

JAN 19 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEAT PROCESSING.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a need for
2 increased meat processing capacity in the State, as smaller
3 ranchers and hunters compete for limited capacity, resulting in
4 the loss of potential use of wild game meat.

5 The legislature further finds that axis deer, an invasive
6 species that poses a continuing threat to Hawaii's environment,
7 could provide significant quantities of meat as a protein source
8 for non-profit food distribution services, such as Feed My Sheep
9 and the Hawaii Foodbank. However, there is a gap between the
10 hunters and these non-profit services because the meat needs to
11 be processed prior to distribution. Other states have developed
12 processes for this purpose, including licensing fees and other
13 funding managed by wildlife agencies or non-profits.

14 The purpose of this Act is to:

15 (1) Require the development and implementation of a plan
16 to expand the meat processing capacity in the State to
17 allow for meat from axis deer and other wild game to



1 be processed for distribution by non-profit food
2 distribution services; and

3 (2) Appropriate funds.

4 SECTION 2. The department of agriculture, in collaboration
5 with the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness; department
6 of land and natural resources, division of forestry and
7 wildlife; and department of health, food safety branch, shall
8 develop and implement a plan to expand the meat processing
9 capacity in the State to allow for meat from axis deer and other
10 wild game to be processed for distribution by non-profit food
11 distribution services by July 1, 2025.

12 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
14 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for
15 the implementation of a plan to expand the meat processing
16 capacity in the State pursuant to this Act.

17 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
18 agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 4. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
20 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
21 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the

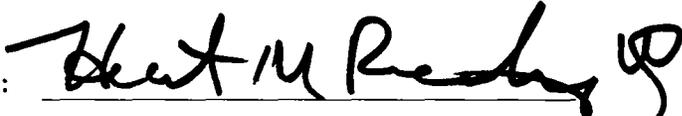


1 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state
2 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be
3 exceeded by \$ or per cent. In addition, the
4 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund
5 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further
6 exceeded by \$ or per cent. The combined total
7 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these
8 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling
9 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by
10 \$ or per cent. The reasons for exceeding the
11 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

- 12 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
13 serve the public interest; and
14 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
15 addressed by this Act.

16 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Kent M. Reedberg* 



S.B. NO. 2795

Report Title:

Meat Processing Capacity; Expansion; Food Distribution Services;
Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

Description:

Requires 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 by 7/1/2025. Appropriates funds.

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