

## **EACP Committee**

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**From:** David DeLeon <dpdeleon@icloud.com>  
**Sent:** Thursday, February 21, 2019 1:50 PM  
**To:** EACP Committee  
**Subject:** Testimony on EACP-19  
**Attachments:** TEST.EACP.19.2.26.19.docx

Please see the attached testimony. If you need to contact me, my home phone is 575-9711.  
Mahalo.

## TESTIMONY

Submitted by Dave DeLeon  
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2.26.19

Thank you for this opportunity of speak in support for Maui Invasive Species Committee (MISC)'s grant request to continue Maui County's investment in controlling the spread of coqui frogs throughout our County, noted here as EACP-19.

Had it not been for the efforts of MISC and the serious investments Maui County has made in this cause to date, our neighborhood would have been overrun long ago. The noisy little frogs started showing up in our neighborhood about five years ago, in ones and twos. Before then, we had heard about their reputation for destroying the night's quiet, but you cannot truly understand what that means until you experience it – especially when a couple of them camp outside your bedroom window and to get a good night's sleep requires closing windows and earplugs. I have been in situations when singing coqui were close to my ear. It is loud enough to be painful. A single individual is noisy enough to be disruptive at 100 yards away.

To see where we are going with this, we only need to look at the Big Island. There are areas in Puna where scientists have measured the populations to be as dense as 20,000 coqui per acre. That happens because Hawaii provides the perfect habitat for coqui to prosper and because there are no serious natural predators. Besides destroying the night's quiet, that many animals occupying a given space also destroy the bio-diversity of that space. Without a concerted effort, this is what our County and indeed the whole state has to look forward to.

My neighborhood, Haiku Hill, with support from MISC, has organized so we can maintain a perimeter around our community. To be able to do that, we need the tools (such as gas-powered 100-gallon sprayers) and resources (a large amount of citrus acid) that Maui County provides via the funds to MISC. Historically, the County has gotten it, much more than the State has. Once we had these tools and resources, we have organized ourselves to rid our neighborhood of the frogs. You are welcome to come work with us at night in the mud and rain to spray acid on the coqui, but in lieu of that, we truly appreciate your support – in terms of the capital for the necessary tools and resources. Without them, we will be overrun.

Meanwhile MISC is fighting keep the frogs inside a perimeter. If they don't get those resources, then these noisy buggers will be turning up in neighborhoods all around Maui. Time does not allow me to get into the consequences of that here, but know they will be significant and negative.

So thank you in advance for your support of the MISC request and know that these funds are going – not to some obscure state agency – but right back to neighborhoods seeking to defend their peace and quiet. Mahalo.