Tri-Isle Resource, Conservation & Development Council, Inc.
&
Maui Invasive Species Committee

MISC Coqui Frog Project
OED #G2311

Clearing coqui frog habitat

FINAL REPORT
Presented to
Maui County Office of Economic Development
Final Report for OED G-2311 (MISC Coqui Frog Project)
This contract was executed between the County of Maui Office of Economic Development and Tri-Isle Resource Conservation and Development Council, Inc. to provide funds for the detection and control of coqui frogs on Maui, with all work to be carried out by the Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC). The following summarizes work conducted during the contract period, from December 2006 through April 2008.

Project Results: December 1, 2006 – April 30, 2008

Overall Status: Fourteen coqui frog population centers have been identified on Maui since 2004. A location is designated as a population center if it has five or more calling frogs. Most of the population centers were infested with more than five frogs. Funding from the Maui County Office of Economic Development has led to the eradication of seven population centers. Four of the seven remaining centers are on target for eventual eradication, with a site considered eradicated only after a full year has elapsed since the last calling frog was heard. Two sites are commercial nurseries which are considered to be “revolving door” sites – new frogs are repeatedly introduced to these sites in shipments from the Big Island. Maliko Gulch is the seventh and largest site under active management.

Māliko Gulch: The Māliko Gulch population includes both residential and wildland components. Initially, efforts were concentrated on the residential area, consistent with the overall project strategy, which was to tackle smaller populations first. This was especially appropriate, given inadequate resources to launch a full-scale assault on the Māliko population. The infestation within the residential portion has continued to decline over time; however, success is thwarted by several recalcitrant landowners who will not allow control operations to occur on their property.

As other populations on the island came under control, more staff time was available to begin working within the gulch itself. Field staff spent an entire evening stationed at different locations of the gulch to assess potential spread from the previously delineated area. They discovered that the frogs had moved makai from the upper end of the gulch, with the result that now there are pockets of frogs spread from the upper infestation all the way to the Hāna Highway.

![Levels of Infestation in Lower Māliko Gulch](image)

Within the gulch, the crew has established working trails, cleared habitat, and set up a staging area to be able to deliver citric acid into highly infested areas via high-capacity sprayers. Roll-out of the high-volume sprayers is expected by mid-2009.
Response & Control Activities: The public continued to report new incidents of coqui frogs on Maui. During the contract period, MISC received 98 frog reports, of which 81 were new reports. Staff made 742 separate visits to 177 frog-infested sites or suspect locations. Control operations included hand-capturing, spraying citric acid at infested sites, and modifying habitat. Ongoing surveys are necessary to ensure eradication.

Coqui Frog Treatment Type
December 1, 2006 - April 30, 2008

n = 786 site visits
Outreach & Education: Extensive education and outreach efforts on the coqui frog were conducted on Maui. Outreach activities included: dissemination of information via flyers and other display information at public community events; presentations to school groups, community and civic associations, government agencies, and industry groups; articles in newspapers, newsletters, and magazines; broadcasts on local media (television and radio stations); and volunteer search programs with high school students. Staff attended and gave presentations at the First International Conference on the Coqui Frog held in Hilo in February 2008. Work began during the project period on development of a coqui-free certification program for nurseries and plant providers.

Research: MISC provided information about coqui distribution, weather and activity level data to the University of Hawai‘i –Hilo. Coqui specimens were sent to a Puerto Rican researcher, for study of the morphology and genetic composition of the species.

For further information contact:
Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC)
P.O. Box 983
Makawao, HI 96768
Ph.: (808) 573-6471; Fax: (808) 573-6475
Email: misc@hawaii.edu

Grant monies are administered through:
Tri-Isle Resource and Conservation Development Council, Inc.
77 Ho‘okele Street, Suite 202
Kahului, HI 96732
Ph.: (808) 871-5500, ext. 356; Fax: (808) 873-6184
Email: Stuart.Funke-d’Egnuff@rcdnet.net