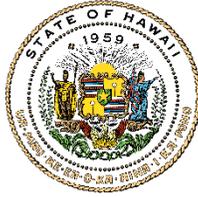


JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE  
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII'  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA

P.O. BOX 621  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG  
CHAIRPERSON  
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT

RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE  
FIRST DEPUTY

CIARA W.K. KAHAHANE  
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES  
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION  
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES  
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE  
MANAGEMENT  
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS  
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES  
ENFORCEMENT  
ENGINEERING  
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE  
HISTORIC PRESERVATION  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS

Testimony of  
DAWN N. S. CHANG  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on  
COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

Thursday, February 20, 2025  
9:30 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 229, and Via Videoconference

In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 1230, SENATE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO MEAT DONATION

Senate Bill 1230, Senate Draft 1 proposes to exempt the donation of wild game meat, including axis deer, to a charitable, religious, or nonprofit organization to needy persons from specific laws regarding the inspection and transportation of meat. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports this bill and offers the following comments.**

The disposition of game species as regulated by the Department's hunting rules, Hawai'i Administrative Rules Chapters 122 and 123, and the Hawai'i Revised Statutes, only restricts the sale or the offer for sale of any game animal or parts of the carcass of any game animal taken from any public hunting area.

The Department supports allowing licensed public hunters the discretion to donate their quarry to charitable, religious, or nonprofit organizations.

While the Department regulates the taking of game animals, it does not oversee the processing or food safety aspects of meat donation. The Department defers health and safety requirements for donated wild game meat to the Department of Health.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



1050 Bishop St. PMB 235 |  
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[info@hawaiiifood.com](mailto:info@hawaiiifood.com)

#### **Executive Officers**

**Maile Miyashiro**, C&S Wholesale Grocer, *Chair*  
**Kit Okimoto**, Okimoto Corp., *Vice Chair*  
**Jayson Watts**, Mahi Pono, *Secretary/Treasurer*  
**Lauren Zirbel**, HFIA, *Executive Director*  
**Paul Kosasa**, ABC Stores, *Advisor*  
**Derek Kurisu**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*  
**Toby Taniguchi**, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*  
**Joe Carter**, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Advisor*  
**Eddie Asato**, Pint Size Hawaii, *Advisor*  
**Gary Okimoto**, Safeway, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committe on Ways and Means  
FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION  
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: February 20, 2025

TIME: 9:30am

RE: SB1230 SD1 Relating to Meat Donation  
Position: Support

The Hawaii Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

HFIA is in support of this measure. Axis deer are an invasive species and keeping the population under control is necessary in order to protect our agricultural lands and ecosystems. Axis deer can be a plentiful source of affordable locally sourced meat, which can help address food insecurity in our state. Right now there are some unnecessary impediments that prevent axis deer meat from being donated. This measure would help remove those roadblocks and allow for meat donation. We encourage the committee to pass this measure and we thank you for the opportunity to testify.

**SB-1230-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/17/2025 8:43:24 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Alison Pearce	Testifying for Maui Food Bank Board of Directors	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1230  
Relating to Meat Donation**

**February 16, 2025**

**To: Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair and Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair**

**My name is Alison Pearce, and I currently serve on the Board of Directors for the Maui Food Bank, an organization dedicated to alleviating hunger and ensuring that no one in our community goes without nutritious food. Every month, the Maui Food Bank provides critical food assistance to thousands of individuals and families, including seniors, children, and those experiencing economic hardship.**

**I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1334, which would exempt the donation of wild game meat, including axis deer, to charitable, religious, or nonprofit organizations from certain inspection and transportation regulations. This legislation is a crucial step forward in expanding access to nutritious, high-protein food while simultaneously addressing an urgent environmental issue affecting our islands.**

**Addressing Food Insecurity**

**As a board member of Maui Food Bank, I have seen firsthand the growing demand for fresh, healthy food options in our community. Many families rely on food assistance to get by, yet access to high-protein sources remains one of the most significant challenges. Wild game meat, such as axis deer, represents a sustainable and nutritious food source that could greatly benefit those facing food insecurity.**

