



STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH  
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**Testimony COMMENTING on HCR226  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PROVIDE A REPORT OF  
ALL CONFIRMED AND SUSPECTED CASES OF RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE  
THAT ORIGINATED IN THE STATE AND SHARE RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE  
DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT WITH OTHER STATES.**

REPRESENTATIVE JOHN M. MIZUNO, CHAIR  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

Hearing Date: 3/21/2018

Room Number: 329

1 **Fiscal Implications:** If the Department of Health is required to offer testing to other states for  
2 non-Hawaii acquired illnesses or to conduct long-term follow up of patients, funding for  
3 additional personnel and resources would be needed. Laboratory personnel as well as testing  
4 supplies would be needed to cover the increased testing burden. An additional Epidemiologist  
5 would also be needed to conduct long-term follow up of patients and to analyze and make  
6 meaningful interpretation of such longitudinal data.

7 **Department Testimony:** DOH appreciates the intent of this measure and emphatically agrees  
8 with reporting of all Hawaii-acquired confirmed and probable cases of angiostrongyliasis and the  
9 sharing of Hawaii's expertise in the diagnosis and treatment of angiostrongyliasis with other  
10 states. However, much of what is requested in this measure is duplicative of ongoing efforts.  
11 DOH has historically investigated all reported suspected and confirmed cases, including those  
12 among visitors exposed in Hawaii. Each year, DOH updates and posts a comprehensive 10-year  
13 summary of Hawaii-reportable diseases including angiostrongyliasis  
14 (<http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/resources/reports/summary-of-reported-cases-of-notifiable->  
15 [diseases/](http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/resources/reports/summary-of-reported-cases-of-notifiable-diseases/)).

16 DOH publicly provides a wide range of information about angiostrongyliasis on its website  
17 ([http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/disease\\_listing/rat-lungworm-angiostrongyliasis/](http://health.hawaii.gov/docd/disease_listing/rat-lungworm-angiostrongyliasis/)) for both the  
18 general public and healthcare providers. The information posted covers disease signs and  
19 symptoms, mode of transmission, prevention, diagnosis and treatment. Likewise, the DOH

1 Public Health and Environmental Laboratories website  
2 (<http://health.hawaii.gov/statelab/files/2013/07/sld-brl-sr-angio.pdf>) provides specific  
3 information about testing for angiostrongyliasis including methodology, criteria for testing,  
4 specimen requirements, turn-around-time, and specimen storage and transport guidelines.  
5 Diagnostic clinical testing is offered for all cases who were exposed in Hawaii, even if a visitor  
6 from another state. Thus, DOH openly shares its expertise with regard to angiostrongyliasis with  
7 other states.

8 DOH always adheres to science-based recommendations firmly grounded in established  
9 standards of medical and public health practice as supported by nationally and internationally  
10 recognized experts. DOH already works in partnership with the Governor's Task Force on Rat  
11 Lungworm Disease, which is chaired by Dr. Kenton Kramer, Associate Professor and  
12 parasitologist in the Department of Tropical Medicine, Medical Microbiology, and  
13 Pharmacology, John A. Burns School of Medicine. The recommendations of this Task Force and  
14 its Clinical Practice Subcommittee, have and continue to contribute to DOH's ongoing efforts to  
15 prevent and control this disease. Both groups include recognized experts in epidemiology,  
16 parasitology, infectious diseases, and tropical diseases. Additionally, DOH has maintained a  
17 long partnership since 2004 with experts at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention  
18 (CDC). This close partnership made possible the development of the one available laboratory  
19 diagnostic test offered by CDC and DOH. Through that partnership, DOH has also made  
20 connections with clinical experts both nationally and internationally to provide advice based on  
21 accepted standards of medical practice for both DOH as well as the Clinical Practice  
22 Subcommittee.

