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# 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 and enhance the State's food security.  
9 However, there is a gap between the hunters and these non-profit  
10 services because the meat needs to be processed prior to  
11 distribution. Other states have developed processes for this  
12 purpose, including licensing fees and funding managed by  
13 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



1 meat processing capacity in the State, including funding for  
2 meat inspector positions.

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

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

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

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



- 1 (2) The total amount of a grant to any one applicant shall  
2 not exceed \$ ; and
- 3 (3) No grant shall be given for costs that were incurred  
4 more than five years before the time the application  
5 for the grant is received by the department of  
6 business, economic development, and tourism.
- 7 (d) The grant applications shall be reviewed and approved  
8 by an administrative staff member of the department of business,  
9 economic development, and tourism. Applications for grants  
10 shall contain the information as shall be required by rules  
11 adopted by the department. At minimum, the applicant shall:
- 12 (1) Be licensed or accredited, in accordance with federal,  
13 state, or county statutes, rules, or ordinances, to  
14 conduct the activities or provide the services for  
15 which a grant is awarded;
- 16 (2) Provide a detailed plan outlining the scope,  
17 objectives, and projected impact of the project or  
18 projects and a clear breakdown of how grant funds will  
19 be utilized;
- 20 (3) Agree to use state funds exclusively for the purposes  
21 of this program;



- 1 (4) Indicate capability to properly use the grant for the  
2 purpose of the grant program for either;
  - 3 (A) The development and establishment of a new meat  
4 processing facility; or
  - 5 (B) The capacity for growth for an existing meat  
6 processing facility;
- 7 (5) Comply with all applicable federal and state law  
8 prohibiting discrimination against any person on the  
9 basis of race, color, national origin, religion,  
10 creed, sex, age, sexual orientation, disability, or  
11 any other characteristic protected under applicable  
12 federal or state law;
- 13 (6) Agree not to use state funds for purposes of  
14 entertainment or perquisites;
- 15 (7) Comply with other requirements the department may  
16 prescribe;
- 17 (8) Comply with all applicable federal, state, and county  
18 statutes, rules, and ordinances;
- 19 (9) Agree to indemnify and save harmless the State of  
20 Hawaii and its officers, agents, and employees from  
21 and against any and all claims arising out of or



1 .resulting from activities carried out or projects  
2 undertaken with funds provided hereunder and procure  
3 sufficient insurance to provide this indemnification  
4 if requested to do so by the department; and  
5 (10) Agree to make available to the department all records  
6 the applicant may have relating to the grant, to allow  
7 state agencies to monitor the applicant's compliance  
8 with this subsection.

9 (e) Hunters who donate meat from axis deer and other wild  
10 game to meat processing facilities shall be granted access to  
11 any facility receiving funds pursuant to the grant program  
12 established pursuant to this section.

13 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
14 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
15 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2025-2026 and  
16 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
17 year 2026-2027 for the establishment of:

- 18 (1) A grant program to expand the meat processing capacity  
19 in the State; and  
20 (2) Two full-time equivalent (2.0 FTE) meat inspector  
21 positions.



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. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



**Report Title:**

DBEDT; Meat Processing Capacity; Grant Program; Expansion; Food Distribution Services; Positions; Appropriations

**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. Establishes requirements for grant applicants. Allows hunters access to qualifying meat processing facilities. Establishes positions. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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

