

A Bill for an Act Relating to the Department of Land and Natural Resources.

*Be It Enacted by the Legislature of the State of Hawaii:*

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the overpopulation of axis deer poses a significant threat to the ecological security and the health of local communities on several islands, especially in Maui county. Axis deer overpopulation and drought conditions on Maui, Molokai, and Lanai have led to large numbers of widespread axis deer, which in turn has created a nuisance and threat to the local community.

The purpose of this Act is to require the department of land and natural resources' division of forestry and wildlife to adopt rules and issue funds to licensed hunters at a per unit rate.

SECTION 2. (a) The department of land and natural resources' division of forestry and wildlife shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, for feral axis deer herd management. The rules shall:

- (1) Establish the lands on which licensed hunters may operate for the hunting of feral axis deer in cooperation with private land owners;
- (2) Provide that only female feral axis deer may be hunted;
- (3) Require the entire carcass of a feral axis deer to be submitted to the division by licensed hunters;
- (4) Establish the per unit rate to be claimed by a hunter for submission of a feral axis deer;
- (5) Establish bag limits for hunters to claim per unit rates;
- (6) Establish time periods in which licensed hunters of feral axis deer may operate; and
- (7) Establish any other parameters the division may deem necessary to carry out this section.

(b) The department of land and natural resources' division of forestry and wildlife shall issue funds to licensed hunters at a per unit rate as determined by the division pursuant to subsection (a).

SECTION 3. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

(Approved July 12, 2022.)