
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

PART I

SECTION 1. Angiostrongyliasis, also known as rat lungworm disease, is a disease that affects the brain and spinal cord. It is caused by a parasitic nematode, a roundworm parasite, called *Angiostrongylus cantonensis*. The adult form of *A. cantonensis* is only found in rodents. However, infected rodents can pass larvae of the worm in their feces. Snails, slugs, and certain other animals can become infected by ingesting this larvae; these are considered intermediate hosts. Humans can become infected with *A. cantonensis* if they eat raw or undercooked food contaminated by an intermediate host, thereby ingesting the parasite. Diagnosing angiostrongyliasis can be difficult, as there are no readily available blood tests. There is no specific treatment for the disease.

In 2017, there were almost twenty laboratory-confirmed cases of rat lungworm disease in Hawaii. According to the



1 department of health, the risk of rat lungworm disease is
2 present on all islands of the State.

3 The legislature finds that Hawaii is currently having an
4 outbreak of rat lungworm disease in humans, dogs, cats, and
5 horses. In Australia , dogs and cats were found to have
6 contracted rat lungworm in the natural environment. Australia
7 now uses animals as sentinels to detect rat lungworm outbreaks.

8 The legislature finds that as global warming increases,
9 there will be an increase in the number and types of viruses,
10 bacteria, parasites, and fungi that can spread between animals
11 and humans, making early detection and research imperative to
12 protect public health. Developing a valid medical model will be
13 essential to determining the best means of diagnosis, possible
14 treatment options, and timing of treatment of rat lungworm
15 disease.

16 The legislature further finds that studies have long
17 indicated that rat lungworm is found in freshwater organisms and
18 notes that in a 1950's disease outbreak there were more than one
19 thousand documented cases of people contracting rat lungworm
20 from consuming freshwater prawns in French Polynesia.



1 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds to the
2 department of agriculture, in collaboration with the department
3 of health and the University of Hawaii college of tropical
4 agriculture and human resources, for surveying, testing, and
5 treating rat lungworm disease in dogs, cats, horses, and
6 freshwater fish and invertebrates.

7 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
9 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for
10 surveying, testing, and treating rat lungworm disease by the
11 department of agriculture, in collaboration with the department
12 of health and the University of Hawaii college of tropical
13 agriculture and human resources in dogs, cats, horses, and
14 freshwater fish and invertebrates.

15 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
16 agriculture for the purpose of this Act.

17 PART II

18 SECTION 3. Hawaii is one of the most geographically
19 isolated locations in the world. Almost all food items consumed
20 in-state must be shipped to Hawaii to support the needs of the
21 State's population. The Hawaii State Planning Act recognizes



1 aquacultural production as both a driver of a diversified
2 agricultural economy and as a source for food sustainability
3 statewide. Aquaponics is the combination of aquaculture
4 (raising fish) and hydroponics (the soil-less growing of plants)
5 that grows fish and plants together in one integrated system.
6 The fish waste provides an organic food source for the plants
7 and the plants naturally filter the water for the fish. The
8 legislature finds that increasing the use of aquaponics to
9 produce food from fish and plants will benefit the State's
10 economy and food security.

11 The purpose of this part is to appropriate funds to the
12 department of agriculture for researching, developing, and
13 supporting aquaponics in the State.

14 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
16 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for the
17 department of agriculture for research, development, and support
18 of aquaponics in the State.

19 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
20 agriculture for the purpose of this Act.

21 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.



Report Title:

Agriculture; Rat Lungworm Disease; Aquaponics; Appropriations

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for surveying, testing, and treating rat lungworm disease in animals and for researching, developing, and supporting aquaponics.
(HB1688 HD1)

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