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## HOUSE RESOLUTION

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4 URGING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO MAKE IT A PRIORITY TO EDUCATE  
5 THE PUBLIC ON THE PROPER CLEANING OF PRODUCE.  
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7 WHEREAS, the Department of Health is responsible for  
8 administering programs designed to protect, preserve, care for,  
9 and improve the health of the people of the State, including  
10 food safety; and  
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12 WHEREAS, food safety encompasses the preparation of  
13 uncooked foods, such as fruits and vegetables; and  
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15 WHEREAS, in December 2008, three Big Island residents were  
16 hospitalized because of a rare ailment, commonly called rat  
17 lungworm disease; and  
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19 WHEREAS, rat lungworm disease arises from parasitic worms  
20 that can be ingested when eating raw produce containing a small  
21 snail or slug, that migrates through the body; and  
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23 WHEREAS, rat lungworm disease can cause significant pain  
24 and trauma, including paralysis, blindness, and death; and  
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26 WHEREAS, a study identified twenty-four cases of rat  
27 lungworm disease in Hawaii from January 2001 to February 2005;  
28 and  
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30 WHEREAS, an growing number of Hawaii residents are  
31 consuming home-grown produce, thereby increasing the importance  
32 of educating the public on the proper cleaning of fruits and  
33 vegetables; now, therefore,  
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35 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
36 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
37 of 2009, that the Department of Health is urged to make it a  
38 priority to educate the public on the proper cleaning of  
39 produce; and  
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# H.R. NO. 19

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

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OFFERED BY: Wainly B. Lee

John M. Moore

Grother Hicken

Karl Moor

JAN 23 2009

