

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**MORRIS M. ATTA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI  
1428 South King Street  
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Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS**

**FEBRUARY 3, 2023  
9:00 AM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 325**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1382  
RELATING TO MEAT DONATION**

Chairpersons Gates and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1382. The bill amends Section 145D-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes to add the donation of livestock or wild game meat; provided that the good-faith donor harvested the meat in a food safe manner, processed the meat in accordance with section 159-25 and the distributor reasonably believes that the food is fit for human consumption, as an exception from liability. The measure also appropriates funds.

The Department supports this measure and provides comments. The definition of "donor" in 145D-2, HRS includes that the food in question has been prepared and packaged in a facility meeting all relevant food safety guidelines, certifications, and requirements and has passed all food safety inspections. Therefore, inspection of the food is still needed. If the intent is to provide state inspection, the state currently does not have meat inspection capabilities and it will take time to restart that program.

The Department supports this measure, provided it does not impact the



HB 1382  
February 3, 2023  
Page 2

Department's priorities identified in the Executive Budget request. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**JAMES J. NAKATANI**  
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII  
**AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

235 S. Beretania Street, Suite 205  
Honolulu, HI 96813  
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR  
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE

Friday, February 03, 2023

9:00 a.m.

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

Conference Room 325

HOUSE BILL NO. 1382  
RELATING TO MEAT DONATIONS

Chairperson Gates and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1382. The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) supports this measure, which 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 and appropriates funds.

The ADC supports the intent of the legislature to establish long-term, sustainable, management programs for invasive species, such as wild pigs and axis deer to feed our local under-resourced communities. The establishment of a task force will help identify and address the numerous hurdles to make the inclusion of wild game as a donation-eligible food resource creates a beneficial outlet for food-safe meat harvested from invasive species a reality.

We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee



Director of Council Services  
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.


Councilmembers  
Tom Cook  
Gabe Johnson  
Tasha Kama  
Tamara Paltin  
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez  
Shane M. Sinenci  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura  
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins

Deputy Director of Council Services  
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

February 2, 2023

TO: The Honorable Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair and  
Members of the House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

FROM: Alice L. Lee  
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 3, 2023; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF  
HB 1382, RELATING TO MEAT DONATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to include wild game as a donation-eligible food resource.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Areas of Maui County are devastated by overpopulation of Axis deer and other invasive species, resulting in nuisance and environmental degradation, including deforestation and erosion.
2. One way to reduce the overpopulation is to encourage use of wild game as a food resource, which would also contribute to high-protein food supply for residents, including lower income families and houseless individuals.
3. The measure will help turn an environmental problem into a valuable resource and a source of much-needed sustenance.

For the foregoing reasons, I **support** this measure.



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e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 3, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1382**  
RELATING TO MEAT DONATIONS

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference  
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice-Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 1382**, which provides for donation of wild game to under-resourced communities and establishes a task force for development and implementation to expand meat processing capacity in the State.

Across the State, various invasive species are creating havoc in agriculture as well as the ecosystems in which they exist. Maui County's Axis Deer population is a good example of nature getting out of control with populations exploding due to abundant forage following rainfall events. They continue to destroy crops and pasture lands by devouring any living vegetation as they continue to spread. Feral pigs damage crops by consuming them or by their rooting and trampling of crops. They will eat almost any crop. Feral pigs damage pasture grasses, killing desired plant species and often encouraging the growth of undesired weed species. They can also devastate orchards by consuming fruit, citrus, and nuts and their rooting can severely damage, or even kill saplings, shrubs, and vines directly or by facilitating the spread of soil-based fungal diseases. Feral pigs can also break irrigation lines, rip or tear nets, drying racks, and other agricultural structures and equipment.

These and other feral populations can pose a danger, especially as populations grow and their health is put into jeopardy due to inadequate food. Diseases that they normally tolerate will become serious debilitating illnesses that could put our domestic livestock industry in jeopardy. Such fears are not unreasonable, as incidences such as bovine tuberculosis spread from feral pigs have been documented in Molokai.

Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers are working to provide Hawai'i with an increased level of self-sufficiency, but will not be able to do so if their products are consumed or damaged

by feral animals. Axis Deer, feral pigs, and other invasive species can cause major damage to property, agriculture (crops and livestock), Hawai'i's native species and ecosystems, and Hawai'i's cultural and historic resources. They can also threaten the health of people, wildlife, pets, and other domestic animals. As Hawai'i's feral animal populations continue to expand, these damages, costs, and risks will only keep rising

Current state law specifically prohibits the inclusion of meats as a donation. Wild game can be a significant source of protein for Hawai'i's residents in need. Wild game can provide a beneficial outlet for meat harvested from invasive species and provide a tool for long-term sustainable invasive management for Axis Deer and Feral Pigs.

