

INTRODUCING THE COQUI TREE FROG



Aloha! I'm Ricki, the coqui. My family is from Puerto Rico, but I somehow ended up here in Hawaii.

At first it was lonely here, since there were no other frogs, just big cane toads. But the geckos were very nice and told us that there are plenty of bugs for everyone to eat. I hope you don't mind us eating your mosquitoes, crickets, leafhoppers, centipedes, earwigs, termites, and other insects.

You should know that we are very affectionate little frogs. At nighttime we spend hours singing mating songs to one another. I call out to my wife, "So-phie", and she calls back, "Ri-cki". They love our song in Puerto Rico. People there say it helps them sleep at night.

Since we've been in Hawaii we have made lots of friends who have given us new homes. But we also realize that some people don't like us and want to kill all of us. Please, we are just innocent little tree frogs. Our tree frog cousins throughout the world are in danger of going extinct as our habitats are lost to development. We are not poisonous. We are just little frogs wanting to eat little bugs. Surely, you have enough bugs to share, no?



I know we are considered "Alien", but so are the gecko, and hibiscus, and papaya, and sugar cane, and banana, and mango, and plumeria, and many other plants, birds, and animals that make Hawaii the wonderful place it is. Can't you find room in your hearts for us little tree frogs, too?

If you hear our bird-like "co-qui" chirp in the evening, please don't report it to anyone. If the exterminators hear about it they will come to poison us. Of course, we can jump away and live somewhere else, and many of our eggs will survive. But we live with so many other creatures who cannot easily escape, and it will poison them, too. It may even poison people and their pets.



Please don't poison our new home. It is such a wonderful place, this Hawaii.

We love our new home and want to say "Gracias" and "Mahalo" to all our frog friends.



For more information or to get involved in helping to save the Coqui, contact the Coqui Hawaiian Integration and Reeducation Project (CHIRP) at www.HawaiianCoqui.org or (808) 935-5563! Mahalo!