**HB 1334 removes unnecessary barriers that prevent charitable organizations from accepting and distributing wild game meat. By allowing for the donation of responsibly harvested game, we can increase food access for those in need, reducing dependency on imported proteins and strengthening local food security.**

**A Sustainable Solution to Environmental Challenges**

**In addition to its benefits for food distribution, this bill directly supports environmental conservation efforts. The overpopulation of axis deer in Hawaii has led to significant ecological damage, including soil erosion, destruction of native plants, and agricultural losses. By allowing responsible harvesting and donation of these animals, we turn an environmental challenge into a community benefit, ensuring that excess game does not go to waste.**

#### **Federal Exemptions for Venison Donations**

**The Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) exempts wild game meat, including venison, from mandatory federal inspection when donated to charitable organizations. Many states have successfully implemented similar donation programs, proving that wild game can be safely distributed to food banks without the same regulatory burdens as commercial meats. HB 1334 aligns Hawaii's policies with these federal exemptions, ensuring that valuable food resources are not discarded due to unnecessary bureaucratic restrictions.**

#### **Conclusion**

**House Bill 1334 presents a unique and necessary opportunity to reduce food waste, fight hunger, and support conservation efforts all at once. As a current board member of Maui Food Bank, I recognize the tremendous positive impact this legislation could have on food access and sustainability in Hawaii. I strongly urge the committee to support and pass this bill for the benefit of our environment and those who rely on food assistance programs across the state.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**

**Sincerely,**

**Alison Pearce**

**Maui Food Bank Board of Directors**

**SB-1230-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 6:18:09 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Moana Lutey	Testifying for Maui Food Bank	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**To: Chair Senator Jerrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair Senator Carol Fukunaga**

**My name is Moana M. Lutey, and I currently serve on the Board of Directors for the Maui Food Bank, an organization dedicated to alleviating hunger and ensuring that no one in our community goes without nutritious food. Every month, the Maui Food Bank provides critical food assistance to thousands of individuals and families, including seniors, children, and those experiencing economic hardship.**

**I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1334, which would exempt the donation of wild game meat, including axis deer, to charitable, religious, or nonprofit organizations from certain inspection and transportation regulations. This legislation is a crucial step forward in expanding access to nutritious, high-protein food while simultaneously addressing an urgent environmental issue affecting our islands.**

**Addressing Food Insecurity**

**As a board member of Maui Food Bank, I have seen firsthand the growing demand for fresh, healthy food options in our community. Many families rely on food assistance to get by, yet access to high-protein sources remains one of the most significant challenges. Wild game meat, such as axis deer, represents a sustainable and nutritious food source that could greatly benefit those facing food insecurity.**

**HB 1334 removes unnecessary barriers that prevent charitable organizations from accepting and distributing wild game meat. By allowing for the donation of responsibly harvested game, we can increase food access for those in need, reducing dependency on imported proteins and strengthening local food security.**

**A Sustainable Solution to Environmental Challenges**

**In addition to its benefits for food distribution, this bill directly supports environmental conservation efforts. The overpopulation of axis deer in**

**Hawaii has led to significant ecological damage, including soil erosion, destruction of native plants, and agricultural losses. By allowing responsible harvesting and donation of these animals, we turn an environmental challenge into a community benefit, ensuring that excess game does not go to waste.**

### **Federal Exemptions for Venison Donations**

**The Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) exempts wild game meat, including venison, from mandatory federal inspection when donated to charitable organizations. Many states have successfully implemented similar donation programs, proving that wild game can be safely distributed to food banks without the same regulatory burdens as commercial meats. HB 1334 aligns Hawaii's policies with these federal exemptions, ensuring that valuable food resources are not discarded due to unnecessary bureaucratic restrictions.**

### **Conclusion**

**House Bill 1334 presents a unique and necessary opportunity to reduce food waste, fight hunger, and support conservation efforts all at once. As a current board member of Maui Food Bank, I recognize the tremendous positive impact this legislation could have on food access and sustainability in Hawaii. I strongly urge the committee to support and pass this bill for the benefit of our environment and those who rely on food assistance programs across the state.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**

