

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



JAMES J. NAKATANI
Executive Director

STATE OF HAWAII
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

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TESTIMONY OF JAMES J. NAKATANI
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR
AGRIBUSINESS DEVELOPMENT CORPORATION

BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Wednesday, March 15, 2023
2:00 p.m.

Via Videoconference
Conference Room 224

HOUSE BILL NO. 1382 H.D. 2
RELATING TO MEAT DONATIONS

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1382 H.D. 2. 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.

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
1428 South King Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512
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**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

**MARCH 15, 2023
2:00 P.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 224**

**HOUSE BILL NO.1382, HD2
RELATING TO MEAT DONATION**

Chairperson Gabbard and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill 1382 HD2. 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 meat inspection, the state currently does not have meat inspection capabilities and it will take time to restart that program. The meat processing taskforce detailed in this measure should be able to account for this time and include it as part of the master plan it is tasked to produce.



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.

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
www.mauicounty.gov

March 14, 2023

TO: Honorable Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair
Honorable Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair
Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

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

DATE: March 14, 2023

SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF HB1382 HD2, 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.



HAWAI'I FOREST INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION (HFIA)

P. O. Box 66 ❖ 'O'ōkala, HI
96774 Phone: 808-933-9411
Email: hfia@hawaiiiforest.org
Website: www.hawaiiiforest.org

Date: 03/11/2023

TO: AEN Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards and AEN Committee Members

FROM: The Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA)

SUBJECT: In Support of HB1382 HD2 Relating to Meat Donation

Dear Chair Gabbard and AEN Committee Members,

On behalf of the Directors and members of the Hawai'i Forest Industry Association (HFIA), please support HB1382 HD2 Relating to Meat Donation.

Since 1989 HFIA has worked towards actualizing healthy and productive forests across the state of Hawaii. We believe that properly managing and utilizing game resources from forested lands plays an important role in revitalizing Hawai'i's Forests.

Expanding the opportunities to harvest, process and distribute wild game meat poses an opportunity to remove some of the burden ungulates have on our forest lands, all while feeding Hawai'i's families and those in need.

Please support HB1382 HD2.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Guy Cellier, Acting President

Hawaii Forest Industry Association

Established in 1989, HFIA's is a nonprofit organization founded by people committed to sustainable forest management. HFIA's mission is to promote healthy and productive forests and a sustainable forest industry through management, education, planning, information exchange, and advocacy. HFIA has over 130 members including woodworkers, landowners, sawyers, foundations, foresters, growers, educators, environmentalists, architects, millers, ranchers, and others interested in HFIA's mission and goals.

HFIA Board of Directors

Officers: Acting President/Vice-President Guy Cellier, Secretary Peter D. Simmons, Treasurer Wade Lee
Directors: Thomas Calhoun, Jeremy Campbell, Aaron Hammer, Nickolas Koch, Tai Lake, Michael Sowards, Irene Sprecher, Michael Tam, Jorma Winkler, Ron Wolfe, Aileen Yeh



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Hana, Maui

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Rufina Kaauwai
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Negus Manna
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Brynn Foster
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Christian Zuckerman
Wai'anae, O'ahu

Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Ray Maki
Kauai

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, and Members of the Senate Agriculture and Environment 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



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e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

March 15, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
SENATE COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

TESTIMONY ON HB 1382, HD2
RELATING TO MEAT DONATIONS

Conference Room 224 & Videoconference
1:00 PM

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice-Chair Richards, 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, HD2, 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.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE AND ENVIRONMENT

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

Senator Herbert M. "Tim" Richards, III, Vice Chair

HB1382, HD2

RELATING TO MEAT DONATION

Wednesday, March 15, 2023, 2:00 PM
Conference Room 224 & Videoconference

Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Richards, 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, HD2** 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



HB-1382-HD-2

Submitted on: 3/12/2023 11:09:33 AM

Testimony for AEN on 3/15/2023 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Caroline Azelski	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

In support of HD2. Thank you.

Council Chair
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers
Tom Cook
Gabe Johnson
Tamara Paltin
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez
Shane M. Sinenci
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins




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

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

COUNTY COUNCIL
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WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793
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March 11, 2023

TO: The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair, and
Members of the Senate Committee on Agriculture and Environment

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF MARCH 15, 2023; TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 1382, HD2, RELATING TO MEAT DONATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **support** of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to include wild game meat as a donation-eligible food resource for under-resourced communities 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.