

---

# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES.

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

1       SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the overpopulation  
2 of axis deer poses a significant threat to the ecological  
3 security and the health of local communities on several islands,  
4 especially in Maui county. Axis deer overpopulation and drought  
5 conditions on Maui, Molokai, and Lanai have led to large numbers  
6 of widespread axis deer, which in turn has created a nuisance  
7 and threat to the local community.

8       The purpose of this Act is to:

9       (1) Require the department of land and natural resources'  
10       division of forestry and wildlife to adopt rules and  
11       issue funds to licensed hunters at a per unit rate;

12       (2) Appropriate funds for the department of land and  
13       natural resources' division of forestry and wildlife;  
14       and

15       (3) Establish three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE)  
16       technician positions who are supplied with the  
17       necessary equipment,



1 to assist with feral axis deer herd population management on the  
2 islands of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai.

3 SECTION 2. (a) The department of land and natural  
4 resources' division of forestry and wildlife shall adopt rules  
5 pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for feral axis  
6 deer herd management. The rules shall:

7 (1) Establish the lands on which licensed hunters may  
8 operate for the hunting of feral axis deer in  
9 cooperation with private land owners;

10 (2) Provide that only female feral axis deer may be  
11 hunted;

12 (3) Require the entire carcass of a feral axis deer to be  
13 submitted to the division by licensed hunters;

14 (4) Establish the per unit rate to be claimed by a hunter  
15 for submission of a feral axis deer;

16 (5) Establish bag limits for hunters to claim per unit  
17 rates;

18 (6) Establish time periods in which licensed hunters of  
19 feral axis deer may operate; and

20 (7) Establish any other parameters the division may deem  
21 necessary to carry out this section.



1 (b) The department of land and natural resources' division  
2 of forestry and wildlife shall issue funds to licensed hunters  
3 at a per unit rate as determined by the division pursuant to  
4 subsection (a).

5 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2022-2023 for  
8 the following:

9 (1) The division of forestry and wildlife to assist with  
10 feral axis deer herd population management on the  
11 islands of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai;

12 (2) The purchase of an Infrared Unit B2-FO for the purpose  
13 of game management and collecting and tracking  
14 accurate herd counts;

15 (3) Three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) technician  
16 positions within the Maui branch of the division of  
17 forestry and wildlife (one for Maui, one for Molokai,  
18 and one for Lanai) to assist in managing new and  
19 existing hunting areas, assist with injured deer,  
20 distribute traps to control nuisance deer, and work



1 with ranchers to establish hunting programs or control  
2 work on ranchlands; and

3 (4) The purchase of three vehicles, three deer traps,  
4 three trailers, ten satellite deer collars for  
5 tracking, and other equipment and helicopter rental  
6 fees required by the technicians to carry out their  
7 duties.

8 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of  
9 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.

10 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

DLNR; Maui County; Axis Deer Herd Population Management; Rules;  
Positions; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the department of land and natural resources' division of forestry and wildlife to adopt rules and issue funds to licensed hunters at a per unit rate for feral axis deer herd management. Appropriates funds to and establishes three full-time equivalent technician positions for the department of land and natural resources to manage axis deer populations in Maui county. Effective 7/1/2050. (HD2)

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