Several states have amended their Good Samaritan laws to use as a tool for invasive white-tail deer management programs. Wild game meat donated under this provision does not need to undergo antemortem inspection requirements as long as stated conditions are met. Conditions for donations can be specified to allow the donation of this important protein source for our neighbors in need. Utah is the most recent state that passed such a measure and can be used as a model for Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



# MAUI COUNTY FARM BUREAU

PO Box 148, Kula, HI 96790  
mauicountyfarmbureau.org

## TESTIMONY

### COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND FOOD SYSTEMS

February 3, 2023  
9:00 AM  
Conference Room 325

### HB 1382

### RELATING TO MEAT DONATION

Maui County Farm Bureau (MCFB) appreciates this opportunity to testify on this important issue. MCFB is a general agriculture advocacy organization representing farm and ranch families and organizations on the island of Maui.

MCFB STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1382 seeking to amend the Hawaii Good Samaritan law to include wild game.

Wild game provides an inexpensive source of protein for the needy. States across the country have been updating their Good Samaritan laws to include wild game as an authorized donation. A recent article from Illinois demonstrates the potential of a Deer Donation program to assist SNAP and other programs for the needy. <https://chronicleillinois.com/news/mclean-county-news/deer-donation-program-provides-nearly-25000-meals-across-12-counties/>

Long term sustainable solution to our feral animal problem lies in a comprehensive plan involving various government and private parties. It requires cooperation. Along with hunting rules, slaughter and processing capacity, and working with NGOs, this is one step of a process to address our increasing feral animal problem. MCFB respectfully requests your support of this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this matter. Please contact Warren Watanabe at 8082819716 if there are any questions.





**Officers**

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State President

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Vice-President

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Chantal Chung  
Kona, Hawai'i

Fawn Helekahi-Burns  
Hana, Maui

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Rufina Kaauwai  
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Negus Manna  
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Brynn Foster  
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Christian Zuckerman  
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Ted Radovich  
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura  
Honolulu, O'ahu

Ray Maki  
Kauai

Aloha Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the House Agriculture & Food Systems Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports HB1382.**

This bill will afford protection for livestock and wild game meat donation and create a task force to expand meat processing capacity in the State, thus creating more market outlets for our farmers and ranchers.

We find HB1382 to be a well-thought-out and beneficial measure that could result in greater food security for the people of Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

**HB-1382**

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 12:02:21 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2023 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Oppose	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

ARH opposes HB1382. Bypassing existing federal law will put the health and well being of our human population at risk. It would exempt some hunters/slaughterers from the rules of the Human Methods of Slaughter Act {7 U.S.C. ch. 48 § } which provides very specific regulations to minimize pain and suffering of animals killed and eaten in the USA.

For these reasons, we request that this bill not pass.

Mahalo!

**HB-1382**

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 9:35:05 AM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2023 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Victor K. Ramos	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUPPORT: Maui County, in particular, has an over abundance of axis deer available for the stated purpose.

Thank you for presenting this bill.

**HB-1382**

Submitted on: 2/1/2023 1:04:59 PM

Testimony for AGR on 2/3/2023 9:00:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael I Rice	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I stand in support of this bill as a means of helping to secure Hawaii's food security. I would add that it might be prudent to authorize the board in charge of this to grant incentives for donation of safely and humanely harvested game animals.



**Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.**

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE & FOOD SYSTEMS

Rep. Cedric Asuega Gates, Chair

Rep. Kirstin Kahaloa, Vice Chair

**HB1382**

RELATING TO MEAT DONATION

Friday, February 3, 2023, 9:00 AM

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference

Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB1382** which 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.

Allowing for the donation of wild game to under-resourced communities allows us to feed these communities high quality sources of protein, while also creating an outlet for efforts to remove invasive species such as deer, goat, and pigs from the environment. Unmanaged ungulates damage our ecosystems and cause detriment to farming and ranching operations. Expanding access to meat processing will help us to meet both environmental and social needs.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council  
Managing Director





## Food+ Policy Internship 2023

[food@purplemaia.org](mailto:food@purplemaia.org)

February 2, 2023

To: Chair Gates, Vice Chair Kahaloa and the House Committee on Agriculture & Food Systems

*Subject: HB 1382, Relating To Meat Donation*

Aloha Hawaii State Legislators,

We strongly support HB 1382 – which legalizes the donation of wild game to under-resourced communities. This bill is a responsible and sustainable solution which would significantly help alleviate food insecurity and improve access to healthy, nutritious food in our state – especially for our isolated & rural communities. The establishment of a task force for the development and implementation of expanding meat processing capacity in Hawaii is a critical component of this bill. This will ensure that the donated wild game is processed and distributed safely and efficiently.

This bill is a win-win for everyone involved and I strongly urge its passage. It will help provide food to those in need while also making the best use of the abundant natural resources available in our beautiful state.

Mahalo,

Tierra Bartolotti & the Food+ Policy Team

#fixourfoodsystem

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**The Food+ Policy internship** develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the

importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2023, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.