



Rat Lungworm Disease Action Plan Summary FY 2017-2018

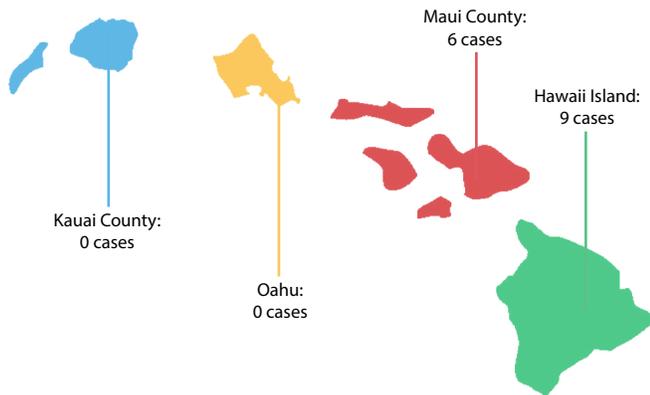
Rat lungworm disease, or angiostrongyliasis, is caused by a parasitic roundworm called *Angiostrongylus cantonensis* (A. cantonensis), which can be found in rats, slugs, and snails.

People can be infected under unusual circumstances, and most people recover fully without treatment. While the disease is rare, it can be very serious for some people and cause neurological problems, such as pain and severe disability.

Department of Health Key Prevention Messages:

- Practice safe eating habits by inspecting, washing, and storing raw produce thoroughly regardless of where it came from, and/or cooking it properly to kill any parasites.
- Eliminate snails, slugs and rats – all of which are potential vectors for the disease – both around residential home gardens and agricultural operations of all scales.
- Prevent the consumption of snails and slugs by covering all containers, from water catchment tanks to drink and food dishes.

Laboratory-Confirmed Case Counts of Rat Lungworm Disease in 2017 by County



Public Education & Communications Initiatives:

Media: Hawaii Association of Broadcasters Partnership

- 3 television commercial spots
- 3 radio commercial spots
- Broadcast statewide on 40 radio and seven television stations

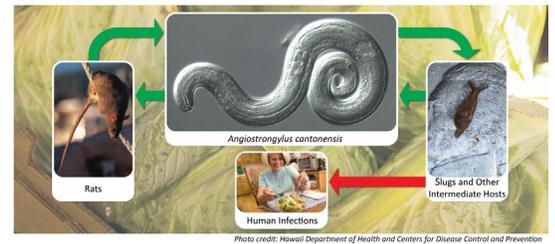
Education: Material & Content Development

- Series of print materials to streamline public education efforts.
- Base includes rack card (complete), door hanger, brochure, and flyer.

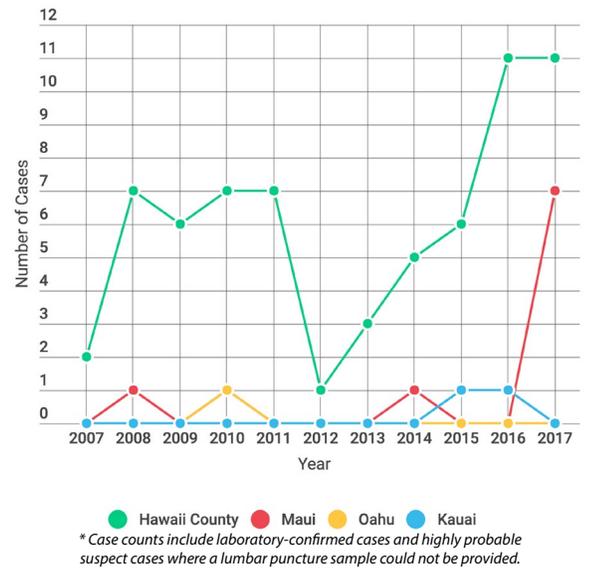
Research: Focus Groups

- Evaluate efficacy of 2017 campaign
- Identify gaps in current messaging strategy
- Message testing for 2018-19 campaign

Staff addition: Risk Communications Coordinator



Rat Lungworm Disease Case Counts per Year by County: 2007-2017*



Epidemiology & Vector Control Initiatives:

- Conduct a concurrent rat and slug/snail sample survey guided by human disease data.
- First of its kind study to be done in Hawaii around rats, slugs, and snails as hosts and vectors for disease to inform future comprehensive rodent surveillance.
- DOH will collaborate with the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), Hawaii Department of Agriculture, and the University of Hawaii at Manoa.
- Staff addition: Rat Lungworm Disease Project Coordinator (Vector Control)

Department of Health Rat Lungworm Disease Prevention Budget: FY2017-2018

