

MAR 07 2023

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## SENATE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE TO CONVENE A FERAL GAME MAMMAL WORKING GROUP TO FIND, SOLICIT, AND DISTRIBUTE GRANTS FOR THE CONTROL OF FERAL GAME MAMMALS.

1           WHEREAS, feral game mammals and, in particular, feral  
2 ungulates, have long been recognized as a significant threat to  
3 the integrity and health of native ecosystems in Hawaii; and  
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5           WHEREAS, feral ungulates jeopardize the component species  
6 that comprise native habitats, making the management of feral  
7 ungulates a high priority for the State; and  
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9           WHEREAS, many rare and endangered plants occur in otherwise  
10 inaccessible areas, but goats are adept climbers and can access  
11 steep and rugged terrain to accelerate erosion and spread weeds  
12 in these fragile environments; and  
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14           WHEREAS, mouflon sheep graze on native vegetation such as  
15 mamane-naio forests on Mauna Kea, which serve as the habitat and  
16 the main food source for the Palila, a Hawaiian honeycreeper  
17 endemic to the island of Hawaii; and  
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19           WHEREAS, feral pigs can quickly destroy eighty percent of  
20 plant ground cover; commonly uproot native tree ferns to eat  
21 their starchy interiors; and dig up soil for wallows, creating  
22 cavities in which water can collect that then become breeding  
23 grounds for mosquitos, which harbor diseases such as avian  
24 malaria (*Plasmodium relictum*) and bird pox (*Avipoxvirus*) to  
25 which native birds have little or no natural immunity; and  
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27           WHEREAS, Axis deer populations in Maui County have  
28 ballooned to more than sixty thousand, and their migration into  
29 agricultural and urbanized areas create the potential for  
30 spreading diseases to human populations; and  
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32           WHEREAS, to minimize or prevent these impacts to Hawaii's  
33 ecosystems and communities, funds must first be identified and  
34 secured for a successful feral game mammal control plan to be  
35 implemented; now, therefore,



# S.R. NO. 41

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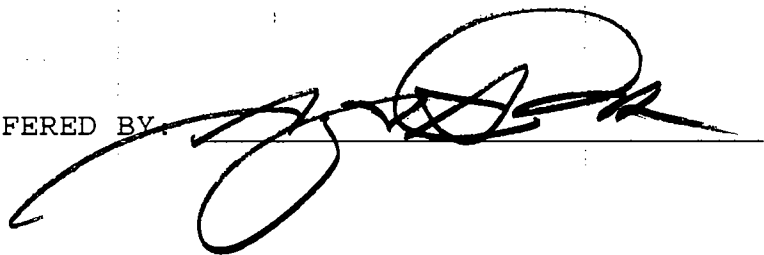
BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-second Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2023, that the Department of Agriculture is requested to convene a Feral Game Mammal Working Group to find, solicit, and distribute grants for the control of feral game mammals to address the environmental, health, and safety concerns that they pose in the State; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the following individuals are requested to serve as members of the Feral Game Mammal Working Group:

- (1) A member of the Department of Agriculture Animal Industry Division, selected by the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture;
- (2) A member of the Department of Land and Natural Resources Division of Forestry and Wildlife, selected by the Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources;
- (3) A community member who resides in an area impacted by feral game mammal activity to be selected by the Speaker of the House of Representatives; and
- (4) A community member who resides in an area impacted by feral game mammal activity to be selected by the President of the Senate; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture and Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural Resources.

OFFERED BY:

A large, stylized handwritten signature in black ink, written over a horizontal line. The signature is highly cursive and difficult to decipher.