
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 to fulfill local
3 demand. Consumer demand for locally grown beef, combined with
4 the axis deer population explosion in Maui county, created a
5 reduced antemortem meat inspection capacity. In addition,
6 Hawaii county requires additional inspection capacity to process
7 livestock and feral ungulates.

8 The legislature notes that the State's meat inspection
9 program was discontinued in the mid-1990s due to cuts to budget
10 and staffing mandated by reduction in force initiatives.
11 Restoring and updating the meat inspection program will not only
12 grow Hawaii's livestock industry but address the beneficial use
13 of axis deer and other ungulates. Supplementing existing
14 federal inspection capacity will also assist the livestock
15 industry with greater access to the marketplace.

16 The legislature further finds that federal laws have
17 changed, and the state meat inspection program should be



1 restored and updated to comply with new requirements, meet the
2 needs of the State's diverse livestock industry and local
3 demand, and ensure the livestock industry remains a productive
4 part of the State's economic engine. As an island state,
5 transportation costs for a limited number of inspectors can be
6 costly. Therefore, certification of local veterinarians should
7 be explored and implemented to meet additional federal
8 requirements.

9 Accordingly, the purpose of this Act is to:

- 10 (1) Direct the department of agriculture to assess steps
11 necessary for the State to supplement federal
12 authority to perform meat inspections with state
13 inspectors;
- 14 (2) Direct the department of agriculture to assess steps
15 necessary to fully transfer meat inspection authority
16 from federal authority to the State; and
- 17 (3) Appropriate funds to the department of agriculture for
18 three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) inspector
19 positions to perform meat inspections.



1 SECTION 2. (a) The department of agriculture shall assess
2 the steps necessary for the State to supplement federal
3 authority to perform meat inspections with state inspectors.

4 (b) The department of agriculture shall also assess the
5 steps necessary to fully transfer meat inspection authority from
6 federal authority to the State.

7 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
8 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
9 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2024-2025 for
10 the establishment of three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE)
11 inspector positions within the department of agriculture for
12 meat inspections.

13 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department
14 of agriculture for the purposes of this Act.

15 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2050.



Report Title:

DOA; Meat Inspections; Authority; Positions; Appropriation

Description:

Requires the Department of Agriculture to assess the steps necessary for the State to supplement federal authority to perform meat inspections within the State. Requires the Department of Agriculture to assess the steps necessary to transfer full authority over meat inspections from federal authority to the State. Appropriates funds for the establishment of three full-time equivalent (3.0 FTE) inspector positions within the Department of Agriculture to perform meat inspections. Takes effect 7/1/2050. (SD1)

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