**Sincerely,**

**Moana M. Lutey  
Board Member, Maui Food Bank**

**SB-1230-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 6:55:24 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Robin Kean	Testifying for Maui Wild Game Management to Feed the Hungry	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1230

Relating to Meat Donation

February 18, 2025

To: Chair Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair Senator Carol Fukunaga, and Members of the Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

My name is Robin Kean, and I am the founder of Maui Wild Game Management, an organization dedicated to sustainable wildlife population management and ethical hunting practices in Hawaii. Our mission is to promote responsible wildlife conservation while providing communities with access to high-quality, locally sourced meat. Through humane harvesting methods, we work to balance ecological health with food security, ensuring that Hawaii's natural resources are utilized efficiently and ethically.

Additionally, I have had the privilege of serving as a past director on the Board of Directors for the Maui Food Bank, where I worked to expand food access for vulnerable populations. My experience in both wildlife management and food distribution has provided me with a comprehensive understanding of the challenges we face in feeding our communities while maintaining environmental balance.

I am writing today in strong support of Senate Bill 1230, which seeks to exempt the donation of wild game meat, including axis deer, to charitable, religious, or nonprofit organizations from

certain inspection and transportation regulations. This legislation provides a practical and necessary solution to two of Hawaii's most pressing issues: environmental degradation and food insecurity.

### Addressing Environmental Challenges

The overpopulation of axis deer has led to devastating ecological damage in Hawaii, including:

Habitat destruction and deforestation

Soil erosion and water contamination

Severe agricultural losses for local farmers

At Maui Wild Game Management, we work with landowners, conservation groups, and local hunters to responsibly harvest axis deer, reducing their negative impact on Hawaii's fragile ecosystems. However, too much of this harvested meat goes to waste due to outdated and unnecessary regulatory barriers. SB 1230 will allow for responsible game management to benefit both our environment and our communities.

### Enhancing Food Security

With Hawaii's high cost of living and reliance on imported food, food insecurity remains a major concern for many residents. High-protein, nutrient-dense food sources like wild game meat are difficult to access for struggling families, yet they exist in abundance on our own islands.

By removing unnecessary barriers to donation, SB 1230 will help food banks, shelters, and community programs provide fresh, healthy, and locally sourced meat to those in need. Having worked with Maui Food Bank, I have witnessed firsthand the growing demand for nutritious food options. This bill represents a common-sense solution to help address hunger while supporting sustainable land management.

## Federal Exemptions for Wild Game Donations

Under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA), wild game meat including venison is already exempt from mandatory federal inspection when donated to charitable organizations. Many states have successfully implemented wild game donation programs under these federal exemptions, demonstrating that these donations can be safely handled and distributed.

SB 1230 would bring Hawaii's policies in line with established federal guidelines, ensuring that much-needed food resources are not discarded due to outdated restrictions.

## Conclusion

Senate Bill 1230 presents a balanced, sustainable, and community-driven solution to two major issues affecting Hawaii: environmental conservation and food insecurity. This bill allows for the safe, responsible donation of wild game meat, ensuring that our conservation efforts benefit those most in need.

I strongly urge the committee to support and pass this legislation, helping to create a more sustainable and food-secure future for our islands.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Robin Kean

Founder, Maui Wild Game Management

Past Director, Board of Directors Maui Food Bank

[www.mauiwildgamemanagement.com](http://www.mauiwildgamemanagement.com)

**SB-1230-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 6:49:28 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Steve Ulene	Testifying for Maui Food Bank	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1230  
Relating to Meat Donation**

**February 16, 2025**

**To: Chair Senator Jerrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair Senator Carol Fukunaga**

**My name is Steve Ulene, and I currently serve on the Board of Directors for the Maui Food Bank, an organization dedicated to alleviating hunger and ensuring that no one in our community goes without nutritious food. Every month, the Maui Food Bank provides critical food assistance to thousands of individuals and families, including seniors, children, and those experiencing economic hardship.**

**I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1334, which would exempt the donation of wild game meat, including axis deer, to charitable, religious, or nonprofit organizations from certain inspection and transportation regulations. This legislation is a crucial step forward in expanding access to nutritious, high-protein food while simultaneously addressing an urgent environmental issue affecting our islands.**

**Addressing Food Insecurity**

**As a board member of Maui Food Bank, I have seen firsthand the growing demand for fresh, healthy food options in our community. Many families rely on food assistance to get by, yet access to high-protein sources remains one of the most significant challenges. Wild game meat, such as axis deer, represents a sustainable and nutritious food source that could greatly benefit those facing food insecurity.**

**HB 1334 removes unnecessary barriers that prevent charitable organizations from accepting and distributing wild game meat. By allowing for the donation of responsibly harvested game, we can increase food access for those in need, reducing dependency on imported proteins and strengthening local food security.**

**A Sustainable Solution to Environmental Challenges**

**In addition to its benefits for food distribution, this bill directly supports environmental conservation efforts. The overpopulation of axis deer in Hawaii has led to significant ecological damage, including soil erosion, destruction of native plants, and agricultural losses. By allowing responsible harvesting and donation of these animals, we turn an environmental challenge into a community benefit, ensuring that excess game does not go to waste.**

#### **Federal Exemptions for Venison Donations**

**The Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) exempts wild game meat, including venison, from mandatory federal inspection when donated to charitable organizations. Many states have successfully implemented similar donation programs, proving that wild game can be safely distributed to food banks without the same regulatory burdens as commercial meats. HB 1334 aligns Hawaii's policies with these federal exemptions, ensuring that valuable food resources are not discarded due to unnecessary bureaucratic restrictions.**

#### **Conclusion**

**House Bill 1334 presents a unique and necessary opportunity to reduce food waste, fight hunger, and support conservation efforts all at once. As a current board member of Maui Food Bank, I recognize the tremendous positive impact this legislation could have on food access and sustainability in Hawaii. I strongly urge the committee to support and pass this bill for the benefit of our environment and those who rely on food assistance programs across the state.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**

**Sincerely,**

**Steve Ulene  
Board Member, Maui Food Bank**

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1230  
Relating to Meat Donation**

**February 16, 2025**

**To: Chair Senator Jerrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair Senator Carol Fukunaga**

**My name is Joe Chee, Jr, and I currently serve on the Board of Directors for the Maui Food Bank, an organization dedicated to alleviating hunger and ensuring that no one in our community goes without nutritious food. Every month, the Maui Food Bank provides critical food assistance to thousands of individuals and families, including seniors, children, and those experiencing economic hardship.**

**I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1334, which would exempt the donation of wild game meat, including axis deer, to charitable, religious, or nonprofit organizations from certain inspection and transportation regulations. This legislation is a crucial step forward in expanding access to nutritious, high-protein food while simultaneously addressing an urgent environmental issue affecting our islands.**

**Addressing Food Insecurity**

**As a board member of Maui Food Bank, I have seen firsthand the growing demand for fresh, healthy food options in our community. Many families rely on food assistance to get by, yet access to high-protein sources remains one of the most significant challenges. Wild game meat, such as axis deer, represents a sustainable and nutritious food source that could greatly benefit those facing food insecurity.**

**HB 1334 removes unnecessary barriers that prevent charitable organizations from accepting and distributing wild game meat. By allowing for the donation of responsibly harvested game, we can increase food access for those in need, reducing dependency on imported proteins and strengthening local food security.**

**A Sustainable Solution to Environmental Challenges**

**In addition to its benefits for food distribution, this bill directly supports environmental conservation efforts. The overpopulation of axis deer in Hawaii has led to significant ecological damage, including soil erosion, destruction of native plants, and agricultural losses. By allowing responsible harvesting and donation of these animals, we turn an environmental challenge into a community benefit, ensuring that excess game does not go to waste.**

**Federal Exemptions for Venison Donations**

**The Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) exempts wild game meat, including venison, from mandatory federal inspection when donated to charitable organizations. Many states have successfully implemented similar donation programs, proving that wild game can be safely**

**distributed to food banks without the same regulatory burdens as commercial meats. HB 1334 aligns Hawaii's policies with these federal exemptions, ensuring that valuable food resources are not discarded due to unnecessary bureaucratic restrictions.**

