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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

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RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII.

**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 were many more cases in 2017, including at least eleven on  
5 Hawaii island, six on Maui, and one on Oahu. The disease has  
6 claimed lives and caused crippling chronic disability. The cost  
7 of treatment for one severe case can exceed \$1,000,000. The  
8 Hawaii island rat lungworm disease working group has been formed  
9 at the Daniel K. Inouye college of pharmacy at the University of  
10 Hawaii at Hilo and has been conducting research and educational  
11 outreach on the disease for the past four years.

12       The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to the  
13 University of Hawaii at Hilo for research related to the control  
14 and prevention of rat lungworm disease.

15       SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$               or so  
17 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2018-2019 for



1 research related to the control and prevention of rat lungworm  
2 disease, including:

3 (1) Conducting laboratory testing to determine the  
4 effectiveness of deworming rats to reduce rat lungworm  
5 transmission;

6 (2) Conducting laboratory testing of a wide range of  
7 commercially available produce washes as well as other  
8 potential solutions;

9 (3) Conducting laboratory testing of commercially  
10 available filters and ultraviolet systems to determine  
11 effectiveness in catchment; and

12 (4) Optimizing existing tests or developing new blood-  
13 based tests for rat lungworm diagnostics.

14 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the University of  
15 Hawaii at Hilo for the purposes of this Act.

16 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018.  
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**Report Title:**

Rat Lungworm Disease; University of Hawaii at Hilo;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the University of Hawaii at Hilo for  
research related to rat lungworm disease. (SD1)

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