

Harry Kim
Mayor



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January 29, 2018

Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
House Committee on Higher Education
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 309
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair McKelvey and Committee members:

RE: HB 474, Rat Lungworm Disease
Hearing: 01/30/18 – 2:00 pm; House Conference Room 309

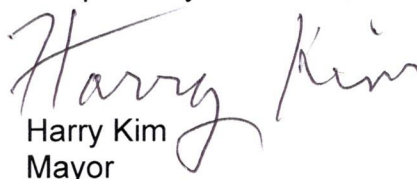
Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of funding for activities aimed at the prevention and eradication of rat lungworm disease. Until those worthy goals have been achieved, a third aim could also be better treatment for those who fall victim to this illness.

The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy at the University of Hawai'i at Hilo established the Hawai'i Island rat lungworm disease working group. It has been conducting research and educational outreach on the disease for the past four years, and it is my understanding that it has been doing very valuable work.

Apparently the impact of this disease has been different in Hawai'i than on the mainland, with unusually severe consequences reported for Hawai'i victims. Therefore, the funding of local research is uniquely important.

Please support HB 474.

Respectfully submitted,


Harry Kim
Mayor



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
Tuesday, January 30, 2018 at 2:00 pm

By
Carolyn Ma, PharmD, BCOP
DEAN
UH Hilo - Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy

HB 474 – RELATING TO RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem, and members of the committee:

My name is Carolyn Ma, and I am the Dean for the UH Hilo Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP). University of Hawai'i at Hilo fully supports the intent of this bill that will address the eradication and treatment of Rat Lung Worm (RLW) Disease.

We will continue to partner with the Dept. of Health to address this disease, however, UH Hilo's emphasis in regards to this specific bill is in research. We have on faculty at the DKICP, a premier researcher who focuses specifically on RLW and has already conducted valuable research. Any funds awarded would allow the Jarvi lab to investigate the following:

1. Determine how effective commercially available vegetable washes or other solutions are at killing infective RLW larvae.
2. Evaluate the possibility of RLW transmission in water by conducting laboratory and household catchment studies to optimize maintenance and treatment design for the prevention of RLW larvae entering household and agricultural water supplies.
3. Develop blood-based diagnostics for evidence of human or domestic animal exposure to RLW to better understand the source of infection.
4. Determine the effectiveness of multiple anti-parasitic drugs to the stages of *Angiostrongylus cantonensis* in humans.

UH Hilo supports this bill if the passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities as indicated in our University of Hawai'i BOR Approved Supplemental Budget.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on HB 474. Aloha.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

**JANUARY 30, 2018
2:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 309**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 474
RELATING TO RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE**

Chairperson McKelvey and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 474, relating to rat lungworm disease. The Department supports the intent of this measure provided it does not impact the Department's priorities submitted in the Executive Budget.

Rat lungworm disease is a serious and relatively new pathogen to plague the consumption of fresh produce grown in the islands. There is a great need to conduct research into the biology of the carriers of the disease, the ways in which it can be spread, outreach to the public in understanding the condition, and methods that can be employed to control and/or contain it.

The department supports the intent of HB474 provided it is funded at a level in which research can be conducted and carried out to achieve implementation of prevention measures. It is especially critical that Integrated Pest Management practices can be identified that minimize the use of chemicals and employ a variety of management techniques that will provide long term control of the pathogen. Outreach is an especially critical component of any IPM tactics. The more that the public understands the hazards of the disease, the less of a public health issue it will become.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
HIGHER EDUCATION

Tuesday, January 30, 2018
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 309

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 474
RELATING TO RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE

House Bill 474 proposes to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaii at Hilo for programs, studies, and activities related to the prevention and eradication of rat lungworm disease. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

The Department is a collaborator on biosecurity issues with the University of Hawaii and the Hawaii Department of Health, as described in the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan. Rat lungworm disease is recognized in the Biosecurity Plan as a serious threat to human health and agriculture in Hawaii, vectored by invasive snails and rodents. While the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), which is administered by the Department, has received funding requests from the University of Hawaii at Hilo to conduct research and education on this important issue, sufficient funding has not been available via HISC to support the broad level of education, research, and control activities needed to mitigate this threat.

