

DAVID Y. IGE
Governor

JOSH GREEN
Lt. Governor



PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

MORRIS M. ATTA
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawaii
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96814-2512
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

TESTIMONY OF PHYLLIS SHIMABUKURO-GEISER
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE

WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022
9:00 A.M.
VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 65
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.

Chairpersons Hashem and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Concurrent Resolution No. 65 requesting the Department of Agriculture (DOA) develop a certification process for hunters to become certified inspectors in order to inspect their own game for sale. DOA does not support this measure. Meat inspection and processing for sale involves more than post-mortem examination for food safety.

The state of Hawaii does not have a state meat inspection program. Therefore, the state does not have facilities, staff or resources to train and certify individuals for this competency. As a result, all Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) inspected facilities within the state are governed by USDA/FSIS inspection, regulations and guidance as to the facility and practice requirements. However, deer meat is not under the FMIA like beef and falls under voluntary inspection by USDA/FSIS. Game meat for sale must be inspected antemortem, before being



killed, in addition to postmortem by FSIS. To sell game meat a FSIS inspector must accompany the hunt and observe the kill. In addition, the carcass and slaughter/processing facility must be inspected by FSIS where the game is being processed. This is to ensure proper handling for food safety. It is not just a matter of training as an inspector. In addition, FSIS inspector training involves more than gross anatomy but knowledge of regulations, food security, post-mortem disposition, pathology, food microbiology, humane handling and slaughter to list a few. For example, a government meat inspector certification is acquired through instruction, on the job training, a series of validated competency examinations and on-the-job evaluations.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this resolution.

HCR-65

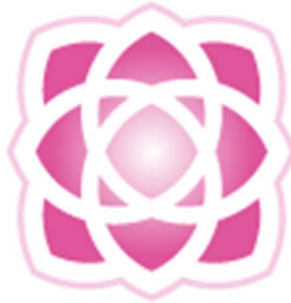
Submitted on: 3/22/2022 4:14:30 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
isaac maeda	Dept. of Agriculture	Comments	Remotely Via Zoom

Comments:

Available for questions.



MAUI

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

VOICE OF BUSINESS

HEARING BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON
AGRICULTURE
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, HOUSE CONFERENCE ROOM 325
WEDNESDAY, MARCH 23, 2022 AT 9:00 A.M.

To The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Chair
The Honorable Amy A. Perruso, Vice Chair
Members of the Committee on Agriculture

SUPPORTING HCR65 & HR 59

The Maui Chamber of Commerce **supports HCR65 & HR 59** which requests the department of agriculture to develop a certification process for hunters to become certified inspectors in order to inspect their own game for sale.

The Chamber supports providing hunters the opportunity to become certified inspectors as it will expedite the inspection process, thereby ensuring the quality and safety of the meat, while also addressing the overpopulation of axis deer in Maui County and the rest of the state.

For these reasons we respectfully request that **HCR65 & HR 59** be passed.

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.

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Gabe Johnson
Kelly Takaya King
Michael J. Molina
Tamara Paltin
Shane M. Sinenci
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura




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

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

March 23, 2022

TO: The Honorable Mark J. Hashem, Chair
House Committee on Agriculture

FROM: Michael J. Molina 
Councilmember, Maui County Council

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 23, 2022; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR 65, 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.**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure that will address the overpopulation of axis deer in Maui County and across the State. Creating a safe and expedited meat inspection program will help generate a more diverse hunting economy. I encourage the State Legislature to act boldly to save our environment and residents from the devastating impacts of axis deer.

The Maui County Council has not taken a formal position on this measure. I am providing this testimony as an individual member of the Maui County Council.

I support this measure for the following reasons:

1. Axis deer cause rampant damage to native forests, vital watersheds, and local farmers.
2. Certifying knowledgeable hunters to inspect venison is a safe and efficient way to diversify the State's local food economy.
3. Creating an inspection certification program will expedite the process for hunters to sell venison and encourage the depopulation of axis deer.

For these reasons, I **support** this measure.

HCR-65

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 8:57:57 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Councilmember Yuki Lei Sugimura	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

SUBJECT: SUPPORT FOR HCR 65, 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

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of this important resolution. The purpose of this resolution is to request the development of a certification process for hunters to become certified inspectors in order to inspect their own game for sale. I SUPPORT this measure as a means to address the growing issues brought by the overpopulation of axis deer in Hawaii. In particular, Maui County has seen ecological, economical, and cultural devastation as a direct result of the axis deer overpopulation. In order to reduce the axis deer population, we need to look at sustainable and achievable solutions. Currently, there are hurdles to reselling deer meat that make it cost prohibitive for most. Creating a process for hunters to certify their own game will help clear a more favorable path for the growth of a viable deer meat industry. An industry which could significantly reduce deer populations, while also diversifying our local economy. For the foregoing reasons, I SUPPORT this measure.

HCR-65

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 7:48:08 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
STANLEY RUIDAS	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Stan Ruidas. I am a lifetime resident of Lanai. Allowing an avenue for hunters to inspect game animals will help the economy of Lanai and the residents of the State of Hawaii. Maui County has a problem getting inspectors to travel from Oahu to the neighboring islands for animal inspection. This vital requirement is part of the problem of the Axis deer population in Maui County. The sustainable demand by food banks and many consumers is evident, but there is a lack of supply. I humbly ask that this bill is supported.

Mahalo, Stan Ruidas

HCR-65

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 8:38:22 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Theresa M Thompson	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support the intent of the bill, but I urge you to amend the third paragraph from the bottom...

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,

PLEASE change "hunters" to farmers and ranchers. This will lead to even more trespassing and stray gun shots than we already have. Ranchers and farmers already know how to properly handle food. Hopefully you can make this simple change during your hearing.

Thank you for moving forward with a bill that can help us with this complex problem.

Sincerely,

Theresa Thompson

HCR-65

Submitted on: 3/22/2022 9:31:01 PM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Godfrey Akaka	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

My name is Godfrey Akaka Jr. I am a resident of Molokai for over 30 years. I am a farmer, hunter, and fisherman. I have co-ownership of an outfitting bussines that does guided hunts. I have also been part of the developement of the game management plan that has been implemented on Molokai Ranch. I have also served as a board member for the Molokai Livestock Corporation a.k.a. Molokai slaughterhouse and was HACCEP trained. I understand the process for the inspection of animals for sale and I support promoting certification for hunters to have the oppportunity to inspect their own game animals for sale as the current process prevents game animals to be refrigerated in a timely maner which produces a higher rate of spoilage to the meat. Supporting this resolution would encourage hunting, game management and also stimulate our economy by providing opportunities for local families. Mahalo.

HCR-65

Submitted on: 3/23/2022 7:28:20 AM

Testimony for AGR on 3/23/2022 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Stacey Moniz	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

As a resident of Maui County I strongly support this legislation. Our hunters are highly skilled and many of us love to eat the deer meat. The overpopulation of deer and the impact on the land of their grazing have been such a huge problem for us and existing 'deer task force' operations have only dented the surface. Allowing hunters to catch and sell their products is a win-win scenario to allow residents to eat the invasive species, increases our locally grown food supply, reduces the impact on the land and stimulates the economy by paying the hunters for their time and talents.

Please let's make this happen!!

Mahalo for your time.

Peace and love,
Stacey Moniz
Pukalani, Maui