Testimony Presented Before the 
House Committee on Agriculture 
And 
House Committee on Health and Human Services 
Tuesday, February 13, 2018 at 9:00 a.m. 
By 
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HB 1688 HD1 – RELATING TO AGRICULTURE

Chairs Creagan and Mizuno, Vice Chairs DeCoite and Kobayashi, and members of the House Committee on Agriculture and Committee on Health and Human Services:

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1688 HD1 which appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for surveying, testing, and treating rat lungworm disease in dogs, cats, horses, freshwater fish and invertebrates. The bill also appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for researching, developing, and supporting aquaponics in the State.

CTAHR understands that rat lung worm disease is an emerging disease in Hawai‘i and that there is not sufficient information available on the prevalence of this disease. The apparent increase in this disease among dogs, cats and horses, as described in the bill is both a monetary and social issue given the value that these animals have to the citizens of Hawai‘i. CTAHR has the capability to address the issue in collaboration with the department of agriculture given sufficient funds to do so.

We feel that aquaponics is another version of agriculture that will need to grow in Hawai‘i due to its high protein level and the isolation of the state. It may also be a beneficial service to the tourism industry.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify in support of HB 1688 HD1, provided it adds to, and does not affect, the UH budget.