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# 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-profit  
14 organizations.

15           The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
16 agriculture, in collaboration with other state agencies, to  
17 develop and implement a plan to expand the State's meat



1 processing capacity to allow for meat from axis deer and other  
2 wild game to be distributed by non-profit food distribution  
3 services.

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 by July 1, 2025, to expand the meat  
9 processing capacity in the State to allow for meat from axis  
10 deer and other wild game to be processed for distribution by  
11 non-profit food distribution services.

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 2023-2024 and  
15 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
16 year 2024-2025 for the implementation of a plan to expand the  
17 meat processing capacity in the State pursuant to this Act.

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

20 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.



# H.B. NO. 606 H.D. 1

**Report Title:**

Meat Processing Capacity; Expansion; Food Distribution Services; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the department of agriculture, in collaboration with other state agencies, to develop and implement a plan by 7/1/2025 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. Appropriates funds. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

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

