

JAN 19 2024

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO AGRICULTURE.

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

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that there is a need to
2 expand Hawaii's meat inspection capacity. Consumer demand for
3 locally grown beef and the axis deer population explosion in
4 Maui county have created a lack of antemortem meat inspection
5 capacity. The State's meat inspection program was discontinued
6 in the mid-1990s due to cuts in budget and staffing mandated by
7 reduction-in-force directives. Restoring and updating the meat
8 inspection program will not only grow Hawaii's livestock
9 industry but address the beneficial use of axis deer.
10 Supplementing existing federal inspection capacity will also
11 provide the livestock industry with greater access to the
12 marketplace.

13 The legislature further finds that federal laws have
14 changed and the state meat inspection program should be restored
15 and updated to comply with new requirements, meet the needs of
16 the State's diverse livestock industry and meet the demand of
17 Hawaii consumers, and ensure the livestock industry remains a



1 productive part of Hawaii's economic engine. Because Hawaii is
2 an island state, transportation costs for a limited number of
3 inspectors can be costly. Certification of local veterinarians
4 should be explored and implemented, if possible, while meeting
5 federal requirements.

6 The purpose of this Act is to appropriate funds for costs
7 for meat inspection services under chapter 159, Hawaii Revised
8 Statutes, including the establishment of one full-time
9 equivalent (1.0 FTE) inspector program supervisor position and
10 three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) inspector positions.

11 SECTION 2. 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 2024-2025 for
14 the meat inspection program under chapter 159, Hawaii Revised
15 Statutes, for costs for meat inspection services under chapter
16 159, Hawaii Revised Statutes, including the establishment of one
17 full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) inspector program supervisor
18 position and three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) inspector
19 positions.

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



1 SECTION 3. In accordance with section 9 of article VII of
2 the Hawaii State Constitution and sections 37-91 and 37-93,
3 Hawaii Revised Statutes, the legislature has determined that the
4 appropriations contained in H.B. No. , will cause the state
5 general fund expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be
6 exceeded by \$ or per cent. In addition, the
7 appropriation contained in this Act will cause the general fund
8 expenditure ceiling for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be further
9 exceeded by \$ or per cent. The combined total
10 amount of general fund appropriations contained in only these
11 two Acts will cause the state general fund expenditure ceiling
12 for fiscal year 2024-2025 to be exceeded by
13 \$ or per cent. The reasons for exceeding the
14 general fund expenditure ceiling are that:

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



S.B. NO. 2794

1 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2024.

2

INTRODUCED BY:

Scott M. Petersen



S.B. NO. 2794

Report Title:

Department of Agriculture; Meat Inspection; Meat Processing;
Inspectors; Appropriation; Expenditure Ceiling

Description:

Appropriates funds to the Department of Agriculture for its meat inspection program, including one full-time equivalent (1.0 FTE) inspector program supervisor position and three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) inspectors.

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

