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# 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 legislature finds that the department of  
2 health has reported over seventy cases of rat lungworm disease  
3 caused by *Angiostrongylus cantonensis* from 2001 to 2014. There  
4 have been many more cases in 2015, including at least two on  
5 Maui. The disease has claimed lives and caused crippling  
6 chronic disability. The cost of treatment for one severe case  
7 can exceed \$1,000,000. The Hawaii island rat lungworm disease  
8 working group has been formed at the Daniel K. Inouye college of  
9 pharmacy at the university of Hawaii at Hilo and has been  
10 conducting research and educational outreach on the disease for  
11 the past four years.

12           The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the  
13 university of Hawaii at Hilo for programs, studies, and  
14 activities related to the prevention and eradication of rat  
15 lungworm disease.

16           SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
17 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$                    or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and the  
2 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
3 2018-2019 for programs, studies, and activities related to the  
4 prevention and eradication of rat lungworm disease, including:

- 5 (1) Developing an integrated pest management plan for best  
6 practices for control of rat lungworm hosts and  
7 providing that information to the public;
- 8 (2) Providing educational outreach materials and best  
9 practices for control for the general public and  
10 Hawaii health care providers;
- 11 (3) Implementing a long-term, statewide collaborative  
12 effort to monitor invasive mollusk and paratenic hosts  
13 for rat lungworm infection;
- 14 (4) Conducting laboratory testing to determine the  
15 effectiveness of deworming rats to reduce rat lungworm  
16 transmission;
- 17 (5) Conducting laboratory testing of a wide range of  
18 commercially available produce washes as well as other  
19 potential solutions;



- 1           (6)    Conducting laboratory testing of commercially  
2                   available filters and ultraviolet systems to determine  
3                   effectiveness in catchment;
- 4           (7)    Optimizing existing tests or developing new blood-  
5                   based tests for rat lungworm diagnostics;
- 6           (8)    Conducting and publishing a study on long-term  
7                   recovery from rat lungworm disease and recommending  
8                   medical treatments and assistance;
- 9           (9)    Developing a rural health educational outreach program  
10                   for rainwater catchment users;
- 11          (10)   Providing educational outreach to kindergarten through  
12                   twelfth grade school personnel involved in food  
13                   procurement and preparation, and school garden  
14                   projects;
- 15          (11)   Developing rat lungworm curriculum and an integrated  
16                   pest management plan for control of invasive hosts in  
17                   all Hawaii school garden projects; and
- 18          (12)   Providing educational outreach to farmers' groups and  
19                   farmers providing food for schools to implement  
20                   integrated pest maintenance for control of carriers of  
21                   rat lungworm disease;



1 provided that the university of Hawaii at Hilo shall collaborate  
2 with the department of health, department of land and natural  
3 resources, department of agriculture, and the governor's joint  
4 rat lungworm task force, to create a statewide plan for the  
5 prevention and eradication of rat lungworm disease.

6 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the university  
7 of Hawaii at Hilo for the purposes of this Act; provided that  
8 the appropriated funds shall not be released until the  
9 university of Hawaii at Hilo submits to the legislature a  
10 comprehensive plan describing specific strategies and objectives  
11 for programs, studies, and activities to prevent and eradicate  
12 rat lungworm disease in the State.

13 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 31, 2150.



**Report Title:**

Rat Lungworm Disease; University of Hawaii at Hilo;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii at Hilo for programs, studies, and activities related to the prevention and eradication of rat lungworm disease. (SB272 HD1)

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