### **Conclusion**

**House Bill 1334 presents a unique and necessary opportunity to reduce food waste, fight hunger, and support conservation efforts all at once. As a current board member of Maui Food Bank, I recognize the tremendous positive impact this legislation could have on food access and sustainability in Hawaii. I strongly urge the committee to support and pass this bill for the benefit of our environment and those who rely on food assistance programs across the state.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**

**Sincerely,**

**Joe Chee, Jr.  
Board Member, Maui Food Bank**

**SB-1230-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 9:05:33 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Brian Etheredge	Testifying for Maui Food Bank	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1230**

**February 18, 2025**

**To: Chair Senator Jerrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair Senator Carol Fukunaga**

**My name is Brian Etheredge and I currently serve on the Board of Directors for the Maui Food Bank, an organization dedicated to alleviating hunger and ensuring that no one in our community goes without nutritious food. Every month, the Maui Food Bank provides critical food assistance to thousands of individuals and families, including seniors, children, and those experiencing economic hardship.**

**I am writing in strong support of Senate Bill 1230, which would exempt the donation of wild game meat, including axis deer, to charitable, religious, or nonprofit organizations from certain inspection and transportation regulations. This legislation is a crucial step forward in expanding access to nutritious, high-protein food while simultaneously addressing an urgent environmental issue affecting our islands.**

**Addressing Food Insecurity**

**As a board member of Maui Food Bank, I have seen firsthand the growing demand for fresh, healthy food options in our community. Many families rely on food assistance to get by, yet access to high-protein sources remains one of the most significant challenges. Wild game meat, such as axis deer, represents a sustainable and nutritious food source that could greatly benefit those facing food insecurity.**

**SB 1230 removes unnecessary barriers that prevent charitable organizations from accepting and distributing wild game meat. By allowing for the donation of responsibly harvested game, we can increase food access for those in need, reducing dependency on imported proteins and strengthening local food security.**

**A Sustainable Solution to Environmental Challenges**

**In addition to its benefits for food distribution, this bill directly supports environmental conservation efforts. The overpopulation of axis deer in Hawaii has led to significant ecological damage, including soil erosion, destruction of native plants, and agricultural losses. By allowing responsible harvesting and donation of these animals, we turn an environmental challenge into a community benefit, ensuring that excess game does not go to waste.**

#### **Federal Exemptions for Venison Donations**

**The Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) exempts wild game meat, including venison, from mandatory federal inspection when donated to charitable organizations. Many states have successfully implemented similar donation programs, proving that wild game can be safely distributed to food banks without the same regulatory burdens as commercial meats. HB 1334 aligns Hawaii's policies with these federal exemptions, ensuring that valuable food resources are not discarded due to unnecessary bureaucratic restrictions.**

#### **Conclusion**

**SB 1230 presents a unique and necessary opportunity to reduce food waste, fight hunger, and support conservation efforts all at once. As a current board member of Maui Food Bank, I recognize the tremendous positive impact this legislation could have on food access and sustainability in Hawaii. I strongly urge the committee to support and pass this bill for the benefit of our environment and those who rely on food assistance programs across the state.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**

**Brian Etheredge  
Board Member, Maui Food Bank**

**SB-1230-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 7:36:39 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Janus padilla	Testifying for Maui wild game management	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I feel the need for better management of our resources, supplying valuable protein to our community is a necessity.

**SB-1230-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 9:19:49 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Gil Keith-Agaran	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

**Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1230  
Relating to Meat Donation**

**February 16, 2025**

**To: Chair Senator Jerrett Keohokalole, Vice Chair Senator Carol Fukunaga**

**My name is Gil Keith-Agaran, and I currently serve on the Board of Directors for the Maui Food Bank, an organization dedicated to alleviating hunger and ensuring that no one in our community goes without nutritious food. Every month, the Maui Food Bank provides critical food assistance to thousands of individuals and families, including seniors, children, and those experiencing economic hardship.**

**I am writing in strong support of House Bill 1334, which would exempt the donation of wild game meat, including axis deer, to charitable, religious, or nonprofit organizations from certain inspection and transportation regulations. This legislation is a crucial step forward in expanding access to nutritious, high-protein food while simultaneously addressing an urgent environmental issue affecting our islands.**

**Addressing Food Insecurity**

**As a board member of Maui Food Bank, I have seen firsthand the growing demand for fresh, healthy food options in our community. Many families rely on food assistance to get by, yet access to high-protein sources remains one of the most significant challenges. Wild game meat, such as axis deer, represents a sustainable and nutritious food source that could greatly benefit those facing food insecurity.**

**HB 1334 removes unnecessary barriers that prevent charitable organizations from accepting and distributing wild game meat. By allowing for the donation of responsibly harvested game, we can increase food access for those in need, reducing dependency on imported proteins and strengthening local food security.**

**A Sustainable Solution to Environmental Challenges**

**In addition to its benefits for food distribution, this bill directly supports environmental conservation efforts. The overpopulation of axis deer in Hawaii has led to significant ecological damage, including soil erosion, destruction of native plants, and agricultural losses. By allowing responsible harvesting and donation of these animals, we turn an environmental challenge into a community benefit, ensuring that excess game does not go to waste.**

#### **Federal Exemptions for Venison Donations**

**The Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) exempts wild game meat, including venison, from mandatory federal inspection when donated to charitable organizations. Many states have successfully implemented similar donation programs, proving that wild game can be safely distributed to food banks without the same regulatory burdens as commercial meats. HB 1334 aligns Hawaii's policies with these federal exemptions, ensuring that valuable food resources are not discarded due to unnecessary bureaucratic restrictions.**

#### **Conclusion**

**House Bill 1334 presents a unique and necessary opportunity to reduce food waste, fight hunger, and support conservation efforts all at once. As a current board member of Maui Food Bank, I recognize the tremendous positive impact this legislation could have on food access and sustainability in Hawaii. I strongly urge the committee to support and pass this bill for the benefit of our environment and those who rely on food assistance programs across the state.**

**Thank you for your time and consideration.**

**Sincerely,**

**Gil Keith-Agaran  
Board Member, Maui Food Bank**

**SB-1230-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/16/2025 4:11:26 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Ruth Love	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Not clear on whether donated meats from hunters are being given free to the needy at the charitable, religious or nonprofit organizations.

Also, can the hunters receive tax credits for their charitable donations?

Thank you

Mrs Ruth Love

**JOSH GREEN, M.D.**  
Governor

**SYLVIA LUKE**  
Lt. Governor



**SHARON HURD**  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

**DEAN M. MATSUKAWA**  
Deputy to the Chairperson

State of Hawai'i  
**DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**  
KA 'OIHANA MAHI'AI  
1428 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96814-2512  
Phone: (808) 973-9600 FAX: (808) 973-9613

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD  
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

**FEBRUARY 20, 2025  
9:30 AM  
CONFERENCE ROOM 229**

**SENATE BILL NO. 1230 SD1  
RELATING TO MEAT DONATION**

Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on Senate Bill 1230 SD1. SB1230 SD1 amends Chapter 159, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) by adding a new section "§159- Further exemptions; food donations; wild game". SB1230 SD1 proposes to exempt meat from wild game, defined as species not indigenous to the state, from inspection if the meat is exclusively to be donated by a hunter for the use or distribution by a charitable, religious, or nonprofit organization to needy persons pursuant to chapter 145 (HRS).

The Hawaii Department of Agriculture supports this measure and will defer to the Hawaii Department of Health as it relates to food.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.



**RICHARD T. BISSEN, JR.**  
Mayor

**JOSIAH K. NISHITA**  
Managing Director



**OFFICE OF THE MAYOR**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 SOUTH HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.mauicounty.gov](http://www.mauicounty.gov)

**TO:** Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair  
Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

**FROM:** Richard T. Bissen, Jr., Mayor  
Rogerene Arce, Director of Agriculture

**DATE:** February 18, 2025

**SUBJECT: SUPPORT OF SB1230 SD1, RELATING TO MEAT DONATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in **SUPPORT** of this important measure. The act exempts the donation of wild game meat, including axis deer, by a hunter for the use or distribution by a charitable, religious, or nonprofit organization to needy persons from certain laws regarding the inspection and transportation of meat. (SD1)