23 The data which DOH collects on Hawaii-related angiostrongyliasis case-patients are maintained  
24 in a disease registry. This is a standard for all reportable diseases. Although the registry contains  
25 patient identifiers, these could be removed for purposes of sharing data with researchers under a  
26 proper data use agreement.

1 Two additional concerns DOH raises are the requests to offer laboratory testing to non-Hawaii-  
2 related cases and to conduct long-term follow up of angiostrongyliasis patients. These would not  
3 be feasible without additional personnel and resources. DOH would need to determine if these  
4 are legally permissible under the department's mandates. Long-term case-patient studies are  
5 considered research. Human research studies require detailed oversight and are subject to  
6 institutional review board approval. As it is, we are aware of and support clinical and academic  
7 partners who are already interested in and working to initiate long-term follow up of patients.

8 The Department appreciates and concurs with the legislature's concern over angiostrongyliasis.

9 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

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 Committee on  
HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES**

**Wednesday, March 21, 2018**

**8:30 AM**

**State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 226 / HOUSE RESOLUTION 196  
REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PROVIDE A REPORT OF ALL  
CONFIRMED AND SUSPECTED CASES OF RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE THAT  
ORIGINATED IN THE STATE AND SHARE RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE  
DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT WITH OTHER STATES**

House Concurrent Resolution 226 and House Resolution 196 request the Department of Health to provide a report of all confirmed and suspected cases of rat lungworm disease that originated in the State. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports these measures.**

The Department is a collaborator on biosecurity issues with 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. The Department supports this effort to better understand the prevalence of rat lungworm disease in the State and defers to the Department of Health on how best to integrate the expertise of the Department of Health, the University of Hawaii's Rat Lungworm Disease Working Group, and the John A. Burns School of Medicine with regard to this issue.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.

**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



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Health & Human Services  
March 21, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

By  
Carolyn Ma, PharmD, BCOP  
DEAN  
UH Hilo - Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy

HCR 226 / HR 196 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PROVIDE A REPORT OF ALL CONFIRMED AND SUSPECTED CASES OF RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE THAT ORIGINATED IN THE STATE AND SHARE RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT WITH OTHER STATES

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the committee:

My name is Carolyn Ma, and I am the Dean for the UH Hilo Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP). As designated lead for UH Hilo and on behalf of Interim Chancellor Marcia Sakai, the University of Hawai'i at Hilo fully supports this resolution.

UH Hilo's DKICP has both a basic science researcher and a pharmacy practice (pharmacist) faculty on the RLW Working Group.

An infectious disease pharmacy specialist, Assistant Professor Dr. Louis Lteif is a member of the clinical management subcommittee of the governor-appointed RLW work group. Dr. Lteif has been working with Dr. John Martell in performing a retrospective chart review to better understand the treatment scheme and outcomes of the 70+ cases of RLW that have occurred in Hawai'i. This investigation effort will help to develop medical treatment guidelines that define risk factors, better describe signs and symptoms, and effective treatments and monitoring of both treatment and disease. In addition, follow up for long term effects could occur. Only with mandatory reporting of all new, recurrent or suspected cases, can this committee continue with creating and updating best practice treatment guidelines.

In addition, since other states have reported cases of RLW and that some cases have involved short term visitors who return to the continental US, it would be prudent to share reports to all interested states.

Continued reporting will also help our basic science researcher, Dr. Jarvi, to continue to study on effectiveness of control via water filter intervention, bioassay development, effectiveness of any vegetable washes, rate infection control or intervention and study on possible alternative diagnostic tools.

Also, continued DOH reporting will alert us to any increase in incidence to domesticated animals and/or farm livestock.

The college welcomes collaboration of their medical school and physician colleagues, especially as they may provide long-term medical follow up of affected patients. The college also finds it essential to continue a partnership with the DOH for community education efforts and believes the DOH has the ability and manpower for farther-reaching connection of our residents and to their continental US counterpart departments.

The college suggests a minor change in language. On page 2, line 22, the current sentence "Dean of the University of Hawaii at Hilo" to "Dean of *the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy*, University of Hawaii at Hilo".

