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# 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 widespread  
6 numbers of axis deer, which in turn has created a nuisance and  
7 threat to the local community.

8       The legislature further finds that better integration of  
9 state management efforts and local hunting practices would allow  
10 for a more effective response to axis deer overpopulation.

11       The purpose of this Act is to establish a pilot program for  
12 the department of land and natural resources division of  
13 forestry and wildlife to issue moneys to licensed hunters for  
14 feral axis deer herd population management.

15       SECTION 2. The department of land and natural resources  
16 division of forestry and wildlife shall conduct a pilot program



1 for feral axis deer herd management on the islands of Maui,  
2 Molokai, and Lanai pursuant to the following:

3 (1) The division of forestry and wildlife shall issue  
4 moneys to licensed hunters at a per unit rate to be  
5 determined by the division;

6 (2) The division of forestry and wildlife shall adopt  
7 rules pursuant to chapter 91 regarding:

8 (A) Lands on which hunters may operate in cooperation  
9 with private land owners;

10 (B) Gender, size, and condition of the axis deer that  
11 may be targeted;

12 (C) Bag limits for hunters to claim per unit rates;

13 (D) Time periods in which hunters may operate; and

14 (E) Any other parameters as necessary; and

15 (3) The division of forestry and wildlife shall consult  
16 with the department of agriculture on the development  
17 and management of the pilot program.

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



- 1           (1) The division of forestry and wildlife to establish a  
2           feral axis deer herd population management pilot  
3           program on the islands of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai;
- 4           (2) The purchase of an Infrared Unit B2-FO for the purpose  
5           of game management and collecting and tracking  
6           accurate herd counts;
- 7           (3) Three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) technician  
8           positions within the Maui branch of the division of  
9           forestry and wildlife (one for Maui, one for Lanai,  
10          and one for Molokai) to assist in managing new and  
11          existing hunting areas, assist with injured deer,  
12          distribute traps to control nuisance deer, and work  
13          with ranchers to establish hunting programs or control  
14          work on ranchlands; and
- 15          (4) The purchase of three vehicles, three deer traps,  
16          three trailers, ten satellite deer collars for  
17          tracking, and other equipment and helicopter rental  
18          fees required by the technicians to carry out their  
19          duties.

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



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



**Report Title:**

DLNR; Maui County; Herd Populations; Pilot Program;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Directs the Department of Land and Natural Resources to establish a feral herd management pilot program under the Division of Forestry and Wildlife to manage axis deer populations in Maui County. Appropriates moneys. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD2)

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