

# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF  
AGRICULTURE OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI TO TAKE FURTHER  
MEANINGFUL ACTION TO ADDRESS THE AXIS DEER OVERPOPULATION.

WHEREAS, eating locally-grown food and meats are known to  
provide a benefit to the local economy and to our citizens; and

WHEREAS, the people of the State deserve to have access to  
the many local foods, including locally-hunted meat, available  
on the islands; and

WHEREAS, the overpopulation of axis deer has been a great  
detriment to Maui by overgrazing native plants that would  
otherwise aid in mitigating erosion and fire and flood effects;  
and

WHEREAS, axis deer are a plentiful source of high-quality  
delicious protein; and

WHEREAS, other states have successfully implemented  
programs that process and distribute locally-hunted meat to  
their community, for example Pennsylvania's Hunters Sharing the  
Harvest Program, which yearly donates over one hundred thousand  
pounds of venison to over five thousand food banks; and

WHEREAS, the existing United States Department of  
Agriculture inspection and meat processing requirements severely  
limit the financial and practical feasibility of the State's  
local hunters to successfully maintain a reasonably low  
population of axis deer and to distribute venison to the  
community; and

WHEREAS, an increase of United States Department of  
Agriculture-certified meat inspectors in the State would lower



1 the cost of inspections for local hunters, provide a benefit to  
2 the agricultural industry in the State, and make locally-hunted  
3 venison more available and safer for the community to consume;  
4 now, therefore,  
5

6 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
7 Thirty-third Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
8 of 2025, the Senate concurring, that the State Department of  
9 Agriculture and the Department of Agriculture of the County of  
10 Maui are urged to take further meaningful action to address the  
11 axis deer overpopulation, including:  
12

13 (1) Implementing policies to make United States Department  
14 of Agriculture-certified meat inspectors, certified  
15 inspections, and certified processing facilities more  
16 accessible, capable, and affordable in the State for  
17 local hunters to utilize to sell or gift venison; and  
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19 (2) Implementing policies to increase the amount of  
20 in-state United States Department of  
21 Agriculture-certified meat inspectors for game  
22 mammals; and  
23

24 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the State Department of  
25 Agriculture and Department of Agriculture of the County of Maui  
26 are urged to convene a joint task force to oversee the County of  
27 Maui program that, in coordination with the United States  
28 Department of Agriculture-certified processing facilities, would  
29 aim to investigate and develop plans to make affordable the  
30 processing of locally-hunted axis deer meat and the distribution  
31 of venison to the community; and  
32

33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the joint task force is  
34 requested to submit a report of the program's accomplishments  
35 and barriers to the accomplishment of the program with its  
36 findings and recommendations, including any proposed  
37 legislation, to the Legislature no later than November 30, 2025;  
38 and  
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
41 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the United States  
42 Secretary of Agriculture, Administrator of the United States



1 Department of Agriculture Food Safety and Inspection Service,  
2 Deputy Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service,  
3 Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Agriculture, Chairperson  
4 of the Board of Land and Natural Resources, Mayor of the County  
5 of Maui, each member of the Maui County Council, and Director of  
6 the Department of Agriculture of the County of Maui.

