



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
March 30, 2017 at 3:00 p.m.

by
Donald O. Straney
Chancellor, University of Hawai'i at Hilo

SB 272 SD2 HD1 – RELATING TO RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

My name is Donald Straney, Chancellor of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo and I support the intent of SB 272 SD2 HD1 to fund programs, studies and activities to prevent and eradicate rat lungworm disease.

UH Hilo views the proposal as a positive solution to address a critical health issue in the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 272 SD2 HD1. Aloha.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



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

KEKOA KALUHIWA
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
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FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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
FINANCE

Thursday, March 30, 2017
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 272, SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE

Senate Bill 272, Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to support research, control, and outreach activities relating to rat lungworm disease. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.**

The Department recognizes the threat of rat lungworm disease and the lack of information on statewide distribution of the parasite *Angiostrongylus cantonensis* and its hosts. The Department also notes that the Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC), which is administered by the Department, received proposals for research and education regarding this disease in Fiscal Year (FY)16 and FY17 but was unable to identify adequate resources to support all of these efforts. In FY17 the HISC is providing partial funding support to a project developing outreach programs and materials regarding rat lungworm disease under the direction of the University of Hawaii at Hilo. Additional funding support for a more comprehensive research, control, and outreach program, as described in this measure, would be strongly beneficial. The Department supports this measure, provided that the appropriations described therein do not impact appropriations to the HISC or other priorities indicated in the Executive Budget request.

The Department notes that Senate Draft 1 streamlined funding to the University of Hawaii at Hilo for the implementation of tasks described in the measure, and is supportive of this approach.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

SHAN S. TSUTSUI
Lt. Governor



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

SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SCOTT E. ENRIGHT
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**MARCH 30, 2017
3:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

**SENATE BILL NO. 272 SD2 HD1
RELATING TO RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE**

Chairperson Luke and Members of the Committee:

Thank for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill No. 272 SD2 HD1, relating to rat lungworm disease. The Department supports the intent of this measure provided it does not impact the Department's priorities submitted in the Executive Budget.

Rat lungworm disease is a serious and relatively new pathogen to plague the consumption of fresh produce grown in the islands. There is a great need to conduct research into the biology of the carriers of the disease, the ways in which it can be spread, outreach to the public in understanding the condition, and methods that can be employed to control and/or contain it.

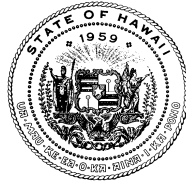
The department supports the intent of SB272 provided it is funded at a level in which research can be conducted and carried out to achieve implementation of prevention measures. It is especially critical that Integrated Pest Management practices can be identified that minimize the use of chemicals and employ a variety of management techniques that will provide long term control of the pathogen. Outreach is an especially critical component of any IPM tactics. The more that the public understands the hazards of the disease, the less of a public health issue it will become. As noted in the bill, the medical expenses associated with contracting the disease can run into the millions. Research dollars spent in developing long term and effective



Page 2

management programs are minor compared to the expected medical bill associated with those who contract the illness.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH
P. O. Box 3378
Honolulu, HI 96801-3378
doh.testimony@doh.hawaii.gov

**Testimony COMMENTING on S.B. 272, S.D. 2, H.D. 1
RELATING TO RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE
REPRESENTATIVE SYLVIA LUKE, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE**

Hearing Date: March 30, 2017

Room Number: 308

1 **Fiscal Implications:** The Department of Health appreciates the intent of S.B. 272, S.D. 2, H.D.
2 1, but defers to the priorities set forth in the Executive Biennium Budget.

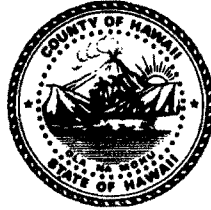
3 **Department Testimony:** This measure seeks to appropriate funds in the 2017–18 and 2018–19
4 fiscal period (2 years) to the University of Hawaii at Hilo for programs, studies, and activities
5 related to the prevention and eradication of rat lungworm disease. This measure also provides
6 that the University of Hawaii at Hilo shall collaborate with the Department of Health,
7 Department of Land and Natural Resources, Department of Agriculture, and the Governor’s Joint
8 Rat Lungworm Task Force, to create a statewide plan for the prevention and eradication of rat
9 lungworm disease.

10 The Department of Health concurs with and supports the consensus of the Joint Rat Lungworm
11 Task Force, which is that outreach and education are essential priorities in addressing the risk of
12 angiostrongyliasis in Hawaii’s communities.

13 In addition to educational activities conducted during the investigation of reported cases of
14 angiostrongyliasis illness, DOH efforts, in conjunction with partners, have included statewide
15 school garden food safety workshops and the distribution of flyers to at-risk communities as well
16 as commercial food establishments. We welcome the opportunity to continue our work with
17 partners to improve public health education and prevention of this serious disease.

