
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-profits.

14 The purpose of this Act is to develop and appropriate funds
15 for the expansion of the State's meat processing capacity to
16 allow for meat from axis deer and other wild game to be
17 distributed by non-profit food distribution services.



1 SECTION 2. The department of agriculture, in collaboration
2 with the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness; department
3 of land and natural resources, division of forestry and
4 wildlife; and department of health, food safety branch, shall
5 develop and implement a plan to expand the meat processing
6 capacity in the State to allow for meat from axis deer and other
7 wild game to be processed for distribution by non-profit food
8 distribution services by July 1, 2024.

9 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
10 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
11 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and
12 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal
13 year 2024-2025 for the implementation of a plan to expand the
14 meat processing capacity in the State pursuant to this Act.

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

17 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

18

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 20 2023



H.B. NO. ~~606~~

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 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 by 7/1/2024. Appropriates funds.

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