

March 19, 2008

## Help Prevent the Spread of Coqui Frogs and Other Pests

Dear Valued Customer,

We ask you to join Young Brothers (YB) and the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) to fight the spread of coqui frogs and other invasive species within the Hawaiian Islands.

According to HDOA, **the greatest infestation of coqui frogs is currently on the Big Island, in East Hawaii.** Therefore, HDOA has asked for YB's cooperation in educating our customers on ways you can help prevent the spread of this pest beyond the Big Island.

**If your cargo originates from a known coqui-infested area, please take extra care to inspect your cargo prior to delivery to YB's Hilo or Kawaihae port.** As you may be aware, coqui frogs are nocturnal creatures; they may not be readily detected during daylight hours. **Customers receiving cargo from coqui-infested areas can also help by being vigilant when opening and handling cargo.**

If coqui frogs or any other invasive pests of concern are found on cargo transported via YB, please take the following steps:

- 1) **Notify HDOA's toll-free Pest Hotline at (808) 643-PEST** for HDOA's guidance on what steps to take.
- 2) **Contact YB Customer Service at (808) 543-9311** to report pests found inside or attached to YB equipment, so that we may monitor the situation and take any necessary precautions. **Please note that the customer is responsible for returning all YB equipment clean and free of any pests.**

For additional guidance on how to reduce the risk of cargo infestation for your particular situation/location on the Big Island, please contact **HDOA in Hilo at (808) 974-4141**. Information on coqui frogs and other pests is available on HDOA's website at <http://hawaii.gov/hdoa/pi/ppc>.

As a reminder, plants and propagative plant parts (such as cuttings, roots, root stock, and seeds) may be shipped only if such plants or parts are: (a) inspected at the HDOA Plant Quarantine Office and accompanied by a signed HDOA certificate of inspection, or (b) from an HDOA certified nursery and accompanied by an HDOA certified nursery stamp or certificate of inspection. No other plants or propagative plant parts may be shipped without an HDOA certification.

Mahalo for your cooperation in preventing the inter-island transfer of invasive species. For further information, please contact HDOA or YB's Customer Service Department at the numbers provided above.

Sincerely,

*/s/ Roy Catalani*

Roy Catalani

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