18 Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Harry Kim
Mayor



Wil Okabe
Managing Director

Barbara J. Kossow
Deputy Managing Director

County of Hawai'i
Office of the Mayor

25 Aupuni Street, Suite 2603 • Hilo, Hawai'i 96720 • (808) 961-8211 • Fax (808) 961-6553
KONA: 74-5044 Ane Keohokalole Hwy., Bldg. C • Kailua-Kona, Hawai'i 96740
(808) 323-4444 • Fax (808) 323-4440

March 28, 2017

Rep. Sylvia Luke, Chair
Committee on Finance
Hawai'i State Capitol
Honolulu, HI 96813

Dear Chair Luke and Committee Members:

**RE: SB 272, SD 2, HD 1
Relating to Rat Lungworm Disease**

SB 272, SD2, HD1 says that rat lungworm disease has stricken more than 70 people in the State, claiming lives and causing grave disabilities. While primarily affecting the Big Island, it has now been identified on Maui as well.

Although the disease is not well known, it has devastating effects on its victims. One can only hope that we can get a handle on this disease before it destroys more lives.

Fortunately, our University is willing and able to assist with research and education, but substantial funding is needed to support its efforts. We certainly believe that such an investment of state dollars is warranted.

Please approve funding for SB 272 and provide an appropriate effective date.

Respectfully submitted,

Harry Kim
Mayor

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 11:05 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: sue.leeloy@hawaiicounty.gov
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM*

SB272

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Council Woman Sue Lee Loy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 7:39 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ecabatu@hhsc.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM

SB272

Submitted on: 3/29/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elena Cabatu	East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation	Support	No

Comments: Please accept testimony in support of SB 272, on behalf of the East Hawaii Region of Hawaii Health Systems Corporation, consisting of Hilo Medical Center, Hale Ho`ola Hamakua in Honoka`a, Ka`u Hospital, and our 9 specialty clinics.

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DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII

SHAN TSUTSUI
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR



HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

1151 PUNCHBOWL ST, #325
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813

VOTING MEMBERS

SUZANNE CASE
DEPARTMENT OF LAND & NATURAL
RESOURCES

SCOTT ENRIGHT
HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

KEITH KAWAOKA D.Env.
DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

MARIA GALLO, Ph.D.
UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII

LEO ASUNCION
OFFICE OF PLANNING, DEPARTMENT OF
BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT &
TOURISM

DAVID RODRIGUEZ
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

TESTIMONY OF THE HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thursday, March 30, 2017
State Capitol, Conference Room 308

SENATE BILL 272 SENATE DRAFT 2, HOUSE DRAFT 1 RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES

Senate Bill 272 Senate Draft 2, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate funds to support research, control, and outreach activities relating to rat lungworm disease. **The Hawaii Invasive Species Council (HISC) supports this measure.**

The HISC recognizes the threats posed by rat lungworm disease and has received proposals for research and education regarding this disease in Fiscal Year (FY)16 and FY17. Due to limited funding, the HISC was unable to fully support all of these efforts. In FY17 the HISC is providing partial funding support (totaling \$65,634) to a project developing outreach programs and materials regarding rat lungworm disease under the direction of the University of Hawaii at Hilo. The amount of funding needed for a comprehensive research, control, and outreach program, as described in this measure, would be strongly beneficial and is beyond the current resources of the HISC. The HISC therefore supports this appropriation, provided that it does not negatively impact other requests for invasive species funding in the Executive Budget.

The HISC notes that increased resources for research, control, and outreach relating to rat lungworm disease are critical components of the Hawaii Interagency Biosecurity Plan (including HIBP action items BorTifs1.5, PosPro1.1, PosTifs1.5, and PwsPro1.7). Passage of this measure would support timely implementation of the Biosecurity Plan.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



7370 Kuamo'o Road • Kapa'a • Hawaii • 96746 • 808-821-1490 • www.kauaiisc.org

March 20, 2017

Testimony of Bill Lucey – Kauai Invasive Species Committee

Supporting SB 272 SD2 HD1

House Committee on Finance

Chair: Rep. Sylvia Luke & Vice Chair: Rep. Ty J.K. Cullen

Tuesday, March 21, 2017, 3:00, Room 308

The Kauai Invasive Species committee **supports** SB 272 SD2 HD1 which would allocate funding to the University of Hawaii at Hilo for programs, studies, and activities related to the prevention and eradication of rat lungworm disease.

The Kauai Invasive Species Committee is currently supporting a CTHAR led project looking at the prevalence of rat lung worm disease across the landscape of Kauai. This project will only tell us where the disease may be concentrated. There is a larger need to identify methods for prevention and ultimately eradication of this human pathogen which this bill addresses. As invasive species managers we rely on a steady flow of new research to inform our decisions so that we can attain the best use of our resources to help solve these problems for the public.