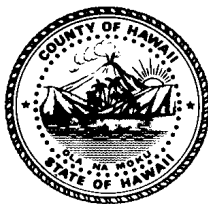
Providing funds to conduct education on rat lungworm disease, and increasing capacity to work on prevention and control issues, are recommended action items in the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan, specifically border and postborder infrastructure action items BorTifs1.5 and PosTifs1.5. The Biosecurity Plan also recommends in action item PwsPro1.7 increased education and public awareness of human health issues relating to invasive species, including rat lungworm.

Passing this measure would directly support implementation of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan. The full Biosecurity Plan is available for review at <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/plans/hibp/>.

The Department suggests utilizing the term "control" in place of "eradication," as rat lungworm disease is widespread throughout the state and is likely not possible to completely eradicate at the island or state level.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

From the office of -
Council Member
District 3



Office: (808) 961-8396
Fax: (808) 961-8912
Email: sue.leeloy@hawaiicounty.gov

SUSAN L.K. LEE LOY

25 Aupuni Street, Hilo, Hawai'i 96720

January 29, 2018

The Honorable Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair; and
Members of the Committee on Higher Education

Dear Chair McKelvey and Committee Members,

I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support House Bill 474, which will fund efforts to prevent and eradicate rat lungworm disease.

I support the intent of this bill, as well as all others that provide funding assistance for research, prevention, and eradication.

Last December, I and five of my colleagues on the Hawai'i County Council provided a combined \$16,500 in district contingency relief funds to assist Dr. Susan Jarvi's research on the parasite that causes rat lungworm disease, with a focus on the effectiveness of treatments to kill or remove the larvae from food crops. It is unusual move for County funds to fund a State research project, but the Council agreed that it was warranted given the urgent need to protect the health and safety of this island's residents and visitors.

Rat lungworm disease has the potential to cripple the agricultural industry in Hawai'i, and threatens the long term health of anyone living on catchment water systems. As with any other invasive species, it can easily be spread across the state, although it is most prevalent in East Hawai'i Island.

Again, I thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 474, and I ask for your approval.

Aloha Piha,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Sue Lee Loy", written over a horizontal line.

Sue Lee Loy
Council Member, District 3



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

January 30, 2018

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

TESTIMONY ON HB 474
RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Room 309
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawaii Farm Bureau supports, with amendments, HB 474, which seeks increased funding for management of the Rat Lungworm Disease.

The rat lungworm disease, transmitted by Mollusca species and rodents is not only a serious health concern but has a major impact on agriculture. Unlike other invasive species, the slug carrier for this disease has created a no tolerance environment in the marketplace. Even if a farm is not known to have slugs harboring the RLWD, the mere presence of a slug can mean destruction of their shipment. Continued efforts to better understand the presence of RLWD in the State, management practices to reduce the spread of infected slugs and preventive measures to reduce introduction of new RLWD species into Hawaii is needed, along with addressing the associated medical issues.

Recognition of the role of the Department of Agriculture is evident throughout the document, except in section 5. Development of integrated pest management plans requires an understanding of the semi slug, the primary carrier of the RLWD. Dr. Robert Cowie is Hawaii's expert in this area. It will take the researchers and extension agents of the University along with HDOA to develop IPM practices. We therefore recommend amending the language as:

(6) Together with the Department of Land and Natural Resources, the Department of Agriculture, the University of Hawaii - CTAHR and the Department of Health, developing

an integrated pest management plan for best practices for control of rat lungworm hosts and providing information to the public.

HFB supports this measure as important to the health and welfare of Hawaii's people. Management of the RLWD is critical for the long-term viability of agriculture in the State. We respectfully request your support with the suggested amendments.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our input on this measure.

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 9:10:38 AM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Diane Koerner		Support	No

Comments:

Rat Lungworm Disease is life-treatening and very worrying to those of us living on the Big Island of Hawaii. We're afraid to eat locally-grown vegetables that might be contaminated with the virus, which is hurting our local farmers and our efforts to be self-sufficient in our food needs.

This is a very serious problem that needs research to stop this virus in its tracks. Thank you for supporting HB474.

Diane Koerner, Board Member, GREENER HAWAII

HB474 — Concerning Rat Lung Disease

This dreaded disease affects my community on Hawaii at least two ways. First, as a consumer, I must choose between buying fresh greens and risking the disease, or buying pre-aged and rotting mainland greens. Second, fear of the disease has reduced vendors of greens at Hakalau Farmers Market and FoodShare from three to one. Before my own farm was put out of business by regulations on eggs, dairy, and value-added products, we voluntarily quit growing greens, for fear of Rat Lung Disease.

