



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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

By  
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DEAN  
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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:

My name is Carolyn Ma, and I am the Dean for the UH Hilo Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy (DKICP). As designated lead for UH Hilo and on behalf of Interim Chancellor Marcia Sakai, the University of Hawai'i at Hilo fully supports this resolution.

UH Hilo's DKICP has both a basic science researcher and a pharmacy practice (pharmacist) faculty on the RLW Working Group.

An infectious disease pharmacy specialist, Assistant Professor Dr. Louis Lteif is a member of the clinical management subcommittee of the governor-appointed RLW work group. Dr. Lteif has been working with Dr. John Martell in performing a retrospective chart review to better understand the treatment scheme and outcomes of the 70+ cases of RLW that have occurred in Hawai'i. This investigation effort will help to develop medical treatment guidelines that define risk factors, better describe signs and symptoms, and effective treatments and monitoring of both treatment and disease. In addition, follow up for long term effects could occur. Only with mandatory reporting of all new, recurrent or suspected cases, can this committee continue with creating and updating best practice treatment guidelines.

In addition, since other states have reported cases of RLW and that some cases have involved short term visitors who return to the continental US, it would be prudent to share reports to all interested states.

Continued reporting will also help our basic science researcher, Dr. Jarvi, to continue to study on effectiveness of control via water filter intervention, bioassay development, effectiveness of any vegetable washes, rate infection control or intervention and study on possible alternative diagnostic tools.

Also, continued DOH reporting will alert us to any increase in incidence to domesticated animals and/or farm livestock.

The college welcomes collaboration of their medical school and physician colleagues, especially as they may provide long-term medical follow up of affected patients. The college also finds it essential to continue a partnership with the DOH for community education efforts and believes the DOH has the ability and manpower for farther-reaching connection of our residents and to their continental US counterpart departments.

The college suggests a minor change in language. On page 2, line 22, the current sentence "Dean of the University of Hawaii at Hilo" to "Dean of *the Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy*, University of Hawaii at Hilo".

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HCR 226 / HR 196.