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



H.R. NO. 59

1
2 WHEREAS, the State previously had its own meat inspection
3 program, but it was discontinued in the mid-1990s due to cuts in
4 budget and staffing, and since then, the federal Food Safety
5 Inspection Service assumed full responsibility for these
6 obligations in the State; and

7
8 WHEREAS, due to the overpopulation of the axis deer, it is
9 no longer realistic to wait for a Food Safety Inspection Service
10 inspector to travel from island to island; and

11
12 WHEREAS, providing hunters the opportunity to become
13 certified inspectors will expedite the inspection process,
14 thereby ensuring the quality and safety of the meat, while also
15 addressing the overpopulation of axis deer in the State; now,
16 therefore,

17
18 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
19 Thirty-first Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
20 of 2022, that the Department of Agriculture, in consultation
21 with the United State Department of Agriculture Food Safety and
22 Inspection Service, is requested to develop a certification
23 process for hunters to become certified inspectors in order to
24 inspect their own game for sale; and

25
26 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
27 Resolution be transmitted to the Administrator of the Food
28 Safety and Inspection Service of the United States Department of
29 Agriculture and Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture.

30
31
32 OFFERED BY *Chinda A Clark*

MAR 10 2022

