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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEAT DONATION.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a need for  
2 an increased protein donation capacity to feed local under-  
3 resourced populations. Existing law specifically prohibits the  
4 inclusion of meat as a donation; however, wild game can be a  
5 significant source of protein. The inclusion of wild game as a  
6 donation-eligible food resource creates a beneficial outlet for  
7 food-safe meat harvested from invasive species.

8           The legislature also finds that Wisconsin, Michigan, and  
9 Utah offer meat donation programs that can serve as models that  
10 Hawaii can assess to develop tools for long-term, sustainable,  
11 management programs for invasive species. For example, Utah  
12 amended its Good Samaritan law to enable the harvest of white  
13 tail deer meat for donation to charities and provided an  
14 exception to antemortem inspection if certain requirements and  
15 conditions are met.

16           Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to amend the  
17 conditions for donations to allow provision of this important



1 protein source to under-resourced communities, including the  
2 homeless.

3 SECTION 2. Section 145D-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
4 amended by amending subsections (d) and (e) to read as follows:

5 "(d) The exceptions to liability specified in subsection  
6 (a) shall include:

7 (1) The donation of perishable or nonperishable food that  
8 has exceeded the labeled shelf life date recommended  
9 by the manufacturer; ~~and~~

10 (2) The donation of farm produce; provided that the good-  
11 faith donor or distributor reasonably believes that  
12 the food is fit for human consumption~~[-];~~ and

13 (3) The donation of livestock or wild game meat; provided  
14 that the good-faith donor harvested the meat in a  
15 food-safe manner and processed the meat in accordance  
16 with section 159-25 and the distributor reasonably  
17 believes that the food is fit for human consumption.

18 (e) For the purposes of this section:

19 "Donor" means any individual, food vendor, food  
20 manufacturer, food distributor, grocery or convenience store,  
21 charitable or nonprofit organization, butcher, meat processor,



1 or government agency that donates food to needy persons where  
2 the food in question has been prepared and packaged in a  
3 facility meeting all relevant food safety guidelines,  
4 certifications, and requirements and has passed all food safety  
5 inspections.

6 "Farm produce" means all agricultural, horticultural, and  
7 vegetable produce of the soil, but does not include poultry,  
8 poultry products, livestock and livestock products, aquaculture  
9 and aquaculture products, and timber or timber products."

10 SECTION 3. (a) There is established a meat processing  
11 task force to develop and implement a plan to expand the meat  
12 processing capacity in the State to allow for meat from axis  
13 deer and other wild game to be processed for distribution by  
14 nonprofit food distribution services. The meat processing task  
15 force shall be composed of the following members:

- 16 (1) The chairperson of the board of agriculture, or the  
17 chairperson's designee;
- 18 (2) One member from the department of health, selected by  
19 the director of health;



- 1 (3) One member from the department of business, economic  
2 development, and tourism, selected by the director of  
3 business, economic development, and tourism;
- 4 (4) The administrator of the division of forestry and  
5 wildlife of the department of land and natural  
6 resources, or the administrator's designee;
- 7 (5) The chairperson of the board of land and natural  
8 resources, or the chairperson's designee;
- 9 (6) One member from the United States Environmental  
10 Protection Agency who shall be invited by the  
11 chairperson of the task force;
- 12 (7) Four members, one each to be appointed by the  
13 respective mayors of the city and county of Honolulu,  
14 and the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui; and
- 15 (8) Four members to be jointly selected and invited to  
16 participate by the president of the senate and the  
17 speaker of the house of representatives, two of whom  
18 shall be selected from an environmental nonprofit  
19 organization, and two of whom shall be selected from  
20 an agricultural or ranching association.



1 (b) The members of the task force shall choose a  
2 chairperson from among themselves.

3 (c) Task force members may recommend members with  
4 appropriate specialized expertise to be added to the task force,  
5 subject to the approval of the chairperson of the task force.

6 (d) The task force shall create a master plan to expand  
7 the meat processing capacity in the State to allow for meat from  
8 axis deer and other wild game to be processed for distribution  
9 by nonprofit food distribution services.

10 (e) The task force shall submit a report of its findings  
11 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the  
12 legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of  
13 the regular session of 2024.

14 SECTION 4. There is appropriated out of the general  
15 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
16 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and  
17 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
18 year 2024-2025 for the meat processing task force to develop and  
19 implement a masterplan to expand meat processing capacity in the  
20 State to allow for wild game to be distributed by nonprofit food  
21 distribution services.



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

3           SECTION 5. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
4 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

5           SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.

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**Report Title:**

Department of Agriculture; Meat Processing Capacity; Expansion;  
Food Distribution Services; Task Force; Appropriation

**Description:**

Provides for donation of wild game to under-resourced  
communities. Establishes a task force for development and  
implementation to expand meat processing capacity in the State.  
Appropriates funds. Effective 6/30/3000. (HD1)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

