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SUZANNE D. CASE
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**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
HEALTH & HUMAN SERVICES**

**Wednesday, March 21, 2018
8:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 329**

**In consideration of
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 225/HOUSE RESOLUTION 195
REQUESTING THE HAWAII VETERINARY MEDICAL ASSOCIATION TO
CONDUCT A SURVEY OF ITS MEMBERSHIP ON THE FREQUENCY OF CASES OF
RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE IN ANIMAL COMPANIONS**

House Concurrent Resolution 225/House Resolution 195 request the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association to conduct a survey of its membership to better understand the prevalence of rat lungworm disease in pet animals. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports these measures.**

The Department is a collaborator on the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan, which recognizes rat lungworm disease 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 potential for pet animals to be impacted by and to potentially vector rat lungworm disease.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on these measures.

HR-195

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 6:05:51 PM

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

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
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 HCR225 and HR195. 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.

Zoonotic diseases are diseases that are caused by infection from viruses, bacteria, parasites, or fungi and can spread between animals and people. These diseases can cause illness of varying severity or even death in people. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that zoonotic diseases are very common and every year tens of thousands of Americans will get sick from them; and

Zoonotic diseases can be transmitted directly or indirectly to humans by consumption of contaminated foodstuffs or contact with infected animals. Leptospirosis, *E. coli* infection, methicillin resistant *staphylococcus aureus* infection (MRSA), ringworm, *toxoplasmosis*, *salmonella* infection, *tuberculosis*, H1N1 and H3N2 influenza virus also known as bird flu or swine flu, *brucellosis* caused by *Brucella suis*, and *angiostrongyliasis cantonensis* more commonly known as rat lungworm disease are examples of zoonotic diseases. Zoonoses are animal diseases that can be transmitted to humans and are very well understood and studied by veterinarians; and

Past experiments and observations have shown that Rat Lungworm disease can be contracted by cats, dogs, and other animals and multiple cases of Rat Lungworm disease have been documented in dogs, cats, and numerous other animals in Australia; and there have recently been well documented cases of Rat Lungworm disease found in cats, dogs, and horses in Hawaii.

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 data on the disease.

Therefore, I would like the Legislature to request that the Hawaii Veterinary Medical Association just survey its members in order for us to better know the prevalence of Rat Lungworm disease in our islands.

Thank you and all the best,

Richard P. Creagan