
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 \$ 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 1:1 between the
10 State and anticipated sources of funding, including private
11 sources and federal research grants; provided further that some
12 of the appropriation shall be used to develop clinical
13 guidelines regarding the risk factors, diagnosis, treatment, and
14 long-term consequences of rat lungworm disease; provided further
15 that some of the appropriation shall be used to conduct a case
16 study on individuals who contracted rat lungworm disease by
17 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, 2112.



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. (HB474 HD1)

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