Yet the disease does not move the needle on our farm's liability insurance. Nationally, the disease does not register. Hawaii needs to solve the problem; we can't wait for the CDC. Please vote for HB 474. We desperately need more information on how to interrupt the life cycle of the worm.

Mahalo,

Tom

Tom Burton
Treasurer, Hakalau Farmers Market and FoodShare



The House of Representatives
Committee on Higher Education
January 30, 2018
2:00 p.m., Conference Room 309
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 474

Aloha Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Hashem, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **is in support of HB 474, *Relating to Rat Lungworm Disease***, which appropriates funds for the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, and Hawai'i Department of Health to conduct research and outreach to address rat lungworm disease and its vectors.

Rat lungworm is serious health threat to people, and there are several aspects of the issue that must be addressed, including public outreach on food safety protocols, agriculture producer and gardener outreach on minimizing rodent, snail, and slug vectors, pest mitigation measures at critical control points, and more. We support this bill that would provide funds to multiple entities to aid in this work. Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 9:52:19 PM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
May Navarro	RSHCA	Support	No

Comments:

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 10:16:53 AM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna Johnson-Elayyan	Hilo-Hamakua Community Development Corporation	Support	No

Comments:

Hilo-Hamakua Community Development Corporation, HHCDC, is a community-driven non-profit organization whose membership spans the Hamakua Coastline from the Wailuku River to Waipio Valley. Our organization has offered numerous ag support workshops including Good Agricultural Practices, Rat Lungworm Disease, and the Federal Food Modernization guidelines.

We are acutely aware of the threat that rat lungworm disease poses for all of us. We have seen first hand the significant differences in patient outcomes from the very first reported incidents to recent incidents of contracting the ailment. The recovery rate is tremendously improved with the protocols and we believe that it is crucial to continue the research that has been and is being done.

It is for these reasons that HHCDC supports HB 474 in its entirety.

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/27/2018 2:16:35 PM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rodger Hansen		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Representatives:

It is essential that you pass this bill to assure that RESEARCH through the Rat lungworm disease working group be continued to be funded. They have worked on this project for four years and we need to continue to make strides on the RESEARCH. Residents and visitors have been terribly affected by this medical issues surrounding this disease. We need funding. Thank you for your assistance in this area. Rodger Hansen, Hakalau, HI 96720

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/27/2018 2:18:58 PM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
elizabeth hansen		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Legislators: It is critical that you pass funding to continue to support continue RESEARCH by the The Hawaii island rat lungworm disease (RLWD) group at the UHH College of Pharmacy. Too many people have been affected by RLWD - I personally know four people whose lives have been devastated by this disease for the last several years, and their medical conditions will never be good. Last year this research was not supported by the legislature. We need the research group to continue their important work. Please help now.

Mahalo. Elizabeth Hansen, Hakalau HI 96710

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/27/2018 4:56:38 PM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaulana Dameg		Support	No

Comments:

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/27/2018 8:48:07 PM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael R. Ben		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Kā• kou,

As a Hawai'i Island resident, I support and encourage the appropriation of funds to attack our rat lung problem and ask that funds be also appropriated such that our UH-Hilo may continue to engage in its research on rat-lung disease, research & study that had long begun long before the State Administration sat up and took notice.

I would like the State Administration to fully work with, engage with, and include our UH-Hilo's effort in bringing this disease under control. Do not make this another instance of being Oahu based when the problem is largest here on Hawai'i Island and we've already are several years ahead of the State Administration. UH-Hilo has done valuable work already in researching and studying this problem. Don't turn the research and study over to a bureaucratic process which has more than not, proven to be slow and cumbersome.

Don't let the rat lung problem on our island turn into another coqui frog and fire ants matter - in the sense that the State has done too little too late in attacking these problems for our island.. Attack the problem where the problem is most severe.

Mahalo.

Mike Ben

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/27/2018 9:51:32 PM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cory Harden		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Please support aggressive research on rat lungworm disease. I know two people who got it. One had to move to the states to get ongoing medical treatment, and the other has lingering nerve damage. We can't afford to lose more good people, and scare away tourists.

mahalo,

Cory Harden, Hilo

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/27/2018 9:55:21 PM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marion G Nipper		Support	No

Comments:

Please, approve funding for RLWD research, public education, diagnosis and treatment. This disease can be highly debilitating, if not that deadly, and it's highly avoidable if the right steps are taken. Our State and County legislators have been quiet about this for too long. It is time to act.

