

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
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

BEFORE THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

**FEBRUARY 23, 2023
11:30 A.M.
CONFERENCE ROOM 308**

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

Chairperson Yamashita 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.

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 FINANCE

Thursday, February 23, 2023

11:30 a.m.

VIA VIDEO CONFERENCING

Conference Room 308

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

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa and Members of the Committee:

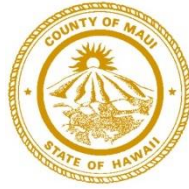
Thank you for the opportunity to testify on House Bill No. 1382 H.D. 2. The Agribusiness Development Corporation (ADC) supports this measure, which provides for donation of wild game to under-resourced communities, establishes a task force for development and implementation to expand meat processing 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.

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

February 21, 2023

TO: Honorable Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Honorable Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair
House Committee on Finance

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

DATE: February 21, 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.

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



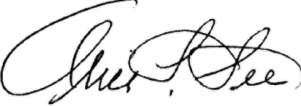
Director of Council Services
Traci N. T. Fujita, Esq.

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

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

February 22, 2023

TO: The Honorable Representative Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair, and
Members of the House Committee on Finance

FROM: Alice L. Lee
Council Chair 

SUBJECT: **HEARING OF FEBRUARY 23, 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 as 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.



Officers

Kaipo Kekona
State President

Anabella Bruch
Vice-President

Maureen Datta
Secretary

Reba Lopez
Treasurer

Chapter Presidents

Madeline Ross
Kohala, Hawai'i

Odysseus Yacalis
East Hawai'i

Puna, Hawai'i

Andrea Drayer
Ka'u, Hawai'i

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Kona, Hawai'i

Fawn Helekahi-Burns
Hana, Maui

Reba Lopez
Haleakala, Maui

Kaiea Medeiros
Mauna Kahalawai,
Maui

Kaipo Kekona
Lahaina, Maui

Rufina Kaauwai
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Negus Manna
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Brynn Foster
North Shore, O'ahu

Christian Zuckerman
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Ted Radovich
Waimanalo, O'ahu

Vincent Kimura
Honolulu, O'ahu

Ray Maki
Kauai

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the House Finance 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

HB-1382-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 5:39:42 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Yoshito L'Hote	Aina Ho'okupu o Kilauea	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

As a CEO of a nonprofit the more diversified meats and offering we can connect our under privilege community, the more power we give to those communities to thrive once again. Those high-quality meats are not just for the privileged but also to provide for all as it has been done for generations I support this bill fully



Food+ Policy Internship 2023

food@purplemaia.org

February 21, 2023

To: Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and the House Committee on Finance

Subject: **HB1382**, Relating to Meat Donation

Aloha,

Food+ Policy **supports HB1382**, which addresses the problem of invasive ungulates at the same time as addressing food access for food insecure communities. Wild meat tends to be nutrient-dense and healthy, making it a good option for anyone to eat.

In addition, this bill builds our local food infrastructure by establishing a task force to develop Hawai'i's meat processing capacity. This is important infrastructure to have in place in the event of a disaster or emergency that disturbs shipping or supply chains.

Mahalo,
Kelsey Amos & the Food+ Policy Team
#fixourfoodsystem

The Food+ Policy internship develops student advocates who learn work skills while increasing civic engagement to become emerging leaders. We focus on good food systems policy because we see the importance and potential of the food system in combating climate change and increasing the health, equity, and resiliency of Hawai'i communities.

In 2023, the cohort of interns are undergraduate and graduate students from throughout the UH System. They are a mix of traditional and nontraditional students, including parents and veterans, who have backgrounds in education, farming, public health, nutrition, and Hawaiian culture.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921
e-mail info@hfbf.org; www.hfbf.org

February 23, 2023

HEARING BEFORE THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

TESTIMONY ON HB 1382, HD2
RELATING TO MEAT DONATIONS

Conference Room 308 & Videoconference
11:30 AM

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, 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.



MAUI COUNTY FARM BUREAU

PO Box 148, Kula, HI 96790
mauicountyfarmbureau.org

TESTIMONY

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

February 23, 2023

11:30 AM

Conference Room 308

HB 1382 HD2

RELATING TO MEAT DONATION

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

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 HD2 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.

HB-1382-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 10:26:48 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Leanne Kami	Kohana Family Farms	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha kākou, my name is Leanne Kami. I work in Hilo as a strategy consultant for Kamehameha Schools, focused on sustainable food system development in Hawai‘i. I also own and manage Kohana Family Farms, a small organic farm in Pana‘ewa. I am writing this letter in my personal capacity as a farmer and member of the Farm-to-School Hui, Hawai‘i Farmers Union United, and the Hawai‘i Farm Bureau Federation.

I strongly support HB1382 which allows wild game to be donated to food distribution programs. We need to find ways to manage our feral ungulate populations that are wreaking havoc on our ecosystems and threatening the livelihoods of farms and ranches. Allowing wild game to be distributed through feeding programs can provide nutrient dense proteins while helping to manage ungulate populations.



Hawaii Cattlemen's Council, Inc.
COMMITTEE ON FINANCE
Rep. Kyle T. Yamashita, Chair
Rep. Lisa Kitagawa, Vice Chair

HB1382, HD2
RELATING TO MEAT DONATION

Thursday, February 23, 2023, 11:30 AM
Conference Room 308 & Videoconference

Chair Yamashita, Vice Chair Kitagawa, 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





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: 02/21/2023

TO: FIN Chair Yamashita, FIN Vice Chair Kitagawa and FIN Committee Members

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

SUBJECT: In Support of HB1382 HD2 Relating to Meat Donation

Dear Chair Yamashita,

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

HB-1382-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/21/2023 9:09:33 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Randy Cabral	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support

HB-1382-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 10:14:44 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
J Ashman	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this measure.

HB-1382-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 11:11:06 AM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Frederick M. Mencher	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamashita, Vice-Chair Kitagawa, and Members of the Committee:

I support HB 1382, HD2, which provides for the 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 them 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.

Sincerely,

Frederick M. Mencher

HB-1382-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 12:04:07 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jessica Kuzmier	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, I am in support of HB1382 HD2, as I believe that the donation of high-quality meat, provided it meets safety requirements, is a wonderful provision for those who do not have access to this product to to financial constraints and I am in agreement with amending our laws so that we can accept donations of meat under certain safety standards. Mahalo for your time.

HB-1382-HD-2

Submitted on: 2/22/2023 8:25:05 PM

Testimony for FIN on 2/23/2023 11:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Comments	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry COMMENT HB 1382 RELATING TO MEAT DONATION. Due to climate change, the State of Hawaii should consume more "plant base food." Cow dung for example have a negative impact on the ozone and environment. LABELING MUST PROVIDE TYPE OF ANIMAL as the known animal.