

JAN 17 2025

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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 and other wild game could provide significant quantities of meat  
8 as a protein source and enhance the State's food security.  
9 However, there is a gap between the hunters and these non-profit  
10 services because the meat needs to be processed prior to  
11 distribution. Other states have developed processes for this  
12 purpose, including licensing fees and funding managed by  
13 wildlife agencies or non-profits.

14           The purpose of this Act is to require and appropriate funds  
15 for the department of business, economic development, and  
16 tourism to develop and implement a grant program to expand the  
17 meat processing capacity in the State.



1 SECTION 2. (a) The department of business, economic  
2 development, and tourism shall develop and implement a grant  
3 program to expand the meat processing capacity in the State.  
4 The grant program may include financial assistance to establish  
5 new meat processing facilities with a donation component or  
6 expand existing facilities to include a donation component to  
7 enable hunters to donate meat from axis deer and other wild game  
8 to these facilities.

9 (b) The department of business, economic development, and  
10 tourism may collaborate with the department of agriculture,  
11 department of land and natural resources' division of forestry  
12 and wildlife, and department of health's food safety branch in  
13 developing the grant program.

14 (c) The program shall provide grants to qualified  
15 applicants with the following terms and conditions:

16 (1) No grants shall be given unless money has been spent  
17 by the applicant toward expanding the meat processing  
18 capacity in the State;

19 (2) The total amount of a grant to any one applicant shall  
20 not exceed \$ ; and



1           (3) No grant shall be given for costs that were incurred  
2                    more than five years prior to the time the application  
3                    for the grant is received by the department of  
4                    business, economic development, and tourism.

5           (d) The department of business, economic development, and  
6           tourism shall adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised  
7           Statutes, to carry out the purposes of the grant program. The  
8           grant applications shall be reviewed and approved by an  
9           administrative staff member of the department of business,  
10          economic development, and tourism.

11          SECTION 3. 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 2025-2026 and  
14          the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
15          year 2026-2027 for the grant program to expand the meat  
16          processing capacity in the State pursuant to this Act.

17          The sums appropriated shall be expended by the department  
18          of business, economic development, and tourism for the purposes  
19          of this Act.

20          SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2025.

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S.B. NO. 827

INTRODUCED BY:

Ray A. Allen



# S.B. NO. 827

**Report Title:**

Meat Processing Capacity; Grant Program; Expansion; Food  
Distribution Services; Appropriation

**Description:**

Requires the Department of Business, Economic Development, and  
Tourism to develop and implement a grant program to expand the  
meat processing capacity in the State. 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.*

