Work update at Lawai infestation site

Upcoming control work is scheduled to continue the week of January 14, 2008. Crews will be arriving in the afternoon and working until around 9:30 pm.

Field crew work is scheduled for January 14 and 15.

This past week the crew was able to apply citric acid in areas where they heard calling frogs: section 13/18 (and just west of 13) as well as along the intake stream through sections 19-21. All was quiet when they left the work site.

Herbicides were also applied in section 13 to control grasses where a calling frog was hiding.

Even though the nighttime temperature was quite cold, the crew reported that the male frogs that are in the coqui habitats are still calling. No female frogs were found on the outside of the cages.

This coming week, the crew will continue to focus on the intake side of the reservoir in sections 13 through 21. Efforts will include herbicide and citric acid.

If the weather is good, they will also attempt lime application in section 8.

As per normal site protocol, the field crew will continue to monitor the entire area listening for calling frogs.

SPREAD THE WORD! To keep Kauai coqui-free, it is imperative that any coqui be reported and responded to quickly. Please encourage neighbors and friends to report any suspicious frogs or frog-like whistling to the Pest Hotline.

Report coqui frogs! 643-PEST

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

Endemic species of insects (ones found in Hawai`i and nowhere else on the planet) may be at risk from the coqui.
Two Notes, Five Steps: Find the Frog (or How to Catch a Coqui)

Step 1: TOWARD
Move toward the sound of the calling frog, to about an arms reach away.
Be careful not to disturb the vegetation between you and it.

Step 2: AROUND
Move left or right in a circle around the place where you think the frog is at.
Completely circle the bush, tree, clump of vegetation or area where the sound is coming from.

Confirm it down to about 3 square feet of space.

Step 3: UP OR DOWN
Generally, the earlier in the evening, the closer to ground the frogs will be. This is not always true, but works a lot of the time.
If you think the frog is within reach without climbing, locate the frog's proximity to ground by lowering yourself to its level while it calls.

Move your ear around till it's very near. You will know when you are very close, it will sound piercingly loud. It will probably be looking at you by now, so don't make any sudden moves or the frog will jump somewhere else.

If that happens you will have to wait till the calls start coming again, and it might take ten or more minutes for that to happen.
If moving downward did not get you closer to the frog get the ladder. Get off the ground by at least a few feet and wait for the calls again.

Step 5: VISUAL LOCK
When you actually locate the frog, stop moving. Examine the situation before making any sudden movements.
Can you get your hand to the frog without obstructions?
Can you clear obstructions out of the way without making the frog jump away?
If it does jump, will it go higher, or down?

Step 5(A): GRAB IT
Restorations out of the way, you are ready to make your move towards the frog.
Move your arm slowly till your hand is hovering about an inch or two away from the frog.
When you are confident that a quick close of your fingers into a fist will contain the frog, go for it quickly.
Overshoot the frog if you must and take the vegetation it's sitting on along with the grab.
Get it into the ziplock bag or bottle before it escapes your hand. You've got it!

O r, in some cases the grab might require a two-hand process. If the vegetation is flimsy you might want to place your other hand in position on the back side of the grab. This becomes a little more difficult, but possible. If more than one person is available, the second person should be prepared to receive the frog into a transportable container.

Step 5(B): TUBE TOOL
A tool can be used to give you a little more reach than an arms length, of a clear plastic tubing about the size of a fluorescent light bulb. Tape one end of the tube and cut the other end at an angle. After visual lock on to the frog, place the tube over him in stead of your hand, and reportedly the frog hops right into the tube and you've caught it!

For more info see:
http://everyfroghasastory.tripod.com/catchit1.html

Informational Links
Please visit the following sites for more info:
- Work Notification Policy:
  http://www.hear.org/kisc/pdfs/200704coquiworknotificationpolicy.pdf
- http://everyfroghasastory.tripod.com/catchit1.html