



# MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE & CONSUMER PROTECTION  
AND THE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 229  
THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026 AT 9:20 A.M.**

To The Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Commerce & Consumer Protection

To The Honorable Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair  
Members of the Committee on Judiciary

**SUPPORT HB1334 HD3 SD1 RELATING TO MEAT DONATION**

The Maui Chamber of Commerce **SUPPORTS HB1334 HD3 SD1** which exempts the donation of wild game meat, including axis deer, to a charitable, religious, or nonprofit organization to needy persons from certain laws regarding the inspection and transportation of meat.

The Chamber would like to point out that axis deer, an invasive species that poses a continuing threat to Hawaii's environment, could provide significant quantities of meat as a protein source for nonprofit food distribution services, such as the State's network of food banks and Feed My Sheep, Inc. of Maui County. However, there is a gap between the hunters and the retailers and nonprofit services because the meat requires processing prior to distribution. For meat donation, other states such as Wisconsin and Michigan offer models that Hawaii can assess to develop processes for plan implementation and program funding, including licensing fees and other funding sources managed by wildlife agencies or nonprofits.

This bill will be one of a few major tools in controlling the over-population of Axis deer on all islands, while also helping to address food insecurity across the state.

For these reasons we **SUPPORT HB1334 HD3 SD1** and respectfully request its passage.

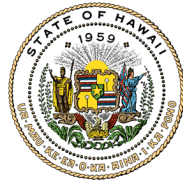
Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap  
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson  
Board of Agriculture & Biosecurity

**DEAN M. MATSUKAWA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE & BIOSECURITY**  
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI A KIA'I MEAOLA  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9560 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE AND BIOSECURITY**

**BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEES ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER  
PROTECTION AND JUDICIARY**

**THURSDAY, APRIL 2, 2026  
9:20 AM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 229 & VIDEOCONFERENCE**

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1334, HD3, SD1  
RELATING TO MEAT DONATION**

Chairs Keohokalole and Rhoads, Vice Chairs Fukunaga and Gabbard, and Members of the Committees:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1334, HD3, SD1. HB 1334, HD3, SD1 exempts the donation of wild game meat or meat products, including axis deer, to a charitable, religious, or nonprofit organization for the purpose of feeding needy individuals from certain laws regarding the inspection and transportation of meat.

The Department of Agriculture and Biosecurity (DAB) provides the following comments.

DAB believes meat inspection is an important component of food safety. Subsequently, there is an increased risk if donated meat is exempt from inspection. In addition, retail food establishments are generally not designed to receive whole carcasses and do not typically operate under the same oversight, controls, and standards as slaughterhouses.

If these limitations are understood and accepted, DAB suggests the use of the following alternative language proposed in the Senate:

"Sec. 159- Axis deer meat donation; hunter attestation; retail food establishment processing."

(a) This chapter shall not apply to the slaughtering and processing of axis deer intended exclusively for donation to and use by a charitable, religious, or nonprofit organization; provided that the donated meat shall not be sold and the following conditions are met:

(1) The hunter donating the axis deer submits a signed attestation, on a form created and provided by the receiving charitable, religious, or nonprofit organization, upon delivery of the carcass to an authorized processing facility. The attestation shall certify the location the animal was harvested, that the animal exhibited no signs of illness prior to harvest, was field-dressed within one hour of harvest, was rapidly cooled to a temperature below forty-one degrees Fahrenheit, and was maintained at a temperature below forty-one degrees Fahrenheit during transport;

(2) The receiving charitable, religious, or nonprofit organization shall maintain all submitted attestation forms for a period of not less than three years to ensure traceability;

(3) The processing of the axis deer occurs at a state-approved commercial slaughterhouse or a licensed retail food establishment;

(4) If processed at a licensed retail food establishment, the establishment shall first obtain a variance and an approved hazard analysis and critical control point plan from the department of health specifically authorizing the custom processing of axis deer;

(5) If processed at a licensed retail food establishment, the processing of the axis deer shall occur at a completely separate time from all standard commercial food operations;

(6) The licensed retail food establishment shall ensure that all equipment and surfaces used in the processing of the axis deer are thoroughly cleaned and sanitized prior to resuming standard commercial operations; and

(7) The processed axis deer meat is packaged, clearly labeled as Not for Sale, and includes the hunting license number of the donating hunter to ensure traceability.

(b) Authorized processing facilities, including licensed retail food establishments, shall maintain the authority to refuse any axis deer carcass if the facility suspects the meat was improperly handled, cooled, or transported.

(c) For the purposes of this section, "axis deer" means the species *Axis axis*, and includes any carcass, part, or meat product derived from that animal."

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this measure.



COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

Senator Karl Rhoads, Chair  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Vice Chair

**HB1334 HD3 SD1**

RELATING TO MEAT DONATION

April 2, 2026, 9:20 AM  
Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

Chairs Keohokalole & Rhoads, Vice Chairs Fukunaga & Gabbard, and Members of the Committees,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB1334 HD3 SD1** which exempts the donation of wild game meat, including axis deer, to a charitable, religious, or nonprofit organization to needy persons from certain laws regarding the inspection and transportation of meat.

Exempting wild game from the full extent of regulation when used for donation to our communities allows us to better feed these communities high quality sources of protein, while also creating an outlet for efforts to remove invasive species such as deer, goat, and pigs from the environment. Unmanaged ungulates damage our ecosystems and cause detriment to farming and ranching operations. The deer population in Maui County needs to be reduced dramatically in order to maintain the health of the land. Encouraging the hunting and donation of wild game will help us to meet both environmental and social needs.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure. The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

Nicole Galase  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council  
Managing Director





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**Executive Officers**

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**Jayson Watts**, Mahi Pono, *Vice Chair*  
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**Toby Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*  
**Joe Carter**, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, Odom, *Advisor*  
**Eddie Asato**, Pint Size Hawaii, *Advisor*  
**Gary Okimoto**, Safeway, *Advisor*  
**Maile Miyashiro**, C&S Wholesale, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection and Committee on Judiciary

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: March 18, 2026

TIME: 9:30am

RE: HB1334 HD3 SD1 Relating to Meat Donation

Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA is in support of this measure. Axis deer are an invasive species and keeping the population under control is necessary in order to protect our agricultural lands and ecosystems. Axis deer can be a plentiful source of affordable locally sourced meat, which can help address food insecurity in our state. Right now there are some unnecessary impediments that prevent axis deer meat from being donated. This measure would help remove those roadblocks and allow for meat donation. We encourage the committee to pass this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**HB-1334-SD-1**

Submitted on: 3/28/2026 8:27:33 AM

Testimony for JDC on 4/2/2026 9:20:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Oppose	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Oppose MEASURE TARGETTING ONLY VULNERABLE COMMUNITY.

EVERYONE WOULD BENEFIT TO LOWER COST OF MEAT AND NEW RECIPES.

1334 HB RELATING TO MEAT DONATION.