We **SUPPORT** this measure for the following reasons:

1. We believe that this bill helps to manage an incredibly invasive species while increasing healthy food access for our most vulnerable communities.
2. In Hawai'i our residents face the highest grocery costs in the U.S., thus healthy and local protein options are needed now more than ever at our island's food banks and pantries.
3. Across the States, hunters are able to donate meat to food banks, churches, and other non profit organizations, allowing a vital and sustainable protein source for our communities.
4. This bill is also in alignment with the Maui County Food and Nutrition Security Plan, which recommends under its Action 3.2.4: that the State develop a pipeline to get axis deer to local markets, especially to food assistance programs.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Council Chair  
Alice L. Lee

Vice-Chair  
Yuki Lei K. Sugimura

Presiding Officer Pro Tempore  
Tasha Kama

Councilmembers  
Tom Cook  
Gabe Johnson  
Tamara Paltin  
Keani N.W. Rawlins-Fernandez  
Shane M. Sinenci  
Nohelani U'u-Hodgins



Director of Council Services  
David M. Raatz, Jr., Esq.

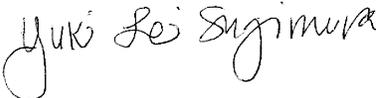
Deputy Director of Council Services  
Richelle K. Kawasaki, Esq.

**COUNTY COUNCIL**  
COUNTY OF MAUI  
200 S. HIGH STREET  
WAILUKU, MAUI, HAWAII 96793  
[www.MauiCounty.us](http://www.MauiCounty.us)

**LATE**

February 18, 2025

TO: Honorable Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
Senate Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

FROM: Yuki Lei Sugimura  
Councilmember 

DATE: February 18, 2025

SUBJECT: **SUPPORT FOR SB 1230, RELATING TO MEAT DONATION**

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in SUPPORT of this important measure. The purpose of this measure is to exempt the donation of wild game meat, including axis deer, to a charitable, religious, or nonprofit organization to needy persons from certain laws regarding the inspection and transportation of meat.

I SUPPORT this measure as it addresses several important issues, particularly for Maui County. Overpopulation of axis deer, and other wild game animals, in Maui County has resulted in severe damage to our watersheds, ecosystems, and agricultural industry. Additionally, food insecurity is a daily reality for many of our residents. By removing barriers and clarifying the process for meat donations, this bill can help to address both the overpopulation of axis deer and food insecurity in our communities.

While not the only solution to address the damage caused by axis deer, hunters do play an important role in controlling the population. These hunters utilize axis deer meat to feed their families and friends, and have long sought to also donate this lean and healthy source of protein to those in need through local food banks and other organizations.

I respectfully request your support in moving this bill forward. Thank you for this opportunity to provide my testimony on this important matter. For the foregoing reasons, I SUPPORT this measure.



**LATE**

**LATE**

**COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION**

Thursday February 20, 2025, 9:30 A.M.

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference

**SB 1230 SD1 RELATING TO MEAT DONATION**

**WRITTEN TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT**

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

Pūlama Lānaʻi is in **support of SB 1230 SD1**, the proposed draft legislation regarding the donation of wild game and the regulation of meat products derived from wild animals. This legislation is in alignment with our mission to build a sustainable future for Lānaʻi by preserving our culture, building economic opportunity, stewarding our lands, and investing in people. It also directly supports our ongoing efforts in conservation, resource management, and community well-being.

**Pūlama Lānaʻi's Conservation Department and Game Management on Lānaʻi**

Our Conservation Department plays a vital role in ensuring the health and balance of Lānaʻi's ecosystems. One of the key responsibilities of this department is **game management**. Through active monitoring and regulation of wildlife populations, we strive to maintain sustainable game populations that contribute to both ecological balance and community benefit. Our game management practices involve a range of activities including:

- **Population Control:** Regular assessments and population control measures to ensure that game species, such as axis deer, do not negatively impact native vegetation, water resources, or other wildlife.
- **Invasive Species Management:** Addressing the impact of invasive species through targeted management programs to protect native species and preserve the integrity of Lānaʻi's natural habitats.
- **Community Engagement and Education:** Educating hunters about ethical hunting practices, conservation laws, and the importance of maintaining ecological balance through sustainable game management.

