



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Health and Human Services  
Wednesday, March 21, 2018 at 8:30 a.m.

By

Jerris Hedges, MD  
Professor & Dean

John A. Burns School of Medicine

And

Michael Bruno, PhD  
Interim Vice Chancellor for Academic Affairs  
Vice Chancellor for Research  
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HCR 226/HR 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

Chair Mizuno, Vice Chair Kobayashi, and members of the committee:

HCR 226/HR 196 requests that the Department of Health provide a report of all confirmed and suspected cases of rat lungworm disease that originated in Hawaii and share information regarding diagnosis and effective treatment of the disease with other states. The resolutions further request that a registry using de-identified data of all rat lungworm cases be established in consultation with the John A. Burns School of Medicine (JABSOM). JABSOM supports HCR 226 and HR 196.

The Department of Tropical Medicine, Medical Microbiology and Pharmacology within JABSOM has the scientific and clinical expertise and resources to provide support for this resolution.

- 1) Four members of the Department are part of the Governor's Task Force on Rat Lungworm Disease.
  - a. Kenton Kramer, PhD is a parasitologist and epidemiologist. He is the current Chair of the Governor's Task Force, and has expertise in serological surveys to determine the prevalence of parasitic infections and procedures needed to diagnose parasitic infections. Along with Dr. Gosnell he teaches clinical parasitology to undergraduate, graduate and medical students.
  - b. William Gosnell, PhD is a parasitologist and immunologist. He has expertise in designing and evaluating serological tests for infectious diseases.

- c. F. DeWolfe Miller, PhD is a parasitologist and epidemiologist with expertise in designing and conducting national and international epidemiological prevention and control studies, which includes data base design and data analysis.
  - d. Vernon Ansdell, MD. is a retired physician certified in treating tropical diseases. He is currently the Chair of the Clinical Management Sub-Committee of the Governor's Task Force. This sub-committee is currently working on developing clinical guidelines for the diagnosis and treatment of angiostrongyliasis.
- 2) JABSOM's quantitative health sciences group, headed by Dr. John Chen, has the technical and analytic expertise and experience to advise the Department of Tropical Medicine on the proper development of a de-identified patient registry and the appropriate analysis of the long-term patient follow up data.

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