

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committees on
AGRICULTURE
and
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

**Tuesday, February 13, 2018
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1688, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE**

House Bill 1688, House Draft 1, proposes to appropriate funds to the Hawaii Department of Agriculture (HDOA) for surveying, testing, and treating rat lungworm disease in animals and for researching, developing, and supporting aquaponics. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill, provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Supplemental Budget request.**

The Department is a collaborator on biosecurity issues with HDOA, the University of Hawaii, and the Hawaii Department of Health, as described in the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan. Rat lungworm disease is recognized in the Biosecurity Plan as a serious threat to human health and agriculture in Hawaii, vectored by invasive snails and rodents.

Providing funds for rat lungworm disease research, prevention, and control are recommended action items in the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan (available at <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/hisc/plans/hibp/>):

- Action item PosTifs1.5, relating to capacity at HDOA for surveillance and monitoring of high-risk taxa, including vectors of rat lungworm
- Action item PwsPro1.7, recommending increased education and public awareness of human health issues relating to invasive species, including rat lungworm.

Passing this measure would directly support implementation of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

HB-1688-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/11/2018 12:33:32 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacqui Hoover	Hawaii Island Economic Development Board	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1688-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 8:12:55 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:

HB-1688-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/9/2018 6:57:06 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Oppose	No

Comments:

HB-1688-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/10/2018 9:46:30 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shyla Moon		Support	No

Comments:

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i
Office of the Mayor

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February 12, 2018

Representative Richard P. Creagan, Chair
Committee on Agriculture
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 329
Honolulu, HI 96813

LATE

Representative John M. Mizuno, Chair
Committee on Health and Human Services
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 329
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Creagan and Mizuno, and Committee Members:

Re: HB 1688 Relating to Rat Lungworm Disease
Hearing Date: 02/13/18 – 9:00 am; House Conference Room 329

As you know, there are a number of bills advancing in this House that deal with the terrible condition called rat lungworm disease. HB 474, HB 1762, HB 2104, and HB 2506 mainly refer to "prevention and eradication," and all have had hearings in various committees. Each offers a slightly different approach to this dreaded illness, and I thank you now for the opportunity to testify in support of a fifth bill, funding for activities aimed at surveying, testing, and treating this malady, HB 1688.

My concern is that these multiple bills and different approaches may be competing for limited resources and wind up canceling each other out. I hope you will look to the advice of experts in healthcare and research, and the legislators who are most knowledgeable, and determine the one or more approaches that offer the most promise. Then allot as much money as can be used wisely to deal with this scourge.

Apparently the impact of this awful disease has been different in Hawai'i than on the mainland, with unusually severe consequences reported for Hawai'i victims. Therefore, providing local funding, and not relying on mainland techniques, is uniquely warranted.

Whatever path you take, it is clear that positive action is needed, and I trust that you will reach a consensus as to the way forward.

Respectfully submitted,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Harry Kim".

Harry Kim
Mayor, County of Hawai'i

LATE

HB-1688-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 11:52:24 AM
Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jennifer Milholen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Agriculture
And
House Committee on Health and Human Services
Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 9:00 a.m.

By
Nicholas Comerford
Dean, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources
And
Michael Bruno, Vice Chancellor
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

LATE

HB 1688 HD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairs Creagan and Mizuno, Vice Chairs DeCoite and Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Committee on Health and Human Services:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1688 HD1 which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for surveying, testing, and treating rat lungworm disease in dogs, cats, horses, freshwater fish and invertebrates. The bill also appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for researching, developing, and supporting aquaponics in the State.

CTAHR understands that rat lung worm disease is an emerging disease in Hawai'i and that there is not sufficient information available on the prevalence of this disease. The apparent increase in this disease among dogs, cats and horses, as described in the bill is both a monetary and social issue given the value that these animals have to the citizens of Hawai'i. CTAHR has the capability to address the issue in collaboration with the department of agriculture given sufficient funds to do so.

We feel that aquaponics is another version of agriculture that will need to grow in Hawai'i due to its high protein level and the isolation of the state. It may also be a beneficial service to the tourism industry.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1688 HD1, provided it adds to, and does not affect, the UH budget.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

DOUGLAS S. CHIN
Lt. Governor



SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613



TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEES ON AGRICULTURE AND HEALTH & HUMAN
SERVICES

FEBRUARY 13, 2018
9:00 AM
CONFERENCE ROOM 329

HOUSE BILL NO. 1688 HD1
RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairperson Creagan, Chairperson Mizuno and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on House Bill No. 1688 HD1. This bill provides funds for surveying, testing and treating rat lungworm disease in animals and for researching, developing, and supporting aquaponics. The Department of Agriculture supports the intent of this bill provided that it does not impact the Department's priorities listed in the Executive Budget.

A comprehensive epidemiology survey will identify risk factors, geographic distribution, and prevalence of disease which can be used to develop policies for education of medical professionals in both the human and veterinary fields. Practitioners will use the information to develop diagnostic plans and recommend appropriate treatment methods. The increased awareness of rat lungworm disease is a good example of the One Health Concept for public health that recognizes the interplay between animals, humans and the environment. Each agency identified, the Hawaii Department of Agriculture, the Hawaii Department of Health, and the University of Hawaii College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources, brings expertise within their respective areas and supporting continued collaboration will lead to increased efficiency in resource allocation for disease response and communications, diagnostic capabilities, and disease management strategies.

The Department also supports the intent of part 2 of this bill, which appropriates funds to support research and development of aquaponics in the State. Current resources within the Department of Agriculture are focused on disease investigation and regulatory action. Undertaking research and development projects will require collaboration with stakeholders in both the public and private sector.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



LATE

HB-1688-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 4:06:19 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeanne Kapela	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Creagan, Chair Mizuno, and members of the committees,

The outbreak of rat lungworm disease that has spread throughout the islands must be brought under control. While the Hawai'i Department of Health calls rat lungworm a rare illness, it is difficult to discern exactly how many people get infected each year. Symptoms can range from very mild—headaches, stiffness of the neck, nausea—to severe, even resulting in temporary paralysis or comas, and usually start one to three weeks after exposure and can last from two weeks to months.

The Big Island of Hawai'i has become ground zero for the outbreak. UH-Hilo College of Pharmacy professor Dr. Susan Jarvi, who's lab is home to the Hawaii Island Rat Lungworm Working Group, maintains a compendium of research that still needs to be done to better understand the disease, especially since Hawai'i County has seen more cases of the illness than any other part of the islands.

As a resident of the Kona community, I implore you to provide more funding for research into this illness, services for those who have been affected, awareness to prevent its further spread, and medical treatments to eradicate its existence from our shores.

Mahalo,

Jeanne Kapela

LATE

HB-1688-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 5:03:40 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
M. Markl	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Hello Committee Members and Chairs:

Why are there two totally different subjects on this one bill? I would say no to both parts.

I oppose and ask that you oppose this bill. Regarding the rat lungworm disease, I am against any research or testing done on any animals as it is very painful as they feel just like us, and I'm sure noone would ever want to be tested on. It is unnecessary since it is preventable, and there already is plenty of information available on how to prevent. You can supplement methods to advertise these preventative methods to the public.

LATE

HB-1688-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/12/2018 5:30:09 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/13/2018 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Springer Kaye	Big Island Invasive Species Committee	Support	No

Comments: