



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

WRITTEN
TESTIMONY ONLY

**Testimony COMMENTING on H.B. 940
RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO**

REPRESENTATIVE ANDREW TAKUYA GARRETT, CHAIR
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON HIGHER EDUCATION

Hearing Date, Time and Room Number: January 31, 2025, 2:15 p.m., Conference Room 309

1 **Fiscal Implications:** Undetermined.

2 **Department Position:** The Department of Health offers comments.

3 **Department Testimony:** The Disease Outbreak Control Division (DOCD) provides the following
4 testimony on behalf of the Department.

5 Between 2014 and 2023, Hawaii reported 92 cases of Rat lungworm disease (RLWD), with the
6 majority of cases occurring on the Big Island (71 cases, 77%). RLWD is a disease that causes
7 substantial impairment to quality of life, is difficult to diagnose, and for which we are still
8 lacking strong evidence to guide treatment recommendations. There is critical need for ongoing
9 research into RLWD, and we are supportive of measures that promote and advance high quality
10 research to improve diagnosis, treatment, and/or prevention of RLWD.

11 **Offered Amendments:** None.

12 Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Higher Education
Friday, January 31, 2025 at 2:15 p.m.

By

Bonnie Irwin, Chancellor

and

Rae Matsumoto, Dean

Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy

University of Hawai'i at Hilo

HB 940 – RELATING TO THE UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII AT HILO

Chair Garrett, Vice Chair Amato, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on HB 940. The University of Hawai'i at Hilo (UH Hilo) supports HB 940, which appropriates funds for the rat lungworm lab, also known as the Jarvi lab, at the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP) at UH Hilo.

The DKICP and UH Hilo appreciates and acknowledges the ongoing support from the legislature for this work, which promotes the health and welfare of people in our state. We wish to confirm that the facilities and personnel for this work continue to be operational and dedicated to rat lungworm research and community outreach.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of HB 940.

HB-940

Submitted on: 1/29/2025 10:47:00 AM

Testimony for HED on 1/31/2025 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ronald Taniguchi, Pharm.D., MBA	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In full support of HB940. Mahalo.