

HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PROVIDE A REPORT OF ALL CONFIRMED AND SUSPECTED CASES OF RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE THAT ORIGINATED IN THE STATE AND SHARE RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT WITH OTHER STATES.

WHEREAS, the Legislature seeks information to better address the recent outbreak of rat lungworm disease in Hawaii; and

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

WHEREAS, the Legislature recommends that the Department of Health investigate all confirmed and suspected cases of rat lungworm disease that originated in Hawaii, including the cases that involved visitors who returned to the continental United States; and

WHEREAS, the State has made significant scientific discoveries relating to rat lungworm disease and the Legislature recommends that the Department of Health provide guidance, knowledge, and testing to inform and assist other states by sharing best practices to treat 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, that the Department of Health is requested to provide a report of all confirmed and suspected cases of rat lungworm disease that originated in the State and share information regarding diagnosis and effective treatment of rat lungworm disease with other states; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is requested to follow the recommendations of the Rat Lungworm Working Group at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, and provide a long-term follow up of rat lungworm disease patients; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a registry using de-identified data of all rat lungworm cases is requested to be established in consultation with the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine to provide long-term follow up of rat lungworm disease patients' cases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Health is requested to submit a report of findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of the Regular Session of 2019; and

 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health, Dean of the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine, Dean of the University of Hawaii at Hilo, and the President of the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association.

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