

Hawaii Reporter

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The Coqui are Coming! The Coqui are Coming!

By Rep. Gene Ward, R-Hawaii Kai, 2/4/2009 9:51:03 AM



I am hosting a town hall meeting on Monday, February 9, 2009 at Hahaione Elementary School from 7 to 9pm regarding the coqui frog and its increasing presence in East Honolulu.

There have been a couple of coqui frog incidents in Hawaii Kai and we want to get the word out to the public on the dangers coquis frog bring and its impact on the quality of life and property values for residents.



Coqui Frog

To deal with the coqui frog issue, I've created the Coqui Frog Task Force, comprised of concerned residents, to prevent the spread of the invasive and shrieking species to Hawaii Kai. The coqui frog may not sound so bad in the daytime but at night the noise from the Coqui frogs can reach 80 decibels which is equivalent to a chainsaw about 10 feet away.

The coqui which is native to Puerto Rico, apparently traveled to the islands with potted plant materials and are constantly being reintroduced to Oahu from the Big Island.

According to the Department of Agriculture, the coqui frog has been found and eradicated from Wahiawa, Waimanalo, Kaneohe, Manoa, Mililani, Pacific Palisades, Ewa Beach and Kamilonui Valley in Hawaii Kai.

The bottom line is that this is a quality of life issue and educating the public on the coqui frog is essential to keeping the frogs at bay. If not, the coqui will multiply exponentially and keep residents up at night or have to talk on the phone in their closets like they do on the Big Island.

Representative Gene Ward is a member of the State House of Representatives and represents House District 17, Hawaii Kai-Kalama Valley.

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