

# Myths about Coqui Frogs in Waimea

- The cold will kill them.

No, it won't. The males stop singing when the temperature drops to the mid-50's, but they're still there. One study showed coqui can survive nights as low as 32 degrees F. in lab settings. Hawaii Volcanoes National Park can dip under 30 degrees, and coqui are still found there. (During cold snaps, the frogs just move to warmer areas: ground debris, under houses or cars.) The population probably won't explode as quickly as in warmer lowland areas, but the population can get huge.

- The chickens will get them.

Chickens will eat coquis they encounter, but don't count on that method. Coquis are nocturnal. Chickens are not.

- Coqui frogs are too small to find.

The frogs are about the size of a quarter, and their call leads you right to them.

- Our pastures will keep them out.

Low grass is not a favorite environment for coqui frogs, though they are reportedly heard in our pastures. But they aren't hopping into Waimea, they are driving—in our cars, trucks and plants coming from infested areas. When returning home from infested areas, be aware that you may have hitchhikers and watch for them when you get home. Try to park away from vegetation. Give any potted plants you buy a 5-minute hot shower and repot them in fresh potting material.

- I'm on the dry side. No worries about coquis there.

Partly true, except for irrigation. The resorts on the Kohala coast have coqui eradication programs, because coquis arrive on vehicles and in plants and then survive in plants that are watered. Same holds for our homes.

- There's no point fighting coqui frogs now that they are here. It's futile.

- Not true. Talk to people in North Kohala and in Volcano. They've been controlling coqui frogs for years, and Waimea people can do it, too.

**Report coqui in Waimea: [wcapres@hawaiiintel.net](mailto:wcapres@hawaiiintel.net)**