Sincerely,

Bill Lucey
Project Manager
Kauai Invasive Species Committee
RCUH – PCSU - University of Hawaii

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 9:21 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: skaye@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM

SB272

Submitted on: 3/29/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments: Your support for this bill is greatly appreciated. The UH Hilo School of Pharmacy research program has found that 90% of rats are infected with this parasite, and a primary vector, the semi-slug, has just been confirmed on Maui. As cases of the disease rise, our fresh produce industries will be at risk, along with our public health. Please make funding for this disease a priority today.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Coordinated through The Kohala Center

TESTIMONY
House Committee on Finance
March 30, 2017, 3:00 p.m.

Island Networks & Organizations

Farm to Keiki (Preschool)
FoodCorps Hawai'i
Grow Some Good
Hawai'i Island School Garden Network/The Kohala Center
'Iolani School
Ka Ohana O Na Pua
Kaua'i School Garden Network/Malama Kaua'i
Kōkua Hawai'i Foundation ('ĀINA In Schools)
Maui School Garden Network
Moloka'i School Garden Network/Sustainable Moloka'i
O'ahu Farm to School Network

State Agencies

Hawai'i Department of Agriculture: Farm to School Program
Hawai'i Department of Education: Hawai'i Child Nutrition Programs
Hawai'i Department of Education: School Food Services Branch
Hawai'i Department of Health: Healthy Hawai'i Initiative
UH CTAHR Master Gardeners

SB272 SD2 HD1: RELATING TO RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE

Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui **supports SB272 SD2 HD1.**

Rat Lungworm Disease (RLWD) is an issue that can no longer be ignored in Hawai'i. There is a desperate need for funding, research, monitoring/control, and educational outreach dedicated to this disastrously debilitating disease, so that there are ZERO cases going forward.

The Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui stands ready to assist with educational outreach to Hawai'i's students and schools.

We have created a School Garden Safety Manual, which includes information on RLWD, and are holding workshops around the state to bring this information to educators. The manual is available online via The Kohala Center's website under Farm to School Resources (link to School Garden Safety Manual: https://drive.google.com/file/d/0B_Qw59RHMj_QR3dZQ3o5UXYxWWc/view).

Formed in 2010, the Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui is a statewide network comprised of five island-level networks, active organizations, and representatives of the Hawai'i Departments of Agriculture, Education, and Health. Our mission is to strengthen Hawai'i's statewide farm to school and school garden movement.

Please pass this bill to enable the ERADICATION of RLWD in Hawai'i.

Thank you very much.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lydi Morgan Bernal".

Lydi Morgan Bernal
Coordinator
Hawai'i Farm to School and School Garden Hui
schoolgardenhui@kohalacenter.org
www.hawaiischoolgardenhui.org

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 9:26 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: tiana@farmtokeiki.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM

SB272

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tiana Kamen	Farm to Keiki	Support	No

Comments: Aloha members of the committee, Mahalo nui loa for taking the time to consider this important bill. I am a farm to preschool educator/trainer and also hold a Masters of Science in Nutrition. One in three of every child in Hawai'i is obese or overweight. More than ever we need to increase the amount of fresh, fruits and vegetables that these children eat or they most likely will develop a chronic disease such as diabetes, heart disease, and others that will shorten their life. The most healthy foods are locally grown, and these also support our farmers. At the same time, a child could potentially die from my advice as a nutritionist to eat more fresh, locally grown foods if it is infected with Rat Lung Worm disease. We cannot live with this burden of having to choose between feeding our children canned food for the lives and suffering from chronic diseases, or eating healthy locally grown foods with the chance of contracting RLW and becoming paralyzed or dying. Please pass and fund this bill. We need to know more about this disease. We need to know how to prevent it and diagnose illness early. We need more people to be aware of the disease. With out this bill and the efforts that it outlines, we are worthless at protecting the vital health of our most vulnerable population, the children.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 10:33 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: valerie@isomedia.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM

SB272

Submitted on: 3/29/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Valerie Barnes	Sustainable Kohala	Support	No

Comments: Sustainable Kohala represents approximately 250 individuals and families in the North Kohala area of Hawaii island. We are extremely concerned about this disease, its spread, and we strongly encourage you to support this measure to fund the necessary research to protect our health.

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Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 7:02 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: nredfeather@kohalacenter.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM

SB272

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Redfeather	Hawaii Island School Garden Network	Support	No

Comments: Mahalo Legislators for your support for this needed Bill. Now that the Bill has entered the funding stage, I think it is very important that funding go to the entities that have been working on this for so many years, and have created the foundational knowledge for the community, the University of Hawai'i at Hilo - Daniel K. Inouye School of Pharmacy. Mahalo!

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P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 30, 2017

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON SB 272, SD2, HD1
RELATING TO RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE

Room 308
3:00 PM

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee:

I am Randy Cabral, President of the Hawaii Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,900 farm family members statewide, and serves as Hawaii's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

Hawaii Farm Bureau supports SB 272, SD2, HD1, relating to Rat Lungworm Disease.

Providing safe and wholesome food is a priority for the Farm Bureau and its members. Unfortunately, not enough is currently known about Rat Lungworm Disease, or angiostrongyliasis, to fully protect the public. For example, although we know that people in Hawaii can get the disease by eating food contaminated by the larval stage of *A. cantonensis* worms found in raw or undercooked snails or slugs, and we know that people have also become infected by eating raw produce that contains a small infected snail or slug, or part of one, it is *not* known whether even just the slime left by infected snails and slugs is able to cause infection.

This is critical information since the disease can cause a rare type of meningitis (eosinophilic meningitis) that is extremely painful, debilitating, and can be deadly. Because there is no specific treatment for the disease, patients are only given supportive therapy and pain medication.

As more people are encouraged to grow their own food in backyard gardens, and school gardens are becoming more prevalent, the risk of being infected with this disease increases. Nutritionists advise the public to eat plenty of fresh leafy vegetables. However, without knowing enough about the transmission of rat lungworm disease, this advice may

be risky in areas infested by snails and slugs. We need to know if the slime alone can cause the disease, and if washing or other pre-consumption measures will prevent transmission. Backyard gardeners and others who may not practice pest management to effectively control snails and slugs, or those who purchase greens from these sources, may be particularly at risk.

HFB supports funding of the University of Hawaii at Hilo and their collaboration with state agencies to help learn more about the disease and to prevent the spread of it and other food-borne diseases, especially to children through school garden projects.

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

Testimony Presented Before the House Committee on Finance

Thursday March 30, 2017 3:00 pm

SB 272 SD2 / HB 474 - RELATING TO RAT LUNGWORM DISEASE

Chair Luke and Vice Chair Cullen and members of the House Committee on Finance,

My name is Dr. Susan Jarvi and I am a Professor in the Department of Pharmaceutical Sciences at the University of Hawaii at Hilo, Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy. My lab has been the lead in rat lungworm education and research for the past 5 years in the state. I am speaking as a concerned individual in strong support of SB 272 SD2 / HB 474 Relating to Rat Lungworm Disease (RLWD).

Rat lungworm disease (RLWD) is a global disease. The earliest cases of RLWD in Hawaii were reported in 1959, so this disease has been established for some time. More recently we have seen an increase in the number of cases occurring, many of which originate from east Hawaii Island, however cases have been reported on all main Hawaiian Islands. A couple who recently came to Hana, Maui, to get married were diagnosed with RLWD. The parasite is also detected on the mainland in Florida, Louisiana, Texas, and Oklahoma, and last year three cases of human RLWD acquired in Texas after a flood. It's not just in Hawaii, but why are we seeing such an increase in the number of cases?

My lab has been working on RLWD since 2011, and we are trying to address this question. We've completed a number of research and educational outreach projects with relatively little funding. We have provided evidence that we have fairly high infection rates in humans, in slugs and in rats. Last year we screened people from east Hawaii for the presence of antibodies against RLW indicating they had been exposed to the parasite and 30% were positive. We've developed a molecular test to estimate the level of infection in slugs and snails and they have very high infection rates (10's of thousands), especially the semi-slug. The semi-slug was introduced to Puna ~ the turn of the millennium and has since spread across the Island. These slugs are very mobile and good climbers. That might be one reason we are seeing a high number of RLWD cases. The semi-slug was recently found on Maui. The rats are also highly infected. Last month we captured nearly 560 rats from the Hilo area to isolate adult rat lungworms from the hearts and lungs to develop a diagnostic. Nearly 94% of them were infected. High levels of infection! We need to monitor slug infection rates and track movement, we also need to educate the public on the best practices for slug/snail and rat control. While vector control is important we don't think vector control alone will control this disease. To drop rat infection rates, we tried a vaccine, which unfortunately didn't work. How about deworming rats?

Many people in east Hawaii are also on catchment. We know that slugs and snails climb into catchment tanks. We have shown that infective stage larvae can live for weeks outside a slug host in a wet environment. It was shown 50 years ago that rats can get infected by drinking contaminated water. If rats can get infected, humans can too. Additional research is needed to evaluate catchment system design. **Strong evidence suggests that the increase in RLWD cases in Hawaii County could be related to the introduction of the semi-slug and residential and agricultural catchment use.** We have completed much of the groundwork in some of these studies and are poised to carry out these larger studies outlined in SB272 through collaborative efforts. We appreciate your full support of SB 272.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 4:10 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: franny234@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM

SB272

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Franny Brewer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for scheduling a hearing for this bill and allowing us to express to the legislature how much need there is for this work to be done in Hawaii. Rat lungworm is a devastating disease, and the continued spread of the main vector - semi-slug - on Hawaii Island, the agricultural breadbasket of our state, is a serious threat to our food security. Residents of the fastest growing district in our state, Puna, are at the highest risk for contracting the disease. Thousands of people use catchment water daily - without knowing which systems or practices are effective for preventing contamination with the RLA parasite. Agricultural operations use catchment water to clean food crops - is this safe? Tourists in Hawaii have multiple times contracted the disease, showing that the pathway to infection is much more complicated than "backyard lettuce". The discovery of the semi-slug on Maui should give us all pause: we must get a handle on this parasite now. The residents and visitors to Hawaii deserve the best information that can be obtained to protect themselves and their families from a crippling disease. Please, do not hesitate to vote for funding that will allow the UH team to move forward in their research for the best ways to prevent, control, and treat this terrible scourge. Thank you for allowing me to express my fullest and utmost support for this bill.

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Cc: kiko_mcmurry@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM

SB272

Submitted on: 3/29/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

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

Comments: As a Volcano resident, I am concerned about Rat Lungworm and support efforts to better understand its transmission and ways of reducing possible exposure. Although the number of cases are still relatively low, now is the time to act and prevent--not when it becomes an epidemic.

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To: FINTestimony
Cc: ericfaught@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM

SB272

Submitted on: 3/29/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Faught	Individual	Support	No

Comments: We need to this!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 8:52 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: hokuokekai50@msn.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM*

SB272

Submitted on: 3/29/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Lacques	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 8:22 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: agenz@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM*

SB272

Submitted on: 3/29/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ayesha genz	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Aloha Hawaii State Representatives,

My name is Donna Mitts and I reside on the Hamakua Coast of Hawaii Island. I have been involved with school learning gardens here for around 15 years. I am testifying in support of SB 272 as the need for funding for the University of Hawaii at Hilo for research and education for rat lungworm disease is essential. The University of Hawaii at Hilo has been the leading proponent for research and education on rat lungworm disease since 2012, and they have been operating with very little funding. Increased funding is crucial for the following reasons:

- Over the past 15-years cases of rat lungworm disease in Hawaii have been increasing in number and severity, costing people their lives, livelihoods, savings, health, and well-being. There have been deaths and disabilities from the disease, many people never recover fully. Those of us who know about the disease are afraid of getting it as we have seen or have heard about the impact it can have on one's health. The disease has affected people in Hawaii, Maui, Oahu, and Kauai Counties, and the parasite has been found on all of the major Hawaiian Islands with the exception of Lanai.
- Case numbers are under-reported because many doctors are not familiar with the disease and there is no easy diagnostic. Diagnosis currently requires a spinal tap, which is a costly dangerous procedure, and therefore many, many cases go undiagnosed.
- Rat lungworm disease, a food-borne illness, is detrimental to Hawaii's efforts to become food secure. This problem will hurt our farmers, grocers, school gardens and consumers. Already there are those of us who do not purchase fresh vegetables grown in Hawaii, and many of us will not consume salads at restaurants because we don't know how well the lettuce has been washed. Education for food handlers is important!
- There needs to be more education available for residents, especially new residents, and visitors who know nothing about the disease. There also needs to be education for the school garden projects so our keiki are safe.
- The vectors of rat lungworm disease are all invasive species, as is the parasite itself, and there is a need for host control. When case numbers started to rise 10 years ago control efforts should have begun. The semi-slug is an important carrier of the rat lungworm, and it has spread around the island because there has been no education or efforts for host control. All slugs and snails, and some flatworms can be carriers, and they all are invasive species. Rats are also bad for Hawaii and should be controlled.
- Studies are showing the potential for infection through water, and Hawaii Island relies heavily on rainwater catchment, which may be a reason cases of rat lungworm disease are higher in Hawaii County. We need to know if filters, what size filters, and if UV light will keep the parasite out of household water in a catchment system. There is a need for education for those using rainwater catchment. The use of rainwater catchment for agriculture needs to be explored to ensure prevention of crops. People who know about rat lungworm disease and are taking precautions and some are still getting sick. This problem is endangering residents and visitors, as well as Hawaii's reputation as a tropical vacation paradise. I am in support of SB 272 because rat lungworm disease must be addressed in order to ensure that the health and mental well-being of Hawaii's residents and visitors are protected. Please fully support SB 272 and provide funding for UHH to continue to do their work with adequate monies.

Mahalo,

Sincerely,

Donna Mitts

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 6:20 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: nicole.olayon@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM

SB272

Submitted on: 3/29/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole Olayon	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Rat lung disease is having a negative impact on local agriculture and health. There have been many confirmed cases of individuals contracting the disease and causes a decrease in the quality of life in the islands. As a community member of Pahoia on the island of Hawai'i, I live in fear of eating fresh and local produce and choose to buy imported vegetables to avoid contracting the disease. This is not okay, we need to eradicate this disease and bring balance back into the island's food system and safety for its community members.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 5:02 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mary@mauivortex.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM*

SB272

Submitted on: 3/29/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Whispering Wind	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 5:01 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: bmurphy420@mail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM*

SB272

Submitted on: 3/29/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brian Murphy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 12:55 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: kinikalela_m@mail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM

SB272

Submitted on: 3/29/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
K Meeken	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha kākou, As a parent, as an individual I fully support bill sb 272! I live in puna in Hilo Hawaii, we live in an area that has many semi slugs! We need reasearch and we need it today! The blood test for Detecting rat lung worm is highly critical as well as seeing how we can prevent this from affecting more people! Please pass this measure!! I think of this daily! Mahalo nui!!

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Aloha,

I know that this bill may seem like one that you have no interest in. It has a disgusting name. We all wish we didn't have to hear about it...trust me. It has all I have had to think about for the past 27 months of my life. I have lost everything from this disease. I saved up every single month since I was 14 years old just to have all my lifes savings disappear in the blink of an eye due to a slug. NO ONE EVER THINKS THIS WILL HAPPEN TO THEM. I certainly didn't. And I was an educator, a farmer, a community development coordinator and I worked deeply with conservation and environmental nonprofits on the island. I should have known, and I didn't because there is not enough education on the islands about this disease. After I got sick...It took months to find out what was wrong with me...I was sent home 3 times from the hospital (first they thought it was the flu, then second time they gave me antibiotics thinking it was leptosporosis).

It is a hard bill to get passionate about, I get it. I got sick from the disease and it pains me every time I have to beg councilmembers to support these bills. And so I am hoping and praying that you....sitting in this room will hear this final plea. Likely you haven't gone through this disease nor do you know anyone who has contracted this illness, and so it isn't anything more than a story you've heard about.

And right now....you have the power to support this bill and perhaps prevent this disease from becoming something personal. Something that impacts YOUR community. YOUR family. YOUR children.

I've had to leave my home, my community, my work, and my dreams and ambitions because of this illness. It has been the most painful, depressing, and humbling experience of my life. I am having to start my life over from scratch. Learning how to walk and talk and read and pee again.

If this was Ebola or West Nile or some other name perhaps it would get recognition and the support that it deserves. Trust me, I wish it had another name, I cringe each time I hear it. But this is a disgusting disease with a disgusting name and I don't wish it on even my worst enemies. Please don't wait until it becomes an epidemic. Don't wait until it becomes relevant to YOUR life before you take action.

Our state should give the support needed to make sure that there is prevention, education, awareness, diagnostics and information easily available so that no one else has to go through this debilitating illness.

My name is Rebekah (Uccellini) Kuby and I am testifying as an individual, though I worked from 2010-2015 with schools across the islands as the Director of Grow the Change Program and educator with the Maui School Garden Network and program manager at Malama Maui Nui.

My entire life has changed forever because of this disease and I'm urging you to please support the amazing people who are trying to keep our children, communities and animals safe from this fate. It is amazing that there are people committed to this research, detection, diagnostics and education. They are a godsend....and all they need is your support to help this from

becoming an epidemic. Don't risk this happening to you or your loved one before you support it. Trust me, you will want this informed care and support available if ever you or someone you need come down with this illness.

It is essential that adequate funding be allocated for research and education on rat lungworm disease, and I urge you to support this bill.

Sincerely,
Rebekah (Uccellini) Kuby
Grow the Change Program
808-344-7187
PO Box 962
Hana, Hawaii 96822

To:
Representative Sylvia Luke
Chair of the House Finance Committee

Re: SB272

10:56 PM, March 28, 2016

Aloha,

My name is Manabu “Mark” Kimura. I made a documentary film about rat lungworm disease and interviewed several people who have been affected by the disease (available at youtu.be/r88WNCxAjQ8). I am testifying on SB272 relating to rat lungworm disease. I am testifying in support of full funding of SB272. I volunteered to interview rat lungworm survivors and film them because when I was working for the College of Continuing Education at UH Hilo organizing public lectures by faculty members, I was amazed to see how many people showed up at the lecture by Dr. Susan Jarvi, who runs Hawaii Island Rat Lungworm Working Group. I kept track of the turnouts of all lectures for 1.5 years, and no other lecture had a tremendous turnout like that one—the large lecture room was completely full. There were so many people concerned about the disease. Since I was a well-known figure among the community at that time because of my Facebook page called “Lower Puna Infographics by Dr. Mark Kimura,” I offered my help and we decided to document people’s voices. While we were visiting rat lungworm disease survivors/victims, I directly interacted with them got to hear their stories. In fact, I learned there are a lot more to this horrific disease as a social issue than official records by the department of health. Please consider watching the documentary film to hear what they have to say.

