

JAN 17 2025

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FOOD SUPPLY.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the agricultural
2 sector serves as a cornerstone of the State's economy and
3 cultural identity by providing essential food products,
4 employment, and sustainable land management practices that, when
5 managed properly, contribute to the State's overall food supply.
6 Although the State's livestock industry contributes
7 significantly to the State's food security and local
8 agricultural output, particularly through beef and pork
9 production, it also faces significant and substantial barriers
10 because of the limited number of licensed slaughterhouses in the
11 State that are capable of processing locally raised animals and
12 livestock. The legislature notes that California's production
13 of red meat from federally inspected and state inspected
14 slaughterhouses during December 2022 grew six per cent from
15 December 2021, while Hawaii's production of red meat during
16 December 2022 fell eight per cent from the previous year.



1 The legislature recognizes that the number of animal
2 slaughterhouses in the State, and their respective capacities,
3 are limited. Notably, only one slaughterhouse on Oahu currently
4 slaughters hogs. The current lack of adequate slaughterhouse
5 facilities compels many local ranchers and farmers to either
6 ship their livestock to the continental United States for
7 processing, which can increase costs and environmental impacts
8 from shipping and production, thereby decreasing the economic
9 potential for the State's agricultural producers and related
10 sectors.

11 The legislature further recognizes the importance of local
12 food sustainability and resilience as outlined in the Aloha+
13 Challenge and other state initiatives that seek to increase
14 local food production and reduce reliance on imported foods.
15 The strategic development of additional slaughterhouse
16 facilities in the State would enhance the capacity of the
17 State's agricultural sector to meet these goals and provide
18 additional employment opportunities in the State.

19 The legislature further finds that the department of
20 business, economic development, and tourism is equipped with
21 expertise in infrastructure development, land use, and economic



1 planning and is well positioned to conduct a comprehensive,
2 data-driven evaluation of locations across the State that are
3 environmentally, economically, and logistically suited for the
4 construction or expansion of slaughterhouse facilities. A
5 thorough assessment of these potential sites for slaughterhouse
6 development is appropriate to support the growth and
7 sustainability of the local livestock industry, increase food
8 security, and contribute to the State's broader environmental
9 and economic goals, including contributing to the State's gross
10 domestic product through potential increases in profit margins
11 for local farmers, ranchers, and allied operators in the State.

12 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 13 (1) Require the department of business, economic
14 development, and tourism, in collaboration with the
15 agribusiness development corporation, to identify
16 sites throughout the State that are suitable for the
17 development of slaughterhouses; and
- 18 (2) Require the agribusiness development corporation to
19 plan, design, construct, and operate new animal
20 slaughterhouses throughout the State.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 163D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§163D- Animal slaughterhouses. (a) The department of
5 business, economic development, and tourism, in collaboration
6 with the corporation, shall identify sites throughout the State
7 that, based on location, land usage, and available resources,
8 are suitable for the development of slaughterhouses. The
9 suitability evaluation shall also consider key factors, such as
10 proximity to livestock production areas, potential environmental
11 impacts, water and energy resources, potential for sustainable
12 practices, and the needs of rural and underserved communities.

13 (b) The corporation shall plan, design, construct, and
14 operate animal slaughterhouses at each site identified pursuant
15 to subsection (a).

16 (c) The corporation shall:

17 (1) Consider market conditions in determining the types
18 and sizes of animals that should be slaughtered at any
19 given time;

20 (2) Ensure that each slaughterhouse:



- 1 (A) Serves as a sustainable source of locally born
- 2 and raised animal protein; and
- 3 (B) Harvests or processes non-beef animals, including
- 4 axis deer, hogs, sheep, and goats, for local food
- 5 production; and
- 6 (3) Comply with any requirements established by:
- 7 (A) The United States Department of Agriculture;
- 8 (B) The department of health; and
- 9 (C) Applicable law, including audit requirements and
- 10 state and local health and safety regulations."

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
 12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$200,000 or so much
 13 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and the
 14 same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year
 15 2026-2027 for the development of slaughterhouses throughout the
 16 State, as follows:

17	Plans	\$
18	Design	\$
19	Construction	\$
20	Equipment	\$
21	Total funding	\$200,000.



S.B. NO. 509

1 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
2 of business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes
3 of this Act.

4 SECTION 4. New statutory material is underscored.

5 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

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INTRODUCED BY: *Christy M. Rucker* *CR*



S.B. NO. 509

Report Title:

DBEDT; ADC; Slaughterhouse Facilities; Development; Food; Market; Animals; Meats; Hogs; Sheep; Goats; Economy; Appropriations

Description:

Requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism to identify sites throughout the State that are suitable for the development of slaughterhouses. Requires the Agribusiness Development Corporation to plan, design, construct, and operate certain animal slaughterhouses throughout the State. Makes appropriations.

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