



The Senate
Committee on Ways and Means
April 4, 2018
10:30 a.m., Conference Room 211
State Capitol

Testimony in Support of HB 474 HD1, SD1

Aloha Chair Dela Cruz, Vice Chair Keith-Agaran, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) **is in support of HB 474 HD1, SD1, Relating to Rat Lungworm Disease**, which appropriates funds for the University of Hawai'i at Hilo, Hawai'i Department of Agriculture, and Hawai'i Department of Health to conduct research and outreach to address rat lungworm disease and its vectors.

Rat lungworm is serious health threat to people, and there are several aspects of the issue that must be addressed, including public outreach on food safety protocols, agriculture producer and gardener outreach on minimizing rodent, snail, and slug vectors, pest mitigation measures at critical control points, and more.

One comment on one of the research activities listed in the bill, *1. Conducting laboratory testing to determine the effectiveness of deworming rats to reduce rat lungworm transmission*: Even if a vaccine or other treatment were found to rid rodents of the parasite in a lab setting, chances slim to none that it could be used to address the issue outside of a lab, in whole communities. It would be advisable to assess the source/s of the parasite before it is picked up by slugs and snails, and to consider the best way/s to address the source/s at scale: *Work with relevant entities to conduct a Hazard Analysis & Critical Control Point Plan (using a systems approach) to create a plan for addressing this issue.*

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Christy Martin
CGAPS