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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MEAT PROCESSING.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a need for  
2 increased meat processing capacity in the State as smaller  
3 ranchers and hunters compete for the limited capacity, resulting  
4 in the loss of potential use of wild game meat.

5           The legislature further finds that axis deer, an invasive  
6 species that poses a continuing threat to Hawaii's environment,  
7 could provide significant quantities of meat as a protein source  
8 for non-profit food distribution services, such as Feed My Sheep  
9 and the Hawaii Foodbank. However, there is a gap between the  
10 hunters and these nonprofit services because the meat needs to  
11 be processed prior to distribution. Other states have developed  
12 processes for this purpose, including licensing fees and other  
13 funding managed by wildlife agencies or nonprofit organizations.

14           The purpose of this Act is to require the department of  
15 agriculture, in collaboration with other state agencies, to  
16 develop and implement a plan to expand the State's meat  
17 processing capacity to allow for meat from axis deer and other



1 wild game to be distributed by nonprofit food distribution  
2 services.

3 SECTION 2. The department of agriculture, in collaboration  
4 with the Hawaii interagency council on homelessness; department  
5 of land and natural resources, division of forestry and  
6 wildlife; and department of health, food safety branch, shall  
7 develop and implement a plan by July 1, 2025, to expand the meat  
8 processing capacity in the State to allow for meat from axis  
9 deer and other wild game to be processed for distribution by  
10 nonprofit food distribution services.

11 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general  
12 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
13 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2023-2024 and  
14 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
15 year 2024-2025 for the implementation of a plan to expand the  
16 meat processing capacity in the State pursuant to this Act.

17 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
18 of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

19 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on June 30, 3000.



**Report Title:**

HDOA; Meat Processing Capacity; Expansion; Food Distribution Services; Appropriations

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with other state agencies, to develop and implement a plan by 7/1/2025 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 nonprofit food distribution services. Appropriates funds. Effective 6/30/3000. (SD1)

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