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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a need to  
2 expand Hawaii's meat inspection capacity. Consumer demand for  
3 locally grown beef and the axis deer population explosion in  
4 Maui county have created a lack of antemortem meat inspection  
5 capacity. The State's meat inspection program was discontinued  
6 in the mid-1990s due to cuts in budget and staffing mandated by  
7 reduction in force directives. Restoring and updating the meat  
8 inspection program will not only grow Hawaii's livestock  
9 industry but address the beneficial use of axis deer.  
10 Supplementing existing federal inspection capacity will also  
11 help the livestock industry have greater access to the  
12 marketplace.

13           The legislature further finds that federal laws have  
14 changed, and the state meat inspection program should be  
15 restored and updated to comply with new requirements, meet the  
16 needs of the State's diverse livestock industry and meet  
17 Hawaii's demand, and ensure the livestock industry remains a



1 productive part of Hawaii's economic engine. As an island  
2 state, transportation costs for a limited number of inspectors  
3 can be costly. Certification of local veterinarians should be  
4 explored and implemented, if possible while meeting federal  
5 requirements.

6 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for the  
7 establishment of three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) inspectors  
8 to perform meat inspection services pursuant to chapter 159,  
9 Hawaii Revised Statutes.

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general  
11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$250,000 or so much  
12 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the  
13 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year  
14 2024-2025 for three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) inspectors to  
15 perform meat inspection services pursuant to chapter 159, Hawaii  
16 Revised Statutes.

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

19 SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2023.

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H.B. NO. ~~609~~

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INTRODUCED BY:

*Che Qe*

JAN 20 2023



# H.B. NO. 609

**Report Title:**

HDOA; Meat Inspection; Meat Processing; Inspectors;  
Appropriation

**Description:**

Appropriates funds to the department of agriculture for three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) inspectors to perform meat inspection services.

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

