

Honolulu, Hawaii

FEB 15, 2024

RE: H.B. No. 2127
H.D. 1

Honorable Scott K. Saiki
Speaker, House of Representatives
Thirty-Second State Legislature
Regular Session of 2024
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems, to which was referred H.B. No. 2127 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MEAT PROCESSING,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to require and appropriate funds for the Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with other state agencies, to develop and implement a plan to expand the meat processing capacity in the State to allow for meat from axis deer and other wild game to be processed for distribution by non-profit food distribution services.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure from the Department of Agriculture; Hawaii Cattlemen's Council; Hawai'i Farm Bureau; Hawai'i Food+ Policy; Maui Chamber of Commerce; and one individual.

Your Committee finds that axis deer, an invasive species that poses a continuing threat to Hawaii's environment, could provide significant quantities of meat as a protein source for non-profit food distribution services in the State. However, there is a gap between the hunters and these non-profit services because of the State's limited meat processing capacity. This measure would develop and implement a plan to expand the State's meat processing capacity to allow for the potential use of wild game meat by non-



profit food distribution services, strengthening Hawaii's food sufficiency.

Your Committee has amended this measure by changing its effective date to July 1, 3000, to encourage further discussion.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2127, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 2127, H.D. 1, and be referred to your Committee on Finance.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Agriculture & Food
Systems,



CEDRIC ASUEGA GATES, Chair



