
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 \$1,000,000 or so much



1 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 and the
2 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
3 2019-2020 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 management 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 task force on rat lungworm disease to create a statewide plan
5 for the 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 1, 2018.

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~~_____~~ INTRODUCED BY: Richard Iwano
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H.B. NO. 2104

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.

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