

November 20, 2003

Kohala Coqui Coalition - Application for Fiscal Sponsorship

1. Organization: The Kohala Coqui Coalition, established in November 2003 by members of the North Kohala community to address the new coqui frog infestation here, was organized by several plant nurseries and a number of concerned residents. The principals include Lew Whitney, Ralph Blancato (heading the Eradication committee, Ted Matsuda, Shiro Takata, Kim Takata (heading the Education Committee), Hiram Hagio, Peter Palm, and Amy and John Tanaka. Kim Takata is acting as the applicant for the Coalition.

2. Needs Assessment: The threat of the coqui frog to Hawaii's environment, and its tranquility, is well-documented by the Coqui Frog Working Group, a consortium of the University of Hawaii at Manoa and Hilo, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, the Hawaii Department of Land and Natural Resources, the County of Hawaii, the U.S. Department of Agriculture, U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, among others. The most important of these groups, the U. S. Department of Agriculture's Animal and Plant Health Inspection Service (APHIS), operates the National Wildlife Research Center (NWRC) in Hilo, the world's foremost coqui research facility. The coqui frog, an invasive immigrant from the Caribbean, poses a major threat to Hawaii's plant nurseries which may have difficulty selling and exporting coqui-infected plants, natural wildlife (it eats insects needed by endangered birds to survive), and to local peace and quiet (a small group of adult male coqui produce a piercing chirping noise throughout the night which can exceed 70 decibels, the approximate sound level of multiple lawnmowers or chainsaws.) This problem is causing out-migration in many infected areas of the Big Island. Kohala offers an excellent environment for the spread of the coqui. The current infestation, which began in September of 2003, already covers an area estimated at approximately 25 or more acres. Unless quick action is taken, the coqui frog population could extend throughout North Kohala in a matter of months. Further, without community education, additional infestations will occur since major retailers on the island are selling plants infected with coqui.

3. Objectives (Outcomes): We will: a) completely eradicate the current infestation of coqui frogs in Kohala in the next nine months, and b) saturate the Kohala community with an educational campaign in the next 30 days.

4. Methods: The eradication plan addresses three parcels on upper Kennersley Road and will use proven measures developed in the Wood Valley area of Kau and other locations. The education campaign will include community wide mailings, road signs on the two incoming highways, and community meetings if necessary, all designed to significantly increase the awareness of Kohala residents concerning the current infestation and eradication plan, the need to check all plants purchased outside of the community before bringing them into the community, and other important information about how to recognize coqui and who to call if additional infestations are discovered.

5. Evaluation: We will measure our success by how quickly and effectively we eradicate the current infestation, and by how well we eliminate infestations in the future.

6. Funding: We have \$10,000 in cash pledges from local businesses and residents, and an additional \$2,000 pledged for in-kind donations of supplies. We anticipate raising enough money to complete this project with local fund-raising. If necessary, we will write a master proposal and seek grant funding.

7. Budget: Currently we are preparing our budget, estimated to exceed \$10,000 and, depending on the size of the eradication area, may range up to twice this amount or more.

8. Administrative: We are an "unincorporated association", will secure a Federal EIN, and open a bank account in the name of the Kohala Coqui Coalition in order to account for the income and expense of this project.

9. Applicant: Kimberly Ison-Takata, 59-191 Mala Place, Kamuela, HI 96743-8531 880-1132 ison@aloha.net

Signature: _____

Date: _____