

---

---

# 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 and other wild game could provide significant quantities of meat  
8 as a protein source for non-profit food distribution services,  
9 enhancing the State's food security. However, there is a gap  
10 between the hunters and these non-profit services because the  
11 meat needs to be processed prior to distribution. Other states  
12 have developed processes for this purpose, including licensing  
13 fees and funding managed by wildlife agencies or non-profits.

14           The purpose of this Act is to require and appropriate funds  
15 for the department of business, economic development, and  
16 tourism to develop and implement a grant program to expand the  
17 meat processing capacity in the State.



1 SECTION 2. (a) The department of business, economic  
2 development, and tourism shall develop and implement a grant  
3 program to expand the meat processing capacity in the State.  
4 The grant program may include financial assistance to establish  
5 new meat processing facilities with a donation component or  
6 expand existing facilities to include a donation component to  
7 enable hunters to donate meat from axis deer and other wild game  
8 to these facilities.

9 (b) The department of business, economic development, and  
10 tourism may collaborate with the department of agriculture,  
11 department of land and natural resources' division of forestry  
12 and wildlife, and department of health's food safety branch in  
13 developing the grant program.

14 (c) The program shall provide grants to qualified  
15 applicants with the following terms and conditions:

16 (1) No grants shall be given unless money has been spent  
17 by the applicant toward expanding the meat processing  
18 capacity in the State;

19 (2) The total amount of a grant to any one applicant shall  
20 not exceed \$ ; and



1           (3) No grant shall be given for costs that were incurred  
2                   more than five years prior to the time the application  
3                   for the grant is received by the department of  
4                   business, economic development, and tourism.

5           (d) Applications for grants shall be made to the  
6 department of business, economic development, and tourism and  
7 contain the information as shall be required by rules adopted  
8 thereunder. At a minimum, the applicant shall:

9           (1) Be licensed or accredited, in accordance with federal,  
10                   state, or county statutes, rules, or ordinances, to  
11                   conduct the activities or provide the services for  
12                   which a grant is awarded;

13           (2) Provide a detailed plan outlining the scope,  
14                   objectives, and projected impact of the project or  
15                   projects and a clear breakdown of how grant funds will  
16                   be utilized;

17           (3) Agree to use state funds exclusively for the purposes  
18                   of this program;

19           (4) Indicate capability to properly use the grant for the  
20                   purpose of the grant program;



- 1 (5) Comply with all applicable federal and state laws  
2 prohibiting discrimination against any person on the  
3 basis of race, color, national origin, religion,  
4 creed, sex, age, sexual orientation, disability, or  
5 any other characteristic protected under applicable  
6 federal or state law;
- 7 (6) Agree not to use state funds for purposes of  
8 entertainment or perquisites;
- 9 (7) Comply with other requirements as the department may  
10 prescribe;
- 11 (8) Comply with all applicable federal, state, and county  
12 statutes, rules, and ordinances;
- 13 (9) Agree to indemnify and save harmless the State of  
14 Hawaii and its officers, agents, and employees from  
15 and against any and all claims arising out of or  
16 resulting from activities carried out or projects  
17 undertaken with funds provided hereunder and procure  
18 sufficient insurance to provide this indemnification  
19 if requested to do so by the department; and
- 20 (10) Agree to make available to the department all records  
21 the applicant may have relating to the grant to allow



1 state agencies to monitor the applicant's compliance  
2 with this subsection.

3 (e) The department of business, economic development, and  
4 tourism shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised  
5 Statutes, to carry out the purposes of the grant program. The  
6 grant applications shall be reviewed and approved by an  
7 administrative staff member of the department of business,  
8 economic development, and tourism.

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 2025-2026 and  
12 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
13 year 2026-2027 for the grant program to expand the meat  
14 processing capacity in the State pursuant to this Act.

15 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
16 of business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes  
17 of this Act.

18 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



**Report Title:**

Meat Processing Capacity; Grant Program; Expansion; Food  
Distribution Services; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and  
Tourism to develop and implement a grant program to expand the  
meat processing capacity in the State. Appropriates funds.  
Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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

