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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

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

1 PART I

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

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

14 SECTION 2. (a) The University of Hawaii shall be required  
15 to convene the statewide rat lungworm disease working group to  
16 collaborate on research and other activities related to the



1 prevention and eradication of rat lungworm disease, both on  
2 Hawaii island and across the State.

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

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

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

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

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

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

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

18 PART II

19 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
20 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much  
21 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;



(7) Developing clinical guidelines regarding the risk factors, diagnosis, treatment, and long-term consequences of rat lungworm disease;

(8) Conducting a case study on individuals who contracted rat lungworm disease by ingesting kava; and

(9) Other related research, studies, and testing regarding the prevention and eradication of rat lungworm disease;

provided that the appropriation shall be matched 1:1 between the State and anticipated sources of funding, including private sources and federal research grants; provided further that some of the appropriation shall be used to develop clinical guidelines regarding the risk factors, diagnosis, treatment, and long-term consequences of rat lungworm disease; provided further that some of the appropriation shall be used to conduct a case study on individuals who contracted rat lungworm disease by ingesting kava.

The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of Hawaii for the purposes of this part.

#### PART III

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 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. Appropriates funds. (SB3097 HD1)

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

