

Prevailing Winds

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Representative Isaac W. Choy



District 24 - Manoa, University, Moili'ili

Since retiring as a CPA, I often find myself at my capitol office, bright and early in the morning, as I did when I was working in my private practice. So you may ask, what am I working on during the interim? Over the last four years, it seems that people come to me with issues that need problem solving. These issues then turn into a project for me that requires hours of research and collaborating with agencies and consultants.



For example, one issue that weighs heavy on my mind is “*coqui frogs*.” I am convinced that if coqui frogs invade Manoa, our property values will suffer, and in my estimation, we will see a decline

in value as high as twenty percent. I base this estimate on what is happening to property values on the Big Island. Home sellers are required to disclose the existence of coqui frogs in the area.

How annoying is the sound of the coqui frog? Let us say that one coqui frog is equivalent to the sound of one loud mynah bird cackling. I am sure you have heard a tree full of mynah birds cackle. Can you imagine if that tree had thousands of mynah birds? That is what we in Manoa would have to deal with on a nightly basis.

A couple of years ago, there was a coqui frog detected in Manoa, which prompted me to host a Community Meeting on the Coqui Frog. The Department of Agriculture’s presentation as well as live coqui frogs was of interest to the 120 Manoa residents attending this meeting.

Recently, I met with leaders from the University of Hawaii’s College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, the Department of Agriculture, rep-

resentatives from the Big Island Invasive Species Group, the Department of Land and Natural Resources and even the federal official from the Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center (USDA.) I visited Hilo and was hosted by Representative Mark Nakashima and Representative Clift Tsuji. I stayed overnight at Representative Tsuji’s home where he made sure to keep my bedroom windows open so I could listen to the sounds of the coqui frog all night long. After I became extremely tired, I fell asleep.

So here is what I learned from this visit. The most disappointing news is that residents in Hilo have given up on the elimination of the coqui frog. Most of the people I had an opportunity to speak with said they have adapted to the sounds of the coqui frog, as this is just now a way of living. It is like living next to a freeway; you get use to the sound of cars. I was surprised to learn that a Hilo hotel has ear plugs in the night stand next to the bed, just in case.

No one is looking to completely eliminating the coqui frog. Most agencies and officials are trying to control the immigration of the frog to the mainland and the other islands. Since there are no natural predators in Hawaii like they have in Puerto Rico, where the coqui frogs came from, there is an ecological imbalance causing us to have a hundred times more coqui frogs per acre than Puerto Rico. We have studied coqui frogs to “death”, and we know more about the sociological, physiological, physical, and sexual habits of the coqui frog, than I think we need to know. The only thing we have not studied is how to get rid of them.

My goal is to collaboratively work with my colleagues, experts, who for years, have been researching ways to eliminate the coqui frog by looking for a biological solution of this pest, hopefully, before it infests Manoa and other communities.

MY CONTACT INFORMATION

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I am already getting the “no can” from the state brainiacs. But looking back on life, I know I have heard this before. Do not worry, before anything is introduced, I will make sure that it does not go the way of the mongoose and bufo toads. I will keep you informed as to the progress of this which will lead into the upcoming session.

One last note. The coqui frog does sound like the word, "coqui." Mahalo,




Manoa NSW Coordinators & Block Captains 4th Annual Meeting

Mahalo to Guest Speaker, Prosecuting Attorney Keith Kaneshiro, who spoke to Manoa NSW members about protecting the community against crimes, scams and other topics of safety, and HPD District 7 Community Policing Team who came out to update the community on crime and answer questions.

UPDATE

Manoa Road Task Force

HCR 153, introduced by Rep. Isaac Choy, passed the legislature on May 3, 2012.

The purpose of the **Manoa Road Task Force** is to discuss ownership, maintenance & repair responsibility of the portion of the road leading up to the Lyon Arboretum. This task force of stakeholders must reach consensus on the issue, and report its findings and recommendations, including proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2013. The task force meeting is tentatively scheduled for:

Monday, October 22, 2012
Hawaii State Capitol, Room 423
9:00 a.m.



Going Green Recycling Event

Saturday, October 20, 2012
9:00 a.m.—1:00 p.m.
Kaimuki High School Parking Lot
2705 Kaimuki Avenue

FLYER ATTACHED



Recycling Community Clean-up & Fundraiser for:

KAIMUKI HIGH SCHOOL
KAPAHULU CENTER
MOIILILI COMMUNITY CENTER



- Bring your recyclable waste
- Help the environment
- Turn trash into cash for the school/community

CURBSIDE PICKUP AVAILABLE

Call Michele Sansone from the office of
Councilmember Ann Kobayashi at 285-6481.

SPONSORS: Congresswoman Colleen Hanabusa, Governor Neil Abercrombie, Senator Brian Taniguchi, Representative Isaac Choy, Representative Calvin Say, Representative Scott Nishimoto, Representative Scott Saiki, Mayor Peter Carlisle and Councilmember Ann Kobayashi.