

MAR 09 2018

SENATE 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.

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

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

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

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

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17 WHEREAS, examples of zoonotic diseases include
18 Leptospirosis; *E. coli* infection; methicillin-resistant
19 *staphylococcus aureus* infection (MRSA); ringworm; *toxoplasmosis*;
20 *salmonella* infection; *tuberculosis*; H1N1 and H3N2 influenza
21 viruses, also known as bird flu and swine flu; *brucellosis*
22 caused by *Brucella suis*; and *angiostrongyliasis cantonensis*,
23 more commonly known as rat lungworm disease; and

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

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30 WHEREAS, information on the prevalence of rat lungworm
31 disease in the State could help stem its spread, alert people to



1 the potential threats of contracting rat lungworm disease, and
2 provide useful data on the disease; and
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4 WHEREAS, veterinarians have studied and have a good
5 understanding of zoonotic diseases, including rat lungworm
6 disease; and
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8 WHEREAS, veterinarians in the State have the opportunity to
9 observe and treat animals who suffer from zoonotic diseases,
10 including rat lungworm disease; now, therefore,
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12 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-ninth
13 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2018,
14 that the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association is requested to
15 conduct a survey of its membership to inquire about:
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17 (1) The number of cases of rat lungworm disease that have
18 been suspected in animal companions; and
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20 (2) The number of cases of rat lungworm disease that have
21 been confirmed in animal companions,
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23 during a period of time to be determined by the Association; and
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25 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that after the completion of the
26 survey, the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association is requested
27 to submit, with all deliberate speed, a report of the survey
28 results to the Legislature; and
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this
31 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the Hawaii
32 Veterinary Medical Association.
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OFFERED BY:

