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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 reported over seventy  
2 cases of rat lungworm disease caused by *Angiostrongylus*  
3 *cantonensis* from 2001 to 2014. Many more cases were reported in  
4 2015, including at least two on Maui. The disease has claimed  
5 lives and caused crippling chronic disability, and the cost for  
6 one severe case can exceed \$1,000,000. The Hawaii island rat  
7 lungworm disease working group has been formed at the Daniel K.  
8 Inouye college of pharmacy at the University of Hawaii at Hilo  
9 and has been conducting research and educational outreach on the  
10 disease for the past four years.

11           The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the  
12 University of Hawaii at Hilo for programs, studies, and  
13 activities related to the prevention and eradication of rat  
14 lungworm disease.

15           SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$450,000 or so much  
17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for



1 programs, studies, and activities related to the prevention and  
2 eradication of rat lungworm disease, including:

- 3 (1) Conducting laboratory testing to determine the  
4 effectiveness of deworming rats to reduce rat lungworm  
5 transmission;
- 6 (2) Conducting laboratory testing of a wide range of  
7 commercially available produce washes as well as other  
8 potential solutions;
- 9 (3) Conducting laboratory testing of commercially  
10 available filters and ultraviolet systems to determine  
11 effectiveness in catchment;
- 12 (4) Optimizing existing tests or developing new blood-  
13 based tests for rat lungworm diagnostics;
- 14 (5) Conducting and publishing a study on long-term  
15 recovery from rat lungworm disease;
- 16 (6) Researching and reviewing worldwide literature  
17 regarding rat lungworm disease case studies for  
18 comparison and contrast with cases of rat lungworm  
19 disease in Hawaii;



- 1           (7) Developing clinical guidelines regarding the risk
- 2                   factors, diagnosis, treatment, and long-term
- 3                   consequences of rat lungworm disease;
- 4           (8) Conducting a case study on individuals who contracted
- 5                   rat lungworm disease by ingesting kava; and
- 6           (9) Other related research, studies, and testing regarding
- 7                   the prevention and eradication of rat lungworm
- 8                   disease;

9 provided that the appropriation shall be matched on a dollar-  
10 for-dollar basis between the State and anticipated sources of  
11 funding, including private sources and federal research grants;  
12 provided further that a portion of the appropriation shall be  
13 used to develop clinical guidelines regarding the risk factors,  
14 diagnosis, treatment, and long-term consequences of rat lungworm  
15 disease; provided further that a portion of the appropriation  
16 shall be used to conduct a case study on individuals who  
17 contracted rat lungworm disease by ingesting kava.

18           The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
19 Hawaii at Hilo for the purposes of this Act.

20           SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.



**Report Title:**

Rat Lungworm Disease; University of Hawaii at Hilo;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii at Hilo for testing, studies, outreach, research, and other activities related to the prevention and eradication of rat lungworm disease. (SD1)

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