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 2:29:35 AM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kat Culina		Support	No

Comments:

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 2:35:05 AM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jennifer weinert		Support	No

Comments:

We must have further studies to educate about and prevent this devastating disease. Please support this essential legislation. Thank you.

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 6:56:20 AM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Decker	Silver Oaks Ranch	Support	No

Comments:

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 7:33:53 AM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jan Charbonneau		Support	No

Comments:

It is imperative to figure out what is causing rat lungworm to be more severe in Hawaii and how we can control it so that we can safely eat our fresh fruits and vegetables and stop the health threat rat lung worm presents to all of Hawaii.

Thank you!

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 12:13:20 PM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Costello		Support	No

Comments:

Rat Lungworm is a dangerous disease which is affecting many people in the state of Hawaii. Please provide funding to research and eradicate this disease.

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 2:30:47 PM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rebekah S LaPlante		Support	No

Comments:

I strongly recommend supporting this measure. I live on the Big Island and have water catchment. Since the arrival of semi slugs to our area about two years ago we have been very concerned about the possibility of getting this disease. These slugs are not like others, they move fast and go right up and into our water catchment tanks. They come into the house under the door and are found on the floor and on things. We have 18 acres some of that we farm and now we have quite a big new expense to keep down the semi slugs. This is a huge health concern that will affect you and I.

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 3:24:26 PM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lowana Richardson		Support	No

Comments:

Support all bills relating to finding an answer to our Rat Lung Disease problem.

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 8:20:33 AM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
rachel		Support	No

Comments:

Do what's pono.

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 8:27:37 AM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karen Maclsaac		Support	No

Comments:

Rat Lung Worm disease is such a debilitating disease that is on the rise in Hawaii, especially Hawaii county. It affects locals as well as visitors but locals are constantly faced with the possibility that the next bite of lettuce, kale, spinach, etc., will be the one with the larvae. Treatment at the onset reduces the debilitation tremendously as well as the cost of treatment. There needs to be more research into this disease from the standpoint of prevention, early diagnosis and treatment and eradication. Please support this bill.

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 3:31:48 PM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
M. Kathleen Howe	University of Hawaii, Hilo	Support	No

Comments:

Please support HB 474. This is a big problem that has not been adequately dealt with for years. It is time to fully fund those who have been working tirelessly on this issue.

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 4:35:51 PM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph Kohn MD	We Are One, Inc. - www.WeAreOne.cc - WAO	Support	No

Comments:

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 7:14:03 PM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
suzy papanikolas		Support	No

Comments:

I am a survivor of ratlung

i have nerve damage on my right side

I have spent at least \$20,000 on my healing

but after 7 years I remain comprised and in need of pain pills 3 times a day.

IAn an artist and can only work 1/4 th of what I did before.

it is a crime not to a lot money for this illness

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 6:15:51 PM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary True		Support	No

Comments:

More research needs to be done on Rat Lung Disease. People who get it have their lives seriously affected. It is negligent not to take this disease more seriously.

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 7:03:15 PM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
		Support	No

Comments:

SUPPORT OF HB 474 RELATING TO RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE

I ask for your support for HB 474 Relating to Rat Lungworm Disease.

Research funding is greatly needed for this disease. Understanding the underlying cause through research is imperative. Early detection and treatment will make a huge difference in recovery for those afflicted with this disease.

Funding is also needed to those other State departments to collectively work to end this disease.

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 8:21:00 PM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Merle Hayward		Support	No

Comments:

I have stopped growing vegetables that are usually eaten raw since RLW arrived on Hawaii Island, and don't buy such vegetables at the Hilo Farmers' Market since I don't know about the farmer's growing practices. Even even soak the vegetables that I cook in a large bowl and wash vigorously and rinse three times. RLW in our environment affects home gardens, fresh local veges we stop buying, reducing our food choices. The many people on the Big Island with catchment systems are at very high risk to this devastating disease, and medical diagnostic protocol is lacking.

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 8:28:15 PM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph		Support	No

Comments:

Support... but would like to see most of the funding go to UH... where it should have gone to last year. :(

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 8:50:15 PM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John McGuire		Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

Please support funding for rat lung worm disease eradication.

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 12:00:05 AM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marjorie erway	none	Support	No

Comments:

This is extremely vital for the health of your constituents, as well as to farmers whose produce may not be easily sold, with the continuing threat of Ratlung Disease. Please do all you can to combat this horrible disease. Mahalo for your consideration.

