

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI
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Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
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TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

FEBRUARY 15, 2023
2:00 PM
CONFERENCE ROOM 329

HOUSE BILL NO. 1382
RELATING TO MEAT DONATION

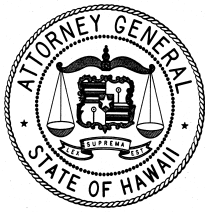
Chairpersons Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1382. The bill amends Section 145D-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes to add the donation of livestock or wild game meat; provided that the good-faith donor harvested the meat in a food safe manner, processed the meat in accordance with section 159-25 and the distributor reasonably believes that the food is fit for human consumption, as an exception from liability. The measure also establishes a meat processing taskforce and appropriates funds.

The Department supports this measure and provides comments. The definition of "donor" in 145D-2, HRS includes that the food in question has been prepared and packaged in a facility meeting all relevant food safety guidelines, certifications, and requirements and has passed all food safety inspections. Therefore, inspection of the food is still needed. If the intent is to provide state inspection, the state currently does not have meat inspection capabilities and it will take time to restart that program. The meat processing taskforce should be able to create a masterplan that takes this into account.



The Department supports this measure, provided it does not impact the Department's priorities identified in the Executive Budget request. Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**TESTIMONY OF
THE DEPARTMENT OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL
KA 'OIHANA O KA LOIO KUHINA
THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE, 2023**

ON THE FOLLOWING MEASURE:

H.B. NO. 1382, H.D. 1, RELATING TO MEAT DONATION.

BEFORE THE:

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION AND COMMERCE

DATE: Wednesday, February 15, 2023 **TIME:** 2:00 p.m.

LOCATION: State Capitol, Room 329

TESTIFIER(S): Anne E. Lopez, Attorney General, or
Bryan C. Yee, Deputy Attorney General

Chair Nakashima and Members of the Committee:

The Department of the Attorney General provides the following comments regarding this bill.

This bill, among other things, establishes a meat processing task force to develop and implement a plan to expand the meat processing capacity in the State to allow for meat from axis deer and other wild game to be processed for distribution by a nonprofit food distribution service.

Article V, section 6, of the Hawai'i State Constitution provides that all executive and administrative offices, departments, and instrumentalities of the State shall be allocated by law among and within its principal departments. Temporary commissions for special purposes may be exempted. This bill does not place the meat processing task force within any designated department or set a sunset date. Therefore, it may be subject to constitutional challenge.

We therefore recommend that this bill either add a sunset date or be amended at page 3, line 10-11, as follows:

(a) There is established within the department of agriculture for administrative purposes a meat processing task force

Thank you for the opportunity to present this testimony.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



JAMES J. NAKATANI
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION
235 S. Beretania Street, Suite 205
Honolulu, HI 96813
Phone: (808) 586-0186 Fax: (808) 586-0189

**TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION**

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE
Wednesday, February 15, 2023
2:00 p.m.
VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING
Conference Room 329

**HOUSE BILL NO. 1382 H.D. 1
RELATING TO MEAT DONATIONS**

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1382 H.D. 1. The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) supports this measure, which provides for donation of wild game to under-resourced communities, establishes a task force for development and implementation to expand meat processing capacity in the State and appropriates funds.

ADC supports the intent of the legislature to establish long-term, sustainable, management programs for invasive species, such as wild pigs and axis deer to feed our local under-resourced communities. The establishment of a task force will help identify and address the numerous hurdles to make the inclusion of wild game as a donation-eligible food resource creates a beneficial outlet for food-safe meat harvested from invasive species a reality.

We urge the passage of this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget. Thank you for your consideration of our testimony.

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee



Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.


Councilmembers
Tom Cook
Gabe Johnson
Tasha Kama
Tamara Paltin
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Shane M. Sinenci
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins

Deputy Director of Council Services
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

COUNTY COUNCIL
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 S. HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
www.MauiCounty.us

February 14, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative Mark N. Nakashima, Chair,
and Members of the House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 15, 2023; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF
HB 1382, HD1, RELATING TO MEAT DONATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to allow wild game to become a donation-eligible food resource and to establish a Meat Processing Task Force.

The Maui County Council has not had the opportunity to take a formal position on this measure. Therefore, I am providing this testimony in my capacity as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Areas of Maui County are devastated by overpopulation of Axis deer and other invasive species, resulting in nuisance and environmental degradation, including deforestation and erosion.
2. One way to reduce the overpopulation is to encourage use of wild game as a food resource, which would also contribute to high-protein food supply for residents, including lower income families and houseless individuals.
3. The measure will help turn an environmental problem into a valuable resource and a source of much-needed sustenance.

