

Did You Know?

Food Safety & Rat Lungworm Disease



RLWD is a serious health issue, but by working together and being informed, we can help reduce the risk of RLWD – because food safety is everyone's business.

"...the local food industry has done a terrific job of obviously preventing anyone from getting rat lungworm from one of our regulated establishments. To date we still have not linked any of these cases back to our regulated food supply and that's really, really important for people to know."

- Peter Oshiro, Food Sanitation Branch
Hawaii Department of Health

Restaurants across the islands are regulated and inspected by the Hawaii State Department of Health. By law, **food establishments must follow strict food safety protocols.**

Some of the laws governing food safety include:

- Good sanitation practices by employees
- Storing and preparing foods at proper temperatures
- Ensuring sanitary conditions for cleaning, preparing and storing food and equipment
- Buying foods only from approved sources

How do you know if a restaurant is in compliance with state food safety laws? Look for a colored placard which must be posted at each restaurant – a green placard is the best rating.

RLWD is a concern for home gardeners, farmers, chefs, store managers – anyone who produces, supplies and prepares food, whether you grew it yourself in your garden, or bought it from a farm or market.

ALL OF US have a vested interest in following good food safety practices when we grow, prepare and enjoy our meals.

THE POWER OF KNOW!

Great info for consumers from the Hawaii Department of Health

<http://bit.ly/2pmfZhk>



"Managing pests like rodents and slugs are a crucial part of the farmers' operations – so they can avoid crop damage and grow healthy, nutritious products for their customers."

*"As a former farmer myself, I know first-hand **how hard farmers work to care for their crops and protect them from pest damage.**"*

- Warren Watanabe
Executive Director
Maui County Farm Bureau

"Fresh fruits and vegetables are part of a healthy diet and the Department of Health will continue to encourage people to eat fresh produce that is appropriately inspected, stored and washed."

- Janice Okubo
Hawaii Department of Health

"The importance of eating fresh, and preferably locally grown greens is supported by health professionals and the greater Hawaii community."

- The Daniel K. Inouye College of Pharmacy, University of Hawaii at Hilo