In conclusion, I am supporting full funding of SB272 because it is a real and serious social issue throughout the state of Hawaii and it needs to be addressed today. As a Ph.D. in Regional Science (I was a post-doctoral researcher at UH Hilo and taught Economic Geography for a semester), I am also concerned about the future economic impact of the rat lungworm disease on Hawaii’s tourism—we must solve this problem before it becomes common in Oahu.

Sincerely,

Manabu “Mark” Kimura, Ph.D.
94-608 Lumiaina St, S201
Waipahu, HI 96797
808-313-0533
mk77@cornell.edu

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 8:26 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: katc31999@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM*

SB272

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kat Culina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 7:34 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: ariannafeinberg@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM

SB272

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Arianna Feinberg	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this bill as rat lung worm parasite is a terrifying! We need to invest resources to better understand it in order to eradicate it!

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 7:32 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: neil.vonhof@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM*

SB272

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Neil Vonhof	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 7:18 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: audgere@yaho.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM*

SB272

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Audrey Tamashiro-Kamii	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, March 28, 2017 6:38 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: islandsign@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM

SB272

Submitted on: 3/28/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Doug Allan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you for hearing my testimony to the Finance Committee, regarding my support for full funding of SB272 I've lived on Maui 23 years & in the State of Hawaii for 29 years now. I have a good friend suffering many intense symptoms from being infected by the Rat LungWorm parasite. I have watched helplessly as she first reported these intense symptoms to multiple health practitioners as well as her friends, and it was quite some time before she even learned what was attacking her body & even her neurological pathways if I'm quoting correctly here. Between losing hair, being confined to a wheel chair, and intense migraine infused sensitivity to light & sounds, to the degree of self imposed isolation from others as a survival mechanism, I cannot begin to explain how helpless a friend can feel when reading of such horrendous loss of health to someone simply from contamination on poorly washed salad vegetables. Research needs to be conducted to create some new tools for correcting these infections, and perhaps preventing them. Please find SB272 to be deserving of your full support & funding, as you represent all of us who support SB272. Aloha, Doug Allan

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 11:00 AM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: mauiadmin@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM

SB272

Submitted on: 3/29/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joyce Chin	Individual	Support	No

Comments: It is critical for our community to have research conducted on this matter because it involves the health and welfare of all who live and visit Hawaii. Please commit funds to help eradicate this problem, and disseminate information to keep the public safe. Thank you.

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From:
Kathleen Howe
maryk8@hawaii.edu

March 29, 2017

To: Representative Sylvia Luke and the House Finance Committee

Aloha,

My name is Kathleen Howe and I am in support of SB 272 regarding rat lungworm disease. Eight years ago my son contracted rat lungworm disease on Hawaii Island. The disease changed our lives, dashed hopes, dreams, health, and eviscerated us financially. Ours are not the only lives to have changed because of this disease. Rat lungworm disease has had a serious impact on the residents and visitors who have been unfortunate to contract it, has spread fear through communities that have been impacted by it, and adversely affects farmers, grocers, and consumers and thereby impacts Hawaii's efforts to be food secure.

The rat lungworm parasite and the disease it causes is not new, first cases were reported in 1959 and 1960 on Oahu and both cases resulted in the death of the victim. Serious cases requiring hospitalization have been occurring on Hawaii Island for more than ten years. Deaths have also occurred as have cases that have resulted in permanent disability. A study done in 2005 by Robert Hollingsworth, the CDC, and Hawaii DOH determined that >75% of all semi-slugs tested were positive with the rat lungworm parasite and this slug carried much higher parasite burdens than other species. The study also found that 54% of rats tested had adult rat lungworms, and 100% of lung tissue samples taken from all the rats were positive for the parasite by qPCR, indicating all rats had been infected at some time. One astute person from CDC remarked that the increase in cases was most likely due to overexposure of highly infected organisms and that control efforts could be warranted. Unfortunately, no control efforts were initiated and so the infection has spread unabated.

Studies done at UH Manoa and UH Hilo in 2012-2013 show the semi-slug still continues to be an important carrier of the rat lungworm parasite with an approximate infection rate of 65%. A rat study conducted in early 2017 by the Hawaii Island Rat Lungworm Working Group at UHH, in collaboration with USDA-APHIS and with support by HDOA vector control, showed an infection rate of ~94% in wild-trapped rats from the Hilo area. The spread of high rates of infection are most certainly related to the increase in serious cases of rat lungworm disease in Hawaii. In 2010 there were four hospital discharges related to rat lungworm disease. In 2016 this rate rose to 22 hospital discharges. Because of the difficulty of diagnosis of this disease we know we are only catching the tip of the iceberg of cases. As of this past week the semi-slug is now known to be on Maui and may well be responsible for the increase in cases happening there. Recently two tourists came to Hawaii to get married and they got rat lungworm disease as well. This is unacceptable.

