
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

1
2
3
4
5 URGING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
6 AGRICULTURE OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI TO TAKE FURTHER
7 MEANINGFUL ACTION TO ADDRESS THE AXIS DEER OVERPOPULATION.
8
9
10

11 WHEREAS, eating locally-grown food and meats are known to
12 provide a benefit to the local economy and to our citizens; and
13

14 WHEREAS, the people of the State deserve to have access to
15 the many local foods, including locally-hunted meat, available
16 on the islands; and
17

18 WHEREAS, the overpopulation of axis deer has been a great
19 detriment to Maui by overgrazing native plants that would
20 otherwise aid in mitigating erosion and fire and flood effects;
21 and
22

23 WHEREAS, axis deer are a plentiful source of high-quality
24 delicious protein; and
25

26 WHEREAS, other states have successfully implemented
27 programs that process and distribute locally-hunted meat to
28 their community, for example Pennsylvania's Hunters Sharing the
29 Harvest Program, which yearly donates over one hundred thousand
30 pounds of venison to over five thousand food banks; and
31

32 WHEREAS, the existing United States Department of
33 Agriculture inspection and meat processing requirements severely
34 limit the financial and practical feasibility of the State's
35 local hunters to successfully maintain a reasonably low
36 population of axis deer and to distribute venison to the
37 community; and
38

39 WHEREAS, an increase of United States Department of
40 Agriculture-certified meat inspectors in the State would lower



1 the cost of inspections for local hunters, provide a benefit to
2 the agricultural industry in the State, and make locally-hunted
3 venison more available and safer for the community to consume;
4 now, therefore,
5

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
7 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
8 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the State Department of
9 Agriculture and the Department of Agriculture of the County of
10 Maui are urged to take further meaningful action to address the
11 axis deer overpopulation, including:
12

- 13 (1) Implementing policies to make United States Department
14 of Agriculture-certified meat inspectors, certified
15 inspections, and certified processing facilities more
16 accessible, capable, and affordable in the State for
17 local hunters to utilize to sell or gift venison; and
18
- 19 (2) Implementing policies to increase the amount of
20 in-state United States Department of
21 Agriculture-certified meat inspectors for game
22 mammals; and
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Department of
25 Agriculture and Department of Agriculture of the County of Maui
26 are urged to convene a joint task force to oversee the County of
27 Maui program that, in coordination with the United States
28 Department of Agriculture-certified processing facilities, would
29 aim to investigate and develop plans to make affordable the
30 processing of locally-hunted axis deer meat and the distribution
31 of venison to the community; and
32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint task force is
34 requested to submit a report of the program's accomplishments
35 and barriers to the accomplishment of the program with its
36 findings and recommendations, including any proposed
37 legislation, to the Legislature no later than November 30, 2025;
38 and
39

40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States
42 Secretary of Agriculture, Administrator of the United States



1 Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service,
2 Deputy Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service,
3 Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Chairperson
4 of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Mayor of the County
5 of Maui, each member of the Maui County Council, and Director of
6 the Department of Agriculture of the County of Maui.

