

Sports Photo Galleries

**SIGN THE PETITION to tell your governor to enforce our nation's immigration law**

**END ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION NOW!**

70 ° F Cloudy  
Hilo HI

Classifieds

## Jobs Push for funding renewed

Published February 15, 2017 - 8:18am  
e-Edition

Like Tweet Pin it G+1 0



By IVY ASHE Hawaii Tribune-Herald

The third try might be the charm for securing legislative funding for rat lungworm disease research.

Companion bills introduced in the state House and the Senate would appropriate money to the University of Hawaii at Hilo for continued management of the disease as well as educational outreach and laboratory research.

East Hawaii, particularly Puna, is considered the United States' epicenter for the disease, which people contract by coming into contact with a parasitic nematode, *Angiostrongylus cantonensis*. Rats and mollusks such as snails and slugs host the nematode at various points of their life cycles. People typically become infected after eating unwashed produce.

In most cases, the disease causes flu-like symptoms. Because it affects the central nervous system, it also can cause paralysis and lead to comas or, in rare instances, death.

Researchers at the UH-Hilo School of Pharmacy investigate rat lungworm disease while relying on funding sources such as the Hawaii Community Foundation and the Hawaii Invasive Species Council. Work also is being done at the U.S. Pacific Basin Agricultural Research Center.

This is the third consecutive year state legislators have attempted to secure appropriations.

Sens. Russell Ruderman, Josh Green and the late Gil Kahele introduced a bill in 2015 that was carried over to last year's session. That bill did not receive a hearing. Ruderman introduced a second bill last year that was heard before committees but did not cross over.

This year's bills were introduced in the Senate by Kahele's son, Kai, D-Hilo, who now sits in his father's Senate District 1 seat, and in the House by freshman Rep. Chris Todd, D-Keaukaha, Hilo, Panaewa, Waiakea.

Star Advertiser PASTRIES

**Career EXPO 2017**

Serious Opportunities for Serious Seekers

Wed. Mar. 29, 2017 | 9 a.m. to 3 p.m.  
Neal Blaisdell Center Exhibition Hall

**RESERVE YOUR BOOTH**

**BEST OF Hawaii 2016 East**

VIEW THE WINNERS

*In* MEMORIAM

### Search Site

Search

TRENDING | TOP COMMENTED | MOST SHARED

- 2017-02-24 00:46 BIF baseball: Kealakehe returns home after lost season of the road
- 2017-02-24 00:43 College basketball: The Art of a loss – seven is not enough for Vuls
- 2017-02-24 00:39

"It's something the Big Island delegation has been pushing for for a while," Todd said. Ruderman in particular, who represents Puna, has "really been an advocate for this."

"It's something we definitely want to take a look at, and it's not something that's really well known here in Honolulu because it's primarily a rural issue," Todd said.

The Senate bill was referred to its final joint committee hearing — Commerce, Consumer Protection and Health and Ways and Means — last week. The House bill had a hearing Tuesday before the Committee on Higher Education, but was deferred, effectively ended its chances of clearing the House this session.

Still, Todd said he felt good about the measure making it through in some form and that he would continue to work with fellow legislators on the matter.

The bills would provide funding for programs in the current and next fiscal years. Written testimony from the state Department of Health indicated at least \$650,000 per year would be needed to provide the necessary resources for the outreach, training and research.

Email Ivy Ashe at [iashe@hawaiitribune-herald.com](mailto:iashe@hawaiitribune-herald.com).

BIFF baseball: Waveriders pitcher flashes in fine debut

2017-02-24 00:35

UH-Hilo/UH-Manoa watch, Feb. 24

2017-02-24 00:05

Why is it dark at night? Gemini Observatory astronomer to take modern look at Olber's paradox

2017-02-24 00:05

Rotary member shares details about hospice program

## RULES FOR POSTING COMMENTS

Comments posted below are from readers. In no way do they represent the view of Oahu Publishing Inc. or this newspaper. This is a public forum.

Comments may be monitored for inappropriate content but the newspaper is under no obligation to do so. Comment posters are solely responsible under the Communications Decency Act for comments posted on this Web site. Oahu Publishing Inc. is not liable for messages from third parties.

IP and email addresses of persons who post are not treated as confidential records and will be disclosed in response to valid legal process.

Do not post:

- Potentially libelous statements or damaging innuendo.
  - Obscene, explicit, or racist language.
  - Copyrighted materials of any sort without the express permission of the copyright holder.
  - Personal attacks, insults or threats.
  - The use of another person's real name to disguise your identity.
  - Comments unrelated to the story.
- If you believe that a commenter has not followed these guidelines, please click the FLAG icon below the comment.



Top 5 HBCU Football Coaches Of All-Time

## NEWSLETTER SIGN UP

Email Address:

First Name:

Last Name:

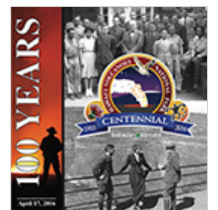
Yes, I would like to receive Morning Briefing.

Yes, I would like to receive Breaking News.

Hawaii ...  
11K likes

Like Page

Be the first of your friend to like this



## ISLAND ALERTS

- Weather forecast
- Earthquakes
- Hurricanes
- Surf Report
- Traffic Report
- Tsunamis
- Vog
- Volcano

### Final Photo: What Happens Next Is Tragic And Heartbreaking

People typically forget how lucky they are to be alive after viewing these 26 images

[Learn More](#)

Sponsored by [omglane.com](#)

1 Comment **Hawaii Tribune-Herald**

Login

Recommend Share

Sort by Best



Join the discussion...



**metalm808** • 9 days ago

With all this dry weather the slugs are all over my catchment tank at night trying to get a sip of some water. And unfortunately I find some in the tank that got past the cover. Their right at the water line drinking away. This is probably not good. But it's reality in so many places here. They need to stop all the studies. Because nothing is ever getting done. Just filling the same democrats pocket with our study money.

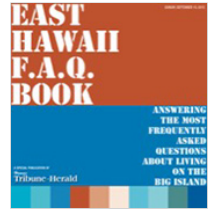
^ | v • Reply • Share >

Subscribe Add Disqus to your site [Add Disqus](#) [Add](#) Privacy



FILE QUICKLY,  
EASILY, AND  
ACCURATELY.

FILE ONLINE  
TODAY





FILE QUICKLY,  
EASILY, AND  
ACCURATELY.

FILE ONLINE  
TODAY



**63¢ won't buy much these days...**  
but for 63¢ a day you can help  
rescue animals in distress. [MAKE A MONTHLY GIFT](#) **ASPCA**

Connect

- About us
- Contacts
- Feedback
- FAQs
- Submit story

Services

- Subscribe
- Manage subscription
- Vacation Hold

Solutions

- Advertise with us
- Place a classified ad
- Legal Center

Follow Us

- Facebook
- Twitter
- RSS

Copyright ©2016 Oahu Publications, Inc. All rights reserved. • Privacy Policy