Through these efforts, we ensure that game populations are managed in a way that supports both conservation goals and the needs of the community. Our stewardship of Lānaʻi's lands and wildlife reflects our commitment to sustainable practices that benefit both residents and future generations.

**How this Legislation Supports Lānaʻi:**

- **Sustainable Resource Management:** This legislation supports responsible management of wild game by allowing hunters to donate meat to charitable organizations, under regulated conditions, while ensuring that the animals are harvested and processed in an ethical, environmentally responsible manner. This aligns directly with our conservation department's goal of managing wildlife populations in a sustainable way, while also promoting social responsibility.
- **Conservation and Community Benefits:** By facilitating the donation of wild game, the legislation strengthens our efforts to preserve Lānaʻi's fragile ecosystem while also benefiting our community. This approach to resource management provides a sustainable means to support those in need, reduces waste, and helps ensure that our island's resources are used wisely for the greater good.
- **Cultural Stewardship and Education:** This legislation reinforces our community's values by promoting ethical hunting practices and increasing awareness about wildlife management. Our education initiatives on game management and conservation directly support these values and ensure that future generations continue to honor the land.

**Long-Term Benefits:**

- **Enhanced Community Health and Sustainability:** This legislation further promotes a self-sustaining, vibrant island community where Lānaʻi residents and visitors can thrive. By enabling the donation of wild game, we foster a culture of sharing and resourcefulness, while also ensuring that the game populations are kept in balance with the island's natural environment.
- **Conservation Education:** As part of our Conservation Department, we strive to educate the public about the importance of maintaining healthy wildlife populations. The legislation provides an opportunity for greater awareness and understanding of responsible hunting and game management practices, encouraging more sustainable interactions with Lānaʻi's natural resources.

We support this draft legislation as it aligns with the objectives of our Conservation Department and our broader vision for Lānaʻi. By creating opportunities for responsible game donation while maintaining rigorous conservation and resource management practices, this legislation helps us protect and preserve Lānaʻi's unique environment, while fostering a thriving community.

Thank you for your consideration of our **testimony in support** of this important legislation. We look forward to working together to ensure a sustainable and prosperous future for Lānaʻi and beyond.



P.O. Box 253, Kunia, Hawai'i 96759  
Phone: (808) 848-2074; Fax: (808) 848-1921  
e-mail [info@hfbf.org](mailto:info@hfbf.org); [www.hfbf.org](http://www.hfbf.org)

February 20, 2025

HEARING BEFORE THE  
SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION

**TESTIMONY ON SB 1230, SD1**  
RELATING TO MEAT DONATION

Conference Room 229 & Videoconference  
9:30 AM

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice-Chair Fukunaga, and Members of the Committee:

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized since 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

**The Hawai'i Farm Bureau supports SB 1230, SD1**, which provides an exemption under Chapter 159, Hawai'i Revised Statutes (HRS), to facilitate the donation of wild game meat—such as axis deer—to charitable, religious, and nonprofit organizations serving those in need.

Across the state, invasive species are wreaking havoc on agriculture and ecosystems. Maui County's axis deer population has grown uncontrollably, fueled by abundant forage after rainfall events. These deer destroy crops and pastures, consuming any available vegetation. Similarly, feral pigs pose a serious threat—not only eating crops but also uprooting and trampling farmland, damaging pasture grasses, and promoting the spread of invasive weeds. They devastate orchards by consuming fruit, citrus, and nuts, while their rooting can kill young trees, shrubs, and vines or spread soil-based fungal diseases. Additionally, feral pigs break irrigation lines, tear agricultural nets, and damage other essential farming equipment.

Beyond agricultural destruction, unchecked feral animal populations create serious risks to livestock, public health, and the environment. As their numbers grow and food sources dwindle, malnutrition weakens them, making them more susceptible to disease. This raises concerns about the spread of livestock diseases, such as bovine tuberculosis, which has already been documented in Moloka'