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## HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

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REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO WORK WITH THE  
FEDERAL GOVERNMENT TO DEVELOP A CERTIFICATION PROCESS FOR  
HUNTERS TO BECOME CERTIFIED INSPECTORS IN ORDER TO INSPECT  
THEIR OWN GAME FOR SALE.

1 WHEREAS, in 1867, India gifted eight axis deer to King  
2 Kamehameha V, who then introduced the population to Molokai; and  
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4 WHEREAS, with no natural predators and an ample food  
5 supply, the non-native species has thrived over the past fifteen  
6 decades; and  
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8 WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are forty thousand to  
9 sixty thousand axis deer on Molokai and thirty thousand to fifty  
10 thousand on Maui; and  
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12 WHEREAS, as an invasive species, axis deer are  
13 environmentally destructive and cause millions of dollars worth  
14 of damage each year; and  
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16 WHEREAS, axis deer threaten native forests in natural  
17 areas, damage agricultural crops and native and ornamental  
18 vegetation through browse and bark stripping, cause erosion, and  
19 are often the cause of traffic accidents; and  
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21 WHEREAS, to address the negative impacts of the axis deer,  
22 many individuals began hunting axis deer, which has since become  
23 a significant part of hunting culture on Maui; and  
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25 WHEREAS, despite many individuals legally hunting axis  
26 deer, selling the meat has proven to be time-consuming; and  
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28 WHEREAS, in order to sell axis deer meat, the meat must  
29 first be inspected by a United States Department of Agriculture



1 Food Safety Inspection Service inspector; however, there are  
2 only twenty Food Safety Inspection Service employees in the  
3 State; and  
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5 WHEREAS, the State previously had its own meat inspection  
6 program, but it was discontinued in the mid-1990s due to cuts in  
7 budget and staffing, and since then, the federal Food Safety  
8 Inspection Service assumed full responsibility for these  
9 obligations in the State; and  
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11 WHEREAS, due to the overpopulation of the axis deer, it is  
12 no longer realistic to wait for a Food Safety Inspection Service  
13 inspector to travel from island to island; and  
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15 WHEREAS, providing hunters the opportunity to become  
16 certified inspectors will expedite the inspection process,  
17 thereby ensuring the quality and safety of the meat, while also  
18 addressing the overpopulation of axis deer in the State; now,  
19 therefore,  
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21 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
22 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
23 of 2022, the Senate concurring, that the Department of  
24 Agriculture, in consultation with the United States Department  
25 of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service, is requested  
26 to work with the federal government to develop a certification  
27 process for hunters to become certified inspectors in order to  
28 inspect their own game for sale; and  
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30 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
31 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Administrator of the  
32 Food Safety and Inspection Service of the United States  
33 Department of Agriculture and Chairperson of the Board of  
34 Agriculture.  
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