

JAN 17 2020

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO INVASIVE SPECIES.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the population of
2 chital, commonly known as "axis deer", has caused significant
3 damage on farms and ranches in the county of Maui, where the
4 number of axis deer is a serious and growing problem. Axis deer
5 are known pests of both agriculture and plants, many of latter
6 being endangered native or culturally significant species.

7 The legislature also finds that in the county of Maui,
8 ranchers and farmers struggle against an axis deer population
9 that has exploded and wreaked havoc on local agriculture,
10 animals in the forest, and native plants that are vital to
11 watershed areas. Additionally, the county of Maui has made
12 significant efforts to support greater food sustainability, and
13 protection of local food production from the devastating impacts
14 of axis deer is critical to continue this support. The
15 legislature finds that axis deer pose a significant threat to
16 the sustainability of local food production by destroying crops
17 and competing with livestock for forage.



S.B. NO. 2141

1 The legislature further finds that although the axis deer
2 population may be referred to as an invasive species, it also
3 significantly contributes to the subsistence hunting lifestyle
4 and cultural practices of residents of Maui, Molokai, and Lanai.
5 Accordingly, available resources should be focused on the
6 management of the axis deer population to mitigate its harmful
7 impact on local environments and food production.

8 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds to
9 substantially reduce and manage the overpopulation of axis deer
10 in the county of Maui; provided that the population of axis deer
11 shall be managed properly rather than eradicated.

12 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
13 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$3,500,000 or so much
14 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2020-2021 for
15 activities relating to the management of the axis deer
16 population in the county of Maui.

17 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the department of
18 land and natural resources for the purposes of this Act.



S.B. NO. 2141

Report Title:

Maui County Mayor's Package; DLNR; Invasive Species; County of Maui; Appropriation

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources for the management of the axis deer population in the county of Maui.

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