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

ocs:proj:legis:23legis:23testimony:hb1382_hd1_paf23-007(39)_ebm

RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.
Mayor

KEKUHAUPIO R. AKANA
Acting Managing Director



OFFICE OF THE MAYOR
COUNTY OF MAUI
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
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February 14, 2023

TO: Honorable Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair
Honorable Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair
House Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce

FROM: Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor
Rogerene K.M. Arce, Director of Agriculture

DATE: February 14, 2023

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF HB1382 HD1, RELATING TO MEAT DONATION

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to amend the conditions for donations to allow provision of this important protein source to under-resourced communities, including the homeless.

Our administration **SUPPORTS** this measure for the following reasons:

1. This measure supports the use of axis deer and other wild game to be distributed by non-profits for food distribution, which would support fighting hunger in Maui County.
2. This measure supports livestock or wild game meat as donation-eligible food resource for human consumption.
3. Axis deer is an invasive species that poses a continuing threat to Maui County, and despite a current ongoing effort to control the growing deer population, there are an estimate of 60,000 deer roaming Maui County. Axis deer mitigation is a serious concern in Maui County because they eat cattle food sources and farmer's crops, cause soil erosion from over grazing, and threaten native species. This measure contributes to alleviating these challenges.

For the foregoing reasons, we offer our **SUPPORT** of this measure.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

Rep. Mark M. Nakashima, Chair

Rep. Jackson D. Sayama, Vice Chair

HB1382, HD1

RELATING TO MEAT DONATION

Wednesday, February 15, 2023, 2:00 PM
Conference Room 329 & Videoconference

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, 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 HB1382, HD1** which provides for donation of wild game to under-resourced communities. Establishes a task force for development and implementation to expand meat processing capacity in the State.

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, 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





MAUI COUNTY FARM BUREAU

PO Box 148, Kula, HI 96790
mauicountyfarmbureau.org

TESTIMONY

COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

February 15, 2023

2:00 PM

Conference Room 329

HB 1382 HD1

RELATING TO MEAT DONATION

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 HB 1382 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.



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Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Ray Maki
Kauai

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Sayama, and Members of the House Consumer Protection & Commerce 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 HB1382.**

This bill will afford protection for livestock and wild game meat donation and create a task force to expand meat processing capacity in the State, thus creating more market outlets for our farmers and ranchers.

We find HB1382 to be a well-thought-out and beneficial measure that could result in greater food security for the people of Hawaii.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Kaipo Kekona, President HFUU/HFUF

Lui Kamoshita-Langan

In affiliation to Hawai'i Preparatory Academy

Feb 15, 2023

Testimony in support of: HB1382 HD1

Aloha Hawaii Legislators,

My name is Lui Kamoshita-Langan and I am a student at Hawai'i Preparatory Academy and also a concerned Big Island resident. Over the past 6 months, I have interviewed the DLNR and other community members impacted by the rising ungulate populations on the Big Island as a part of my Capstone Project. A Capstone Project is a year-long project where a senior attending Hawai'i Preparatory Academy collaborates with the school to focus on a specific topic to work on, ranging from artistic efforts to public policy and implementation. My goal this year was to research the crisis on the Big Island of the rising ungulate population and see what I could do to help.

As a Big Island resident myself, I have seen firsthand the population explosion of sheep and goats, and the dangers they pose to drivers as they roam around roads. Hearing about the negative impact these invasive species have on native ecosystems, endemic species, agriculture, and ranching in my interviews has inspired me to further support the efforts to manage these feral ungulates.

I wholeheartedly support HB1382 HD1, as it provides an incentive to manage the booming population of the feral ungulates, along with allowing people to take advantage of this abundant resource, similar to how Axis deer are being used on the island of Maui.

I believe that in Hawaii, we ought to take measures to both listen to the voices of all community members and also give back to the community at the same time, especially to those of low socioeconomic status. This bill is parallel to both of these virtues, and I believe it would be a step in the right direction.

Thank you for hearing my testimony,

Lui Kamoshita-Langan



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February 15, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON CONSUMER PROTECTION & COMMERCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1382, HD1
RELATING TO MEAT DONATIONS

Conference Room 329 & Videoconference
2:00 PM

Aloha Chair Nakashima, Vice-Chair Sayama, 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 1382, HD1, which provides for donation of wild game to under-resourced communities and establishes a task force for development and implementation to expand meat processing capacity in the State.

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.

HB-1382-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2023 1:07:11 AM

Testimony for CPC on 2/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Ruth Love	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Support this bill provided meat processing is on All habits islands, not just Oahu.

Thank you,

Mrs Ruth Love