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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 limited capacity, resulting in  
4 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 non-profit 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 non-profits.

14           The purpose of this Act is to:

15           (1) Require the development and implementation of a plan  
16           to expand the meat processing capacity in the State to  
17           allow for meat from axis deer and other wild game to



1           be processed for distribution by non-profit food  
2           distribution services; and

3           (2) Appropriate funds.

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

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

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

19           SECTION 4. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of  
20 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,  
21 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the



# H.B. NO. 2127

1 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state  
 2 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be  
 3 exceeded by \$ or per cent. In addition, the  
 4 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund  
 5 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further  
 6 exceeded by \$ or per cent. The combined total  
 7 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these  
 8 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling  
 9 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by  
 10 \$ or per cent. The reasons for exceeding the  
 11 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

- 12 (1) The appropriation made in this Act is necessary to
- 13 serve the public interest; and
- 14 (2) The appropriation made in this Act meets the needs
- 15 addressed by this Act.

16 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

17

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 19 2024



# H.B. NO. 2127

**Report Title:**

Meat Processing Capacity; Expansion; Food Distribution Services;  
Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Agriculture, in collaboration with other state agencies, to develop and implement a plan 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 non-profit food distribution services by 7/1/2025. Appropriates funds.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