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HCR 226 / HR 196.



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

By

Jerris Hedges, MD  
Professor & Dean

John A. Burns School of Medicine

And

Michael Bruno, PhD  
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
Vice Chancellor for Research  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HCR 226/HR 196 – REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH TO PROVIDE A REPORT OF ALL CONFIRMED AND SUSPECTED CASES OF RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE THAT ORIGINATED IN THE STATE AND SHARE RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE DIAGNOSIS AND TREATMENT WITH OTHER STATES

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the committee:

HCR 226/HR 196 requests that the Department of Health provide a report of all confirmed and suspected cases of rat lungworm disease that originated in Hawaii and share information regarding diagnosis and effective treatment of the disease with other states. The resolutions further request that a registry using de-identified data of all rat lungworm cases be established in consultation with the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). JABSOM supports HCR 226 and HR 196.

The Department of Tropical Medicine, Medical Microbiology and Pharmacology within JABSOM has the scientific and clinical expertise and resources to provide support for this resolution.

- 1) Four members of the Department are part of the Governor's Task Force on Rat Lungworm Disease.
  - a. Kenton Kramer, PhD is a parasitologist and epidemiologist. He is the current Chair of the Governor's Task Force, and has expertise in serological surveys to determine the prevalence of parasitic infections and procedures needed to diagnose parasitic infections. Along with Dr. Gosnell he teaches clinical parasitology to undergraduate, graduate and medical students.
  - b. William Gosnell, PhD is a parasitologist and immunologist. He has expertise in designing and evaluating serological tests for infectious diseases.

- c. F. DeWolfe Miller, PhD is a parasitologist and epidemiologist with expertise in designing and conducting national and international epidemiological prevention and control studies, which includes data base design and data analysis.
  - d. Vernon Ansdell, MD. is a retired physician certified in treating tropical diseases. He is currently the Chair of the Clinical Management Sub-Committee of the Governor's Task Force. This sub-committee is currently working on developing clinical guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of angiostrongyliasis.
- 2) JABSOM's quantitative health sciences group, headed by Dr. John Chen, has the technical and analytic expertise and experience to advise the Department of Tropical Medicine on the proper development of a de-identified patient registry and the appropriate analysis of the long-term patient follow up data.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this bill.



**HCR-226**

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 5:56:05 PM

Testimony for HHS on 3/21/2018 8:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Richard P. Creagan	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Mizuno, Vice-Chair Kobayashi, and members of the Health and Human Services Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify. I am writing in strong support of HCR226 and HR196. I am providing testimony as a private individual, as a physician, and as a former epidemiological investigator with the Hawaii Department of Health and not as a legislator.

I proposed these resolutions in the hope of getting information to better address the recent outbreak of rat lungworm disease in Hawaii. The information on the prevalence of rat lungworm disease in the State could help stem its spread, alert people to potential threats of contracting rat lungworm disease, and provide useful information on the disease.

I'd like the Department of Health investigate all confirmed and suspected cases of rat lungworm disease that originated in Hawaii, including the cases that involved visitors who returned to the continental United States; and

Additionally, the State has made significant scientific discoveries relating to rat lungworm disease and I'd recommend that the Department of Health provide guidance, knowledge, and testing to inform and assist other states by sharing best practices to treat rat lungworm disease.

All I'm requesting from the Department of Health is that they provide a report of all confirmed and suspected cases of rat lungworm disease that originated in the State and share information regarding diagnosis and effective treatment of rat lungworm disease with other states.

Specifically, I'm asking that the Department of Health follow the recommendations of the Rat Lungworm Working Group at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, and provide a long-term follow up of rat lungworm disease patients.

The registry, using de-identified data of all rat lungworm cases, is requested to be established in consultation with the University of Hawaii John A. Burns School of Medicine to provide long-term follow up of rat lungworm disease patients' cases.

Thank you and all the best,

Richard P. Creagan