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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

MAUI AXIS DEER CONTROL AND VENISON INITIATIVE.

1           WHEREAS, eating locally grown food and meats are known to  
2 provide a benefit to the local economy and to our citizens; and  
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4           WHEREAS, the people of the State deserve to have access to  
5 the many local foods, including locally hunted meat, available  
6 on the islands; and  
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8           WHEREAS, the overpopulation of axis deer has been a great  
9 detriment to Maui by overgrazing native plants that would  
10 otherwise aid in mitigating erosion and fire and flood effects;  
11 and  
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13           WHEREAS, axis deer are a plentiful source of high-quality  
14 delicious protein; and  
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16           WHEREAS, other states have successfully implemented  
17 programs that process and distribute locally hunted meat to  
18 their community, for example Pennsylvania's Hunters Sharing the  
19 Harvest Program, which yearly donates over one hundred thousand  
20 pounds of venison to over five thousand food banks; and  
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22           WHEREAS, the existing United States Department of  
23 Agriculture requirements severely limit the financial and  
24 practical feasibility of the State's local hunters to  
25 successfully maintain a reasonably low population of axis deer  
26 and to distribute venison to the community; and  
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28           WHEREAS, an increase of in-state United States Department  
29 of Agriculture certified meat inspectors would lower the cost of  
30 inspections for local hunters, provide a benefit to the  
31 agricultural industry in the State and make locally hunted



1 venison more available and safer for the community to consume;  
2 now, therefore,

3

4 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
5 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
6 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the State Department of  
7 Agriculture and the County of Maui Department of Agriculture are  
8 urged to take further meaningful action to address the axis deer  
9 overpopulation, including:

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11 (1) Implementing policies to make United States Department  
12 of Agriculture-certified in-state inspectors,  
13 certified inspections, and certified processing  
14 facilities more accessible, capable, and affordable  
15 for local hunters to utilize in order to sell or gift  
16 venison; and

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18 (2) Implementing policies to increase the amount of  
19 certified United States Department of Agriculture in-  
20 state meat inspectors for game mammals; and

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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Department of  
23 Agriculture and County of Maui Department of Agriculture are  
24 urged to convene a joint task force to oversee the County of  
25 Maui program that, in coordination with the United States  
26 Department of Agriculture certified processing facilities, would  
27 aim to investigate and develop plans to make affordable the  
28 processing of locally hunted axis deer meat and the distribution  
29 of this venison to the community; and

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31 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint task force is  
32 requested to submit a report of the program's accomplishments  
33 and barriers to the accomplishment of the program with its  
34 findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
35 legislation, to the Legislature no later than November 30, 2025;  
36 and

37

38 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
39 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States  
40 Secretary of Agriculture, Administrator of the United States  
41 Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service,  
42 Deputy Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service,



# H.C.R. NO. 200

1 Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Chairperson  
2 of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Mayor of the County  
3 of Maui, each member of the Maui County Council, and Director of  
4 the County of Maui Department of Agriculture.

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OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Jay Hunt", is written over a horizontal line.

MAR - 7 2025

