

EACP Committee

From: Catherine Clark <catherineaclark.maui@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 25, 2019 5:03 PM
To: EACP Committee
Cc: Riki Hokama; Tasha A. Kama; Kelly King; Alice L. Lee; Mike J. Molina; Tamara A. Paltin; Keani N. Rawlins; Shane M. Sinenci; Yukilei Sugimura
Subject: Coqui Frogs

Aloha from Haiku. I was hoping to be at the meeting Tuesday afternoon, but my #1 helper is out ill, and I might not be able to attend. I wanted to share my comments.

I live along Maliko Gulch, and as a neighborhood we gather several times a year, to brainstorm to come up with new approaches to creatively attack the coqui frog issue. Within our group some neighbors have invested in heavy duty commercial spray equipment, and others in smaller sprayers. Some neighbors have cleared a “no frog” barrier, a barren stretch of 10-15 feet along the edge of their property as frogs are reluctant to cross this barren area. On these properties, thousands and thousands of dollars are being spent clearing vegetation to remove potential frog habitat. We have neighbors out helping other neighbors. MISC supplies the citric acid and without this, some people wouldn’t be able to afford to spray. We are trying to be the barrier between our section of the infested gulch, and the spread of frogs throughout Haiku. Chasing frogs is a nightly task for many of us. We’re doing everything we can, but we need your help, as we cannot be 100% effective on our own. There’s no doubt that the Maui Invasive Species guys in the field are working hard. Some of the conditions are challenging. If the Maliko gulch source of frogs had been contained several years ago, we wouldn’t be where we are today. It needs a serious and immediate effort, much more than some neighbors spraying their own properties. The miconia eradication is spending \$25/minute to use helicopters to track down stray plants, yet the frog patrol is working by hand, scaling steep gulches.

You can’t imagine what it’s like until you experience it first hand. Imagine 1000’s of little 90 decibel noise makers in your yard or neighborhood. To give you a comparison, 90 decibels is roughly as loud as a lawn mower or garbage disposal. Now multiply it by 100 or 1000. They start up around dusk, and croak through the night. This leads to the big question – what actions would you take for funding or staffing if these frogs were on or near your property? Or perhaps next to your parents property? When you think about this, please be honest with yourself, because if left untreated, this could be coming to your neighborhood soon.

I am hoping this council understands the magnitude of this issue, and is prepared to creatively and financially support the battle. If you would like to experience the issue first hand, I would be happy to accompany any interested council member on a walk through some of the Haiku Hill properties any evening.



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