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 3:30:19 AM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Suzanne Carnes		Support	No

Comments:

Honorable Joseph M. Souki, and Your Committee on Agriculture: Please vote to support this bill, which would provide funding to fund programs, studies and activities related to the prevention and eradication of rat lungworm disease.

Our Dept of Health is stretched, as it is, in trying to fight the Hep A, Mumps, Influenza, and other disease outbreaks. I worked for many years as a medical librarian.

I feel that, should this serious Rat Lungworm Disease spread locally, we will have a true medical nightmare. Should it somehow spread to the Tourist population, we will also have an economic nightmare. Mahalo for your attention to this important matter.

With Aloha,

Suzanne M Carnes,

Kailua, HI

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 10:19:00 AM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Donna Johnson		Support	No

Comments:

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 10:24:02 AM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Haneen Elayyan		Support	No

Comments:

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 10:57:26 AM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Glenn Carvalho		Support	No

Comments:

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 11:36:36 AM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John A Souza		Support	No

Comments:

Rat Lungworm Disease is devastating. Better treatment options are on the horizon and we need to get in front of it.

I support financing more research on this deadly disease.

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/27/2018 1:35:52 PM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Javier Mendez-Alvarez		Support	No

Comments:

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 12:36:09 PM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeanne Kapela		Support	Yes

Comments:

The outbreak of rat lungworm disease that has spread throughout the islands must be brought under control. While the Hawai'i Department of Health calls rat lungworm a rare illness, it is difficult to discern exactly how many people get infected each year.

Symptoms can range from very mild—headaches, stiffness of the neck, nausea—to severe, even resulting in temporary paralysis or comas, and usually start one to three weeks after exposure and can last from two weeks to months.

The Big Island of Hawai'i has become ground zero for the outbreak. UH-Hilo College of Pharmacy professor Dr. Susan Jarvi, who's lab is home to the Hawaii Island Rat Lungworm Working Group, maintains a compendium of research that still needs to be done to better understand the disease, especially since Hawai'i County has seen more cases of the illness than any other part of the islands.

As a resident of the Kona community, I implore you to provide more funding for research into this illness, services for those who have been affected, awareness to prevent its further spread, and health programming to eradicate its existence from our shores.

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 1:38:56 PM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elton Mow		Support	No

Comments:

Rat lungworm disease is a serious threat to peoples health and should be worked on to reduce the populations of rats and slugs

Elton Mow

LATE

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/28/2018 9:25:22 PM

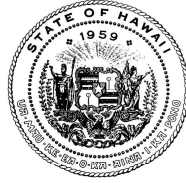
Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Tillinghast		Support	No

Comments:

My partner contracted rat lung seven years ago. It has changed her life forever. Despite seeking medical treatment everywhere, she is dependent upon pain medication that does not entirely assuage the pain resulting from the nerve damage caused by the disease. If you have not had this terrible disease yourself or have not witnessed it in someone you love, then you can have no idea what a horrible disease this is.

I was disturbed to hear that the lion's share of funding was going to Oahu. Why is this? Many more cases have occurred on the Big Island where we live. This is where research and efforts to fight the disease should be concentrated.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
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LATE

**Testimony COMMENTING on HB 474
RELATING TO RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE**

REPRESENTATIVE ANGUS L.K. McKELVEY, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Hearing Date: January 30, 2018

Room Number: 309

Time: 2:00 PM

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health appreciates the intent of H.B. 474 but defers to
2 the priorities set forth in the Executive Budget.

3 **Department Testimony:** This measure seeks to appropriate funds to the University of Hawaii at
4 Hilo, the Department of Health, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and the Department
5 of Agriculture for programs, studies and activities related to rat lungworm disease. The
6 Department acknowledges that rat lungworm disease can be extremely debilitating with lifelong
7 affects. At the Governor's request, DOH assisted the Governor's office in initiating a Joint Rat
8 Lungworm Task Force in 2016, which also includes membership from the Department of
9 Tropical Medicine, John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM), University of Hawaii at Hilo,
10 University of Hawaii at Manoa, State Department of Agriculture, U.S. Department of
11 Agriculture and clinicians. The Department of Health concurs with and supports the consensus
12 of the Joint Rat Lungworm Task Force, which is that outreach and education are essential
13 priorities in addressing the risk of angiostrongylosis in Hawaii's communities. The Task Force
14 has been reviewing and evaluating RLWD data across the state as well as internationally. Their
15 findings and recommendations are anxiously awaited to further guide the state's response.

