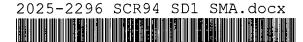
S.C.R. NO. ⁹⁴ s.d. 1

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI TO TAKE FURTHER MEANINGFUL ACTION TO ADDRESS THE AXIS DEER OVERPOPULATION.

1	WHEREAS, eating locally-grown food and meats are known to				
2	provide a benefit to the local economy and to the citizens of				
3	the State; and				
4					
5	WHEREAS, the people of the State deserve to have access to				
6	the many local foods, including locally-hunted meat, available				
7	on the islands; and				
8					
9					
10					
11	otherwise aid in mitigating erosion and fire and flood effects;				
12	and				
13					
14	WHEREAS, axis deer are a plentiful source of high-quality,				
15	delicious protein; and				
16					
17	WHEREAS, other states have successfully implemented				
18	programs that process and distribute locally-hunted meat to				
19	their community, for example Pennsylvania's Hunters Sharing the				
20	Harvest Program, which yearly donates over one hundred thousand				
21	pounds of venison to over five thousand food banks; and				
22 23	WHEREAS, existing United States Department of Agriculture				
23 24	inspection and meat processing requirements severely limit the				
24 25	financial and practical feasibility of the State's local hunters				
23 26	to successfully maintain a reasonably low population of axis				
20 27	deer and to distribute venison to the community; and				
27 28	acer and to distribute vehicon to the community, and				
28 29	WHEREAS, an increase of in-state meat inspectors certified				
<u>2</u>) 30	by the United States Department of Agriculture would lower the				
31	cost of inspections for local hunters, provide a benefit to the				
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agricultural industry in the State, and make locally-hunted 1 venison more available and safer for the community to consume; 2 3 now, therefore, 4 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third 5 6 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the House of Representatives concurring, that the Hawaii Department 7 of Agriculture and Department of Agriculture of the County of 8 9 Maui are urged to take further meaningful action to address the axis deer overpopulation, including: 10 11 12 (1)Implementing policies to make in-state inspectors certified by the United States Department of 13 Agriculture, certified inspections, and certified 14 15 processing facilities more accessible, capable, and affordable for local hunters to utilize to sell or 16 gift venison; and 17 18 (2) Implementing policies to increase the amount of 19 in-state certified United States Department of 20 Agriculture meat inspectors for game mammals; and 21 22 23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Department of 24 Agriculture and Department of Agriculture of the County of Maui are urged to convene a joint task force to oversee a County of 25 26 Maui program that, in coordination with the United States Department of Agriculture certified processing facilities, would 27 28 aim to investigate and develop plans to make affordable the processing of locally-hunted axis deer meat and the distribution 29 30 of this venison to the community; and 31 32 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint task force is 33 requested to submit a report of the program's accomplishments and barriers to the accomplishment of the program with its 34 35 findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than November 30, 2025; 36 37 and 38 39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this 40 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States 41 Secretary of Agriculture, Administrator of the United States Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service, 42



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1 Deputy Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service,

2 Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Chairperson

3 of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Mayor of the County

4 of Maui, each member of the Maui County Council, and Director of

5 the Department of Agriculture of the County of Maui.

