatures’ chants. Exactly how the coqui and other frogs discriminate sounds in such noisy environments has long fascinated neuroethologist Peter M. Narins at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA).

Most recently Narins and two associates have discovered that coqui frogs in particular may also be aided in pinpointing a sound’s direction with an unusual sound pathway: through the lungs. They reported in the March PROCEEDINGS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMY OF SCIENCES (Vol. 85, No. 5) that when a sound wave hits a frog’s side, it can travel through the air-filled lungs, up through the voice box, into the eustachian tubes and on to the eardrum.

In humans--and other mammals whose middle ear cavity is separated from the outside world by bone--sound usually strikes the eardrum from the outside only. In contrast, a reptile, bird or amphibian eardrum vibrates in response to sound waves coming at it from both sides.

What Narins, Gunther Ehret and Jurgen Tautz at West Germany’s Konstanz University discovered is that sound can also travel through the lungs of a coqui frog to its eardrums.

Science News, May 14, 1988 by Stefi Weisburd

(See the full article at the link below)

Informational Links
Please visit the following sites for more info:

- http://www.hear.org/AlienSpeciesInHawaii/species/frogs/
- http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m0EPG/is_n3_v28/ai_16817840
- http://findarticles.com/p/articles/mi_m1200/is_n20_v133/ai_6703229

“So what we found is not the principal pathway to the inside of the eardrum, but rather a complementary one”, says neuroethologist Peter M. Narins at the University of California at Los Angeles (UCLA)