
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 to
2 increase the meat processing capacity in the State to satisfy
3 local demands. Due to a shortage of facilities across the
4 State, smaller-scale ranchers and hunters compete for limited
5 processing, chilling, and holding services, resulting in the
6 loss of commercial sales opportunities and the potential
7 donation of wild game meat to agencies that serve
8 under-resourced communities.

9 The legislature further finds that axis deer, an invasive
10 species that poses a continuing threat to Hawaii's environment,
11 could provide significant quantities of meat as a protein source
12 for nonprofit food distribution services, such as the State's
13 network of food banks and Feed My Sheep, Inc. of Maui County.
14 However, there is a gap between the hunters, retailers, and
15 nonprofit services because the meat requires processing prior to
16 distribution. For meat donation, other states, such as
17 Wisconsin and Michigan, offer models that Hawaii can assess to



1 develop processes for plan implementation and program funding,
2 including licensing fees and other funding sources managed by
3 wildlife agencies or nonprofits.

4 The purpose of this Act is to develop and appropriate funds
5 for the expansion of the State's meat processing and
6 distribution capacity, including a donation program, to allow
7 for meat sourced from axis deer and other wild game to be
8 processed and donated for distribution by nonprofit food
9 distribution services to under-resourced communities.

10 SECTION 2. The department of agriculture:

11 (1) In collaboration with the Hawaii interagency council
12 on homelessness, department of land and natural
13 resources' division of forestry and wildlife, and
14 department of health's food safety branch; and

15 (2) In consultation with the county of Maui axis deer task
16 force,

17 shall develop and implement a plan to expand the meat processing
18 and distribution capacity in the State to allow for meat from
19 axis deer and other wild game to be processed for distribution
20 by nonprofit food distribution services; provided that



1 distribution of meat under the plan shall commence no later than
2 July 1, 2024.

3 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
4 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of or so much
5 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and the
6 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
7 2024-2025 for the development and implementation of a plan to
8 expand the meat processing and distribution capacity in the
9 State pursuant to this Act.

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

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



Report Title:

Meat Processing Capacity; Expansion; Wild Game; Food
Distribution Services; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with the Hawaii Interagency Council on Homelessness; Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife; and Department of Health, Food Safety Branch; and in consultation with the County of Maui Axis Deer Task Force, to develop and implement a plan to expand the meat processing and distribution capacity in the State to allow for meat from axis deer and other wild game to be processed for distribution by nonprofit food distribution services by 7/1/2024. Appropriates funds. Takes effect 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.

