
HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO DEVELOP A
CERTIFICATION PROCESS FOR HUNTERS TO BECOME CERTIFIED
INSPECTORS IN ORDER TO INSPECT THEIR OWN GAME FOR SALE.

1 WHEREAS, in 1867, India gifted eight axis deer to King
2 Kamehameha V, who then introduced the population to Molokai; and
3

4 WHEREAS, with no natural predators and an ample food
5 supply, the non-native species has thrived over the past fifteen
6 decades; and
7

8 WHEREAS, it is estimated that there are forty thousand to
9 sixty thousand axis deer on Molokai and thirty thousand to fifty
10 thousand on Maui; and
11

12 WHEREAS, as an invasive species, axis deer are
13 environmentally destructive and cause millions of dollars worth
14 of damage each year; and
15

16 WHEREAS, axis deer threaten native forests in natural
17 areas, damage agricultural crops and native and ornamental
18 vegetation through browse and bark stripping, cause erosion, and
19 are often the cause of traffic accidents; and
20

21 WHEREAS, to address the negative impacts of the axis deer,
22 many individuals began hunting axis deer, which has since become
23 a significant part of hunting culture on Maui; and
24

25 WHEREAS, despite many individuals legally hunting axis
26 deer, selling the meat has proven to be time-consuming; and
27

28 WHEREAS, in order to sell axis deer meat, the meat must
29 first be inspected by a United States Department of Agriculture
30 Food Safety Inspection Service inspector; however, there are



H.C.R. NO. 65

only twenty Food Safety Inspection Service employees in the State; and

WHEREAS, the State previously had its own meat inspection program, but it was discontinued in the mid-1990s due to cuts in budget and staffing, and since then, the federal Food Safety Inspection Service assumed full responsibility for these obligations in the State; and

WHEREAS, due to the overpopulation of the axis deer, it is no longer realistic to wait for a Food Safety Inspection Service inspector to travel from island to island; and

WHEREAS, providing hunters the opportunity to become certified inspectors will expedite the inspection process, thereby ensuring the quality and safety of the meat, while also addressing the overpopulation of axis deer in the State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2022, the Senate concurring, that the Department of Agriculture, in consultation with the United State Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service, is requested to develop a certification process for hunters to become certified inspectors in order to inspect their own game for sale; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Administrator of the Food Safety and Inspection Service of the United States Department of Agriculture and Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

OFFERED BY:

Shirley A. Clark

MAR 10 2022

