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HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE HAWAII VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION TO CONDUCT A SURVEY OF ITS MEMBERSHIP ON THE FREQUENCY OF CASES OF RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE IN ANIMAL COMPANIONS.

WHEREAS, zoonotic diseases, also known as zoonoses, are animal diseases that are caused by infections from viruses, bacteria, parasites, or fungi, and can spread between animals and humans; and

WHEREAS, zoonotic diseases can cause illnesses of varying severity, and even death, to humans; and

WHEREAS, reports from the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention indicate that zoonotic diseases are very common, and will infect tens of thousands of Americans every year; and

WHEREAS, zoonotic diseases can be transmitted directly or indirectly to humans through the consumption of contaminated foodstuffs or contact with infected animals; and

WHEREAS, examples of zoonotic diseases include
Leptospirosis; E. coli infection; methicillin-resistant
staphylococcus aureus infection (MRSA); ringworm; toxoplasmosis;
salmonella infection; tuberculosis; HlNl and H3N2 influenza
viruses, also known as bird flu and swine flu; brucellosis
caused by Brucella suis; and angiostrongyliasis cantonensis,
more commonly known as rat lungworm disease; and

WHEREAS, past experiments, observations, and reports have shown that rat lungworm disease can be and has been contracted by cats, dogs, and other animals in places such as Australia and Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, information on the prevalence of rat lungworm disease in the State could help stem its spread, alert people to the potential threats of contracting rat lungworm disease, and provide useful data on the disease; and

WHEREAS, veterinarians have studied and have a good understanding of zoonotic diseases, including rat lungworm disease; and

WHEREAS, veterinarians in the State have the opportunity to observe and treat animals who suffer from zoonotic diseases, including rat lungworm disease; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-ninth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018, the Senate concurring, that the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association is requested to conduct a survey of its membership to inquire about:

- (1) The number of cases of rat lungworm disease that have been suspected in animal companions; and
- (2) The number of cases of rat lungworm disease that have been confirmed in animal companions,

during a period of time to be determined by the Association; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that after the completion of the survey, the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association is requested to submit, with all deliberate speed, a report of the survey results to the Legislature; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association.

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H.C.R. NO. **225**

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