
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)

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not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

