

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE  
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
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December 20, 2024

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,  
President and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-third State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Nadine Nakamura,  
Speaker and Members of the House  
of Representatives  
Thirty-third State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the Annual Report on the Meat Processing Task Force as required by Act 54, SLH 2023. In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/meetings-reports/legislative-reports/>.

Sincerely,

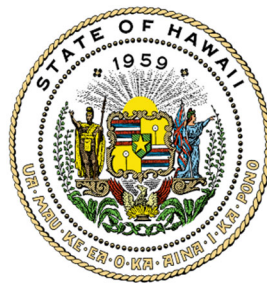
Sharon Hurd  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

Attachment



**REPORT TO THE THIRTY-THIRD LEGISLATURE  
2025 REGULAR SESSION**

IN RESPONSE TO ACT 54, SLH 2023  
ESTABLISHING A MEAT PROCESSING TASK FORCE WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT  
OF AGRICULTURE TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PLAN TO EXPAND THE  
MEAT PROCESSING CAPACITY IN THE STATE



Prepared by:  
THE HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

December 2024



UNIVERSITY  
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MĀNOA

December 6, 2024

Legislative Report for **Act 54, SLH 2023** (HB1382 HD2 SD1 CD1) - Meat Processing task force to create and implement a master plan to expand meat processing capacity to allow axis deer and other wild game to be processed.

The University of Hawaii received the contract to conduct a study to determine the feasibility and potential roadblocks to expand meat-processing capacity in the state. The University of Hawaii project PI, Caleb Reichhardt, PhD, received the account to begin working on the project November 4, 2024 due to a delay in the processing the contract.

Since receiving the account and beginning work, meetings have been held with Department of Health and Department of Agriculture to identify food safe handling practices. To fully identify food safe handling practices, future research is warranted to determine the time allowed to elapse from time of death of animal to delivery to the processors to ensure safe and nutritious food products for consumers.

To complete the survey to determine feasibility and potential roadblocks for this initiative, a Qualtrics survey is being developed to be taken by hunting groups, food distributors, and slaughterhouses and meat processors. Initial survey questions are undergoing a preliminary internal review board (IRB) review. Following approval from the IRB, the survey will be released and open for 60 days. Following closing of the survey, community-working sessions will be developed to create a potential strategic framework to move this project forward. The current target goal for the community workings sessions is April and May 2025. In June 2025, preliminary findings of the survey and working group will be shared with the State of Hawaii Meat Processing Task Force.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact PI, Caleb Reichhardt, PhD at [CCReichh@hawaii.edu](mailto:CCReichh@hawaii.edu).

Thank you,

*Caleb Reichhardt*

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