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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The department of health has reported over  
2   seventy cases of rat lungworm disease caused by *Angiostrongylus*  
3   *cantonensis* from 2001 to 2014. There were many more cases in  
4   2017, including at least eleven on Hawaii island, six on Maui,  
5   and one on Oahu. The disease has claimed lives and caused  
6   crippling chronic disability, and the cost of treatment for one  
7   severe case can exceed \$1,000,000.

8           The purpose of this Act is to create a statewide rat  
9   lungworm disease working group to collaborate on research and  
10   other activities related to the prevention and eradication of  
11   rat lungworm disease, both on Hawaii island and across the  
12   State.

13          SECTION 2. (a) There is established the statewide rat  
14   lungworm disease working group to collaborate on research and  
15   other activities related to the prevention and eradication of  
16   rat lungworm disease, both on Hawaii island and across the  
17   State.



1 (b) The statewide rat lungworm disease working group shall  
2 be composed of the following members:

3 (1) A representative of the Daniel K. Inouye college of  
4 pharmacy at the University of Hawaii at Hilo;

5 (2) A representative of the department of health;

6 (3) A representative of the department of agriculture;

7 (4) A physician who is actively treating rat lungworm  
8 disease in a patient or patients, to be selected by  
9 the governor; and

10 (5) A veterinarian, to be selected by the board of  
11 veterinary examiners, established by section 471-3,  
12 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

13 (c) The statewide rat lungworm disease working group shall  
14 be administratively attached to the office of the lieutenant  
15 governor.

16 SECTION 3. (a) There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
18 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for  
19 research and other activities related to the prevention and  
20 eradication of rat lungworm disease, including:



- 1 (1) Conducting laboratory testing to determine the  
2 effectiveness of deworming rats to reduce the  
3 transmission of rat lungworm disease;
- 4 (2) Creating and developing best practices for vector  
5 control for rat lungworm disease and semi-slug  
6 proliferation;
- 7 (3) Creating and developing clinical guidelines and best  
8 practices for physicians and health care workers;
- 9 (4) Creating and distributing educational multimedia  
10 material for the general public, including residents  
11 and visitors, regarding the prevention of rat lungworm  
12 disease as well as the risk factors for, diagnosis of,  
13 treatment of, and long-term consequences of rat  
14 lungworm disease;
- 15 (5) Conducting a case study on individuals who contract  
16 rat lungworm disease by ingesting kava,
- 17 (6) Conducting laboratory testing of a wide range of  
18 commercially available produce washes as well as other  
19 potential solutions;



1 (7) Conducting laboratory testing of commercially  
2 available filters and ultraviolet systems to determine  
3 effectiveness in catchment;

4 (8) Optimizing existing tests or developing new blood-  
5 based tests for rat lungworm disease diagnostics; and

6 (9) Creating and distributing educational multimedia  
7 material for the general public, including residents  
8 and visitors, regarding the prevention of rat lungworm  
9 disease.

10 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the statewide rat  
11 lungworm disease working group for the purposes of this Act.

12 (b) No later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
13 the regular session of 2019, the working group shall submit to  
14 the legislature a comprehensive plan describing its activities,  
15 including research and education, to prevent and eradicate rat  
16 lungworm disease in the State.

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2112.



**Report Title:**

Rat Lungworm Disease; Statewide Rat Lungworm Disease Working Group; Appropriation

**Description:**

Establishes and appropriates funds to the Statewide Rat Lungworm Disease Working Group for research and education for the prevention, treatment, and eradication of rat lungworm disease. Requires a report to the Legislature prior to the Regular Session of 2019. (HB2506 HD1)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

