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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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5 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO MAKE IT A PRIORITY TO EDUCATE  
6 THE PUBLIC ON THE PROPER CLEANING OF PRODUCE.

7  
8 WHEREAS, the Department of Health is responsible for  
9 administering programs designed to protect, preserve, care for,  
10 and improve the health of the people of the State, including  
11 food safety; and

12  
13 WHEREAS, food safety encompasses the preparation of  
14 uncooked foods, such as fruits and vegetables; and

15  
16 WHEREAS, in December 2008, three Big Island residents were  
17 hospitalized because of a rare ailment, commonly called rat  
18 lungworm disease; and

19  
20 WHEREAS, rat lungworm disease arises from parasitic worms  
21 that can be ingested when eating raw produce containing a small  
22 snail or slug, that migrates through the body; and

23  
24 WHEREAS, rat lungworm disease can cause significant pain  
25 and trauma, including paralysis, blindness, and death; and

26  
27 WHEREAS, a study identified twenty-four cases of rat  
28 lungworm disease in Hawaii from January 2001 to February 2005;  
29 and

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31 WHEREAS, an growing number of Hawaii residents are  
32 consuming home-grown produce, thereby increasing the importance  
33 of educating the public on the proper cleaning of fruits and  
34 vegetables; now, therefore,

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36 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
37 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
38 of 2009, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Health is  
39 urged to make it a priority to educate the public on the proper  
40 cleaning of produce; and  
41



# H.C.R. NO. 17

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that a certified copy of this  
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of Health.  
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OFFERED BY:

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