For too long this serious disease and the vectors that carry the parasite have been ignored. Funds have been found for other invasive species that cause problems for residents and visitors and funds must be found for this problem before it ruins more lives. Besides humans, farm animals, pets, and zoo animals are at risk. There are a number of research projects, vector control initiatives, and education outreach efforts that need to be conducted immediately to solve this serious issue for Hawaii. Full funding of SB 272 will be a very good start in the right direction for the State of Hawaii. Please support full funding of SB 272 to UHH for research and education for rat lungworm disease. Mahalo for you time and attention to this matter.

Kathleen Howe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 12:32 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: wdatario@hawaii.edu
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM*

SB272

Submitted on: 3/29/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wilson Datario	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 12:19 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: steven_jacquier@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM

SB272

Submitted on: 3/29/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Jacquier	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Passage of bills similar to SB 272 has failed in years past and with each iteration the public is becoming increasingly disgruntled with the legislature. The ideal intermediate host for the disease (and likely reason morbidity & mortality have recently J-curved upward on Hawaii island, *Parmarion martensi*) has now been documented on Maui. Expect a spike in disease to follow soon on Maui. How long will the legislature wait on this issue? Rat lungworm disease cannot be ignored to death. Continued neglect of funding will negatively impact not only resident health and Hawaii food self-reliance goals, but the visitor industry as well. Let's get ahead of this problem instead of lagging behind it. Please support SB 272. Mahalo, Steven Jacquier.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 12:12 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: gordines@kauaiflowers.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM*

SB272

Submitted on: 3/29/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
John R. Gordines	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 12:44 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: doran_vaughan@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM

SB272

Submitted on: 3/29/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Doran Vaughan	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please vote in support of SB272 which provides funding to UHH for clinical research regarding Rat Lung Worm Disease. This research is crucial to identifying rapid diagnosis and treatment as well as prevention through public education to citizens of Hawaii and visitors to the islands. Rat Lung Worm Disease has been a significant and growing health concern causing permanent medical problems and even death for a number of years. Without this research and public education, a major health crisis in Hawaii is imminent and could spread to all the islands in just a few short years. Please support funding for this research and protect your family, friends, and yourself from this horrendous debilitating disease.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 12:43 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: lynhowe1946@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM

SB272

Submitted on: 3/29/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lyn Howe	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This serious disease and its carriers is now spreading to all the islands, it is a debilitating disease and I know many people who have had it, to a greater or lesser degree of severity, and it has affected, and continues to affect their lives in serious and often permanent ways. We need much more research, we need continued education also. It is interesting how many newcomers to the island I talk to and warn them about this and they have never heard of it. We can no longer afford to ignore how serious and debilitating an issue this is. Please support this bill. Mahalo, Lyn Howe, Geoff Rauch, Beach Road Farm

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My name is Arthur Dodge, and I support the intent of SB 272 SD2 HD1 to fund programs, studies and activities to prevent and eradicate rat lungworm disease. I view the proposal as a positive solution to address a critical health issue in the state. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on SB 272 SD2 HD1. Aloha.

FIN-Jo

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 2:07 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: una@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM

SB272

Submitted on: 3/29/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Una Greenaway	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please fully fund this bill for research on Rat Lung worm disease. Too many people have been affected by this terrible disease.

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, March 29, 2017 3:06 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: senglish09@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM

SB272

Submitted on: 3/29/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan English	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please fund research into rat-lung disease.

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LATE

The House of Representatives
Committee on Finance
March 30, 2017
3:00 p.m., Conference Room 308
State Capitol

Testimony in support of SB 272 SD2 HD1

Aloha Chair Luke, Vice Chair Cullen, and Committee Members,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) is **in support of SB 272 SD2 HD1**, *Relating to Rat Lungworm Disease*, which appropriates funds for the University of Hawai‘i at Hilo to conduct research and outreach on rat lungworm disease and its vectors.

Rat lungworm is serious health threat to people, and yet it has received remarkably little attention. The University of Hawai‘i at Hilo, and particularly Dr. Susan Jarvi, has stepped up to assist the Hawai‘i Department of Health in this issue, to identify needs and conduct research, and to raise public awareness. We support this bill that would provide funds to aid in this work.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Christy Martin, CGAPS

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, March 30, 2017 1:16 PM
To: FINTestimony
Cc: Dwamoto@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB272 on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM

SB272

Submitted on: 3/30/2017

Testimony for FIN on Mar 30, 2017 15:00PM in Conference Room 308

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dwamoto	Individual	Support	No

Comments: This is an incredibly important health issue in Hawaii that is likely to get worse. As a PHD in botany and a gardener as a hobby, I am extremely concerned about Rat lung worm. Please pass this bill and support research on this issue.

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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