16 We appreciate the Legislature's support of response actions by allocating the 2 year
17 funding from last session to the Department of Health to conduct activities such as education and
18 outreach to the community. DOH educational efforts, in conjunction with partners, have included
19 statewide school garden food safety workshops, distribution of flyers to at-risk communities as

1 well as commercial food establishments. We have also provided presentations statewide to
2 farmers, commercial establishments, residents and other community organizations. We welcome
3 the opportunity to continue our work with partners to improve public health education and
4 planning regarding this important concern.

5 Thank you for the opportunity testify.

Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4

Chair: Environmental
Management Committee



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Hawaii County Council

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Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey
Chair, Committee on Higher Education
Hawai'i State House of Representatives

LATE

January 29, 2018

Re: In Support of House Bill 474, from Hawai'i County Council District 4
To be heard by HED on Tuesday, 01-30-18 2:00PM in House conference room 309

Aloha Chair McKelvey and Committee Members:

I'm writing to express my support for House Bill 474, which appropriates funds to the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, the Department of Health, Department of Land and Natural Resources, and Department of Agriculture for programs, studies, and activities related to rat lungworm disease.

Further research, treatment, prevention, and education efforts are desperately needed for all of those living with, or at risk of, contracting this devastating disease. Since the disease has come to Hawai'i from Asia, its effects have become more virulent and severe. The disease has also been found in Florida and a case was recently diagnosed in Tennessee. Without aggressive research, there is potential for rat lungworm to spread to other mainland locations.

Local institutions like the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, College of Pharmacy, are already equipped to conduct the necessary research to gather critical information about this disease. Incidences of it are grossly understated, and this research could provide more rapid diagnoses that would allow us to provide acute care in the early onset and prevent serious permanent disabilities. Diligent and effective treatment at this phase would save a tremendous amount of tax payer money required to provide long term care for individuals who have been affected by the disease.

I do not hesitate to support any measure to research and prevent rat lungworm. Please consider the important impacts that passing this bill will have on our economy and health, and contact me if you have any questions about my support or knowledge of the subject.

Sincerely,

Eileen O'Hara
Council Member
Council District 4

LATE

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 2:13:43 PM
Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sookyoung kim		Support	No

Comments:

I'm writing to support funding for the rat & lungworm disease research. it is essential to know as much as possible about this disease as soon as possible in order to prevent any kind of outbreak that would harm not only the local community but also the Hawaii tourism industry. it does no good to try to hide something so serious. \$650K identified as the request is nothing compared to the potential impact to the tourism industry.

thank you for your consideration

LATE

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/29/2018 11:43:08 PM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
S.Shawzy Cann		Support	Yes

Comments:

HB474 needs to be passed and I thank you for doing so. Unfortunately, I am a survivor of *Angiostrongylus cantonensis* more popularly known as Rat Lungworm disease. I contracted it while living in Hilo in 2014. My life has been a challenge to live every day and resume the normal activities I once was capable of. I became infected with Rat Lungworm Disease from contaminated lettuce that I bought from the Hilo farmers market and was blended into a green smoothie drink. I lost the ability to walk because the right side of my body became paralyzed within 10-13 days due to parasites eating the nerves inside of my brain. At my last doctor's appointment this month with my PCP he finally declared me as having a permanent disability as I made three years of survival from infection and treatment.

These brain eating parasites are now a part of Hawaii's ecosystem and they have no predators. These nematodes spread and multiply in the soil and water supply while we sleep and go to the beach. They enter into the body through the mouth or the skin. They live in water and travel in water. They make their way into the water ways of the body, to travel where they want to go. The lymphatic system provides them with many organ options, and the access to the brain, and ocular nerve. The parasites feed and breed in the accidental human hosts causing traumatic brain injury and damage to the Vagus nerve, central nervous system, and the major organs within the body.

This invasive species needs to be studied so that public and government officials can distribute factual information to the public. Hawaii is leading the US in research and having the most reported cases. Currently the statistics show you have a higher chance of getting Rat Lungworm Disease in Hawaii than getting bit by a shark. Please support the Hawaii Rat Lungworm Working group as they are the leaders in research at this time in Hawaii. If you don't pass this bill you will be continuing to harm humanity so please stop doing that and help.

Mahalo

Shawzy Cann

HB-474

Submitted on: 1/30/2018 12:57:03 PM

Testimony for HED on 1/30/2018 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Barbara Barry		Support	No

Comments: