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**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

February 23, 2023

TO: Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair  
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

FROM: Yuki Lei Sugimura *Yuki Lei Sugimura*  
Councilmember

DATE: February 2, 2023

SUBJECT: **HB 1266, HD1, RELATING TO FOOD DONATIONS.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to allow wild game to be donated as food by amending the Hawaii Good Samaritan law.

I SUPPORT this measure for the following reasons:

1. Allowing this change will provide hunters the ability to share excess food with those in need without penalty.
2. This provides an opportunity for a long term solution for hunters and addresses the overpopulation of axis deer we are seeing in Maui County.
3. Wild game is a good source of protein and our communities will only benefit from this new opportunity.

For the foregoing reasons, **I SUPPORT this measure.**



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 24, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE  
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

**TESTIMONY ON HB 1266, HD1**  
**RELATING TO FOOD DONATIONS**

Conference Room 325 & Videoconference  
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports HB 1266, HD1**, which allows wild game to be donated as food.

Across the State, various invasive species are creating havoc in agriculture as well as the ecosystems in which they exist. Maui County's Axis Deer population is a good example of nature getting out of control with populations exploding due to abundant forage following rainfall events. They continue to destroy crops and pasture lands by devouring any living vegetation as they continue to spread. Feral pigs damage crops by consuming them or by their rooting and trampling of crops. They will eat almost any crop. Feral pigs damage pasture grasses, killing desired plant species and often encouraging the growth of undesired weed species. They can also devastate orchards by consuming fruit, citrus, and nuts and their rooting can severely damage, or even kill saplings, shrubs, and vines directly or by facilitating the spread of soil-based fungal diseases. Feral pigs can also break irrigation lines, rip or tear nets, drying racks, and other agricultural structures and equipment.

These and other feral populations can pose a danger, especially as populations grow and their health is put into jeopardy due to inadequate food. Diseases that they normally tolerate will become serious debilitating illnesses that could put our domestic livestock industry in jeopardy. Such fears are not unreasonable, as incidences such as bovine tuberculosis spread from feral pigs have been documented in Molokai.

Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers are working to provide Hawai'i with an increased level of self-sufficiency, but will not be able to do so if their products are consumed or damaged by feral animals. Axis Deer, feral pigs, and other invasive species can cause major

damage to property, agriculture (crops and livestock), Hawai'i's native species and ecosystems, and Hawai'i's cultural and historic resources. They can also threaten the health of people, wildlife, pets, and other domestic animals. As Hawai'i's feral animal populations continue to expand, these damages, costs, and risks will only keep rising

Current state law specifically prohibits the inclusion of meats as a donation. Wild game can be a significant source of protein for Hawai'i's residents in need. Wild game can provide a beneficial outlet for meat harvested from invasive species and provide a tool for long-term sustainable invasive management for Axis Deer and Feral Pigs.

Several states have amended their Good Samaritan laws to use as a tool for invasive white-tail deer management programs. Wild game meat donated under this provision does not need to undergo antemortem inspection requirements as long as stated conditions are met. Conditions for donations can be specified to allow the donation of this important protein source for our neighbors in need. Utah is the most recent state that passed such a measure and can be used as a model for Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.**

**COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair

Rep. Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair

**HB1266 HD1**

**RELATING TO FOOD DONATIONS**

Friday, February 24, 2023, 2:00 PM  
Conference Room 415 & Videoconference

Chairs Tarnas, Vice Chairs Takayama, and Members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council (HCC) is the Statewide umbrella organization comprised of the four county-level Cattlemen's Associations. Our member ranchers represent over 60,000 head of beef cows; more than 75% of all the beef cows in the State. Ranchers are the stewards of over 750 thousand acres of land in Hawaii, or 20% of the State's total land mass. We represent the interests of Hawaii's cattle producers.

The Hawaii Cattlemen's Council **supports HB1266 HD1** which allows wild game to be donated as food.

Allowing for the donation of wild game to under-resourced communities allows us to feed these communities high quality sources of protein, while also creating an outlet for efforts to remove invasive species such as deer, goat, sheep, and pigs from the environment. Unmanaged ungulates damage our ecosystems and cause detriment to farming and ranching operations. Expanding access to meat processing will help us to meet both environmental and social needs.

We appreciate the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Nicole Galase  
Hawaii Cattlemen's Council  
Managing Director



**HB-1266-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 9:57:41 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Yoshito L'Hote	Aina Ho'okupu o Kilauea	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in support of allowing the wild game to be donated and incorporated into support for the people in need it will help irradiate and provide a superior product to recipients.



**Officers**

Kaipo Kekona  
State President

Anabella Bruch  
Vice-President

Maureen Datta  
Secretary

Reba Lopez  
Treasurer

**Chapter Presidents**

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Kohala, Hawai'i

Odysseus Yacalis  
East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer  
Ka'u, Hawai'i

Chantal Chung  
Kona, Hawai'i

Fawn Helekahi-Burns  
Hana, Maui

Reba Lopez  
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros  
Mauna Kahalawai,  
Maui

Kaipo Kekona  
Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaauwai  
Molokai

Negus Manna  
Lāna'i

Brynn Foster  
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman  
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich  
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura  
Honolulu, O'ahu

Ray Maki  
Kauai

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the House Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

The Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) is a 501(c)(5) agricultural advocacy nonprofit representing a network of over 2,500 family farmers and their supporters across the Hawaiian Islands. **HFUU supports HB1266.**

This bill would provide a valuable source of protein to food banks and other charitable organizations, while also addressing the growing problem of invasive species in Hawaii. Wild pigs and deer, which are common sources of wild game, have become a major problem for farmers in Hawaii. These animals can cause significant damage to crops and infrastructure. This damage not only negatively impacts farmers' income but also leads to production fluctuation that can lead to inconsistent marketing and supply for consumers. Allowing wild game to be donated as food through HB1266 would provide a positive solution for both farmers and the environment.

The Hawaii Farmers Union United supports HB1266 as a means to manage the population of feral pigs and axis deer and to help mitigate their negative impact on Hawaii's agriculture industry. By allowing wild game to be donated as food, this otherwise often wasted resource can benefit those in need while reducing the number of destructive animals on the land.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF



# MAUI COUNTY FARM BUREAU

PO Box 148, Kula, HI 96790  
mauicountyfarmbureau.org

## TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

February 24, 2023

2:00 PM

Conference Room 325

**HB 1266 HD1**

## RELATING TO FOOD DONATIONS

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

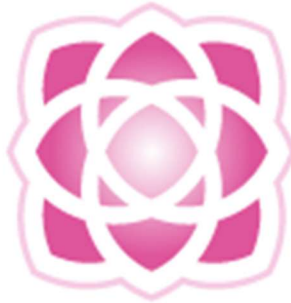
Maui County Farm Bureau (MCFB) appreciates this opportunity to testify on this important issue. MCFB is a general agriculture advocacy organization representing farm and ranch families and organizations on the island of Maui.

MCFB STRONGLY SUPPORTS HB1266 HD1 seeking to amend the Hawaii Good Samaritan law to include wild game.

Wild game provides an inexpensive source of protein for the needy. States across the country have been updating their Good Samaritan laws to include wild game as an authorized donation. A recent article from Illinois demonstrates the potential of a Deer Donation program to assist SNAP and other programs for the needy. <https://chronicleillinois.com/news/mclean-county-news/deer-donation-program-provides-nearly-25000-meals-across-12-counties/>

Long term sustainable solution to our feral animal problem lies in a comprehensive plan involving various government and private parties. It requires cooperation. Along with hunting rules, slaughter and processing capacity, and working with NGOs, this is one step of a process to address our increasing feral animal problem. MCFB respectfully requests your support of this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide our opinion on this matter. Please contact Warren Watanabe at 8082819718 if there are any questions.



# MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

**HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON  
JUDICIARY AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 325  
FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 24, 2023 AT 1:30 P.M.**

To The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair  
The Honorable Gregg Takayama, Vice Chair  
Members of the committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

**SUPPORT FOR HB1266 HD1 RELATING TO FOOD DONATIONS**

The Maui Chamber of Commerce **supports HB1266 HD1** which allows wild game to be donated as food.

The Chamber would like to point out that axis deer, an invasive species that poses a continuing threat to Hawaii's environment, could provide significant quantities of meat as a protein source for nonprofit food distribution services, such as the State's network of food banks and Feed My Sheep, Inc. of Maui County. However, there is a gap between the hunters and the retailers and nonprofit services because the meat, currently, is not allowed to be donated. For meat donation, other states such as Wisconsin and Michigan offer models that Hawaii can assess to develop processes for plan implementation and program funding, including licensing fees and other funding sources managed by wildlife agencies or nonprofits.

This bill will be one of a few major tools in controlling the over-population of Axis deer on all islands.

For these reasons, we **support HB1266 HD1**.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap  
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.



**HB-1266-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 5:06:57 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Jimmy Gomes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support HB1266 and stand with Hawaii Cattlemen's Council testimony

**HB-1266-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 9:43:06 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Micah Richards	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I strongly support this measure.  
Micah Richards

**HB-1266-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 10:12:01 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frederick M. Mencher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

**I support HB 1266, HD1, which allows wild game to be donated as food.**

Across the State, various invasive species are creating havoc in agriculture as well as the ecosystems in which they exist. Maui County’s Axis Deer population is a good example of nature getting out of control with populations exploding due to abundant forage following rainfall events. They continue to destroy crops and pasture lands by devouring any living vegetation as they continue to spread. Feral pigs damage crops by consuming them or by their rooting and trampling of crops. They will eat almost any crop. Feral pigs damage pasture grasses, killing desired plant species and often encouraging the growth of undesired weed species. They can also devastate orchards by consuming fruit, citrus, and nuts and their rooting can severely damage, or even kill saplings, shrubs, and vines directly or by facilitating the spread of soil-based fungal diseases. Feral pigs can also break irrigation lines, rip or tear nets, drying racks, and other agricultural structures and equipment.

These and other feral populations can pose a danger, especially as populations grow and their health is put into jeopardy due to inadequate food. Diseases that they normally tolerate will become serious debilitating illnesses that could put our domestic livestock industry in jeopardy. Such fears are not unreasonable, as incidences such as bovine tuberculosis spread from feral pigs have been documented in Molokai.

Hawai‘i’s farmers and ranchers are working to provide Hawai‘i with an increased level of self-sufficiency but will not be able to do so if their products are consumed or damaged by feral animals. Axis Deer, feral pigs, and other invasive species can cause major damage to property, agriculture (crops and livestock), Hawai‘i’s native species and ecosystems, and Hawai‘i’s cultural and historic resources. They can also threaten the health of people, wildlife, pets, and other domestic animals. As Hawai‘i’s feral animal populations continue to expand, these damages, costs, and risks will only keep rising.

Current state law specifically prohibits the inclusion of meats as a donation. Wild game can be a significant source of protein for Hawai‘i’s residents in need. Wild game can provide a beneficial outlet for meat harvested from invasive species and provide a tool for long-term sustainable invasive management for Axis Deer and Feral Pigs.

Several states have amended their Good Samaritan laws to use as a tool for invasive white-tail deer management programs. Wild game meat donated under this provision does not need to undergo antemortem inspection requirements as long as stated conditions are met. Conditions for donations can be specified to allow the donation of this important protein source for our neighbors in need. Utah is the most recent state that passed such a measure and can be used as a model for Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

Sincerely,

Frederick M. Mencher

**HB-1266-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 10:29:00 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
byron kaneshiro	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I wholeheartly believe this concept to a practical and working solution to two of Hawai'i most pressing issues at this point in time, in fact I had previously submitted an editorial to SA last year regarding this very bill as I am a prolific contributor to such. I proposed that we develop a privately run entity to catch and process wild axis deer meat in a state funded slaughter house and be packaged and sold as pet food "high in protein and low fat" to sustain operations and be donated to organizations that feed the needy. This is a no brainer win win situation for all involved and solves two gigantic problems that Maui county especially and all islands that have nutrition shortages that our kamaaina deal with on a daily basis.

Byron Jiro Kaneshiro

**HB-1266-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/23/2023 12:52:17 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support

**HB-1266-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2023 11:45:40 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Susan Shaheen Mulkern	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Takayama, and Members of the Committee:

**I support HB 1266, HD1**, which allows wild game to be donated as food. Across the State, various invasive species are creating havoc in agriculture as well as the ecosystems in which they exist. This works counter to our goal to become food sustainable in the near future.

Wild deer and feral pigs have been damaging agricultural crops and ornamental landscapes throughout our state over the last several years. In our small Waimanalo nursery alone, feral pigs broke down our rear fence and ate 90% of our valuable lotus crop; we still haven't completely recovered from the loss.

Many of our landscape customers have also been suffering since the pigs have been rooting up shrubbery and creating wallows in their beds and lawns; this causes much extra expense for them to repair.

When the feral pigs destroyed our lotus, we worked with a group of hunters to install a pig trap. The hunters handled the captured pigs humanely and were able to distribute the game for food to us and their families. This seemed to be an excellent way to use an invasive species to supplement our food source.

Please also note that we have paid for a mobile slaughterhouse and rendering plant on the Big Island that has sat idle for years; these facilities could be put to use if we find a way to use these invasive pests plaguing our islands. It seems like a win for all of us.

Thank you for considering my testimony.

Sincerely,

Susan S. Mulkern

**HB-1266-HD-1**

Submitted on: 2/24/2023 4:29:52 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/24/2023 2:00:00 PM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Dana Keawe	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Comments:

Wild game/pua'a or hogs on Hawai'i island have been and are hunted for sustenance by my family for hundreds of years. Over the years, my uncles have shared that the wild pua'a they hunt have gone from healthy wild game to wild game riddled with parasites and sickly. And that the livers in the wild game are diseased; They do not bring home these wild game for consumption and they do not allow hunting dogs to eat the meat of sick wild game(diseased livers). They bury diseased wild game in the forest. My concern is the practice of hunting wild game needs to be regulated so its done humanely. The other concern is that parasites are harmful to human health. Food safety/DOH, DOA needs to be aware that wild game can be hazardous to human health if not properly cooked. So all wild game donated needs to be from healthy wild game and cooked well and tested for parasites before allowing wild game to be given to food banks for human consumption ect.

Solution: humanely capturing wild game and putting them in enclosures to both heal them from parasites as well as being careful not to allow wild game that have diseased livers to be used for human consumption. KNF or Korean Natural Farming piggeries have the best most humane practices to raise animals humanely and up to DOH food safety standards.