

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

**HR-196**

Submitted on: 3/20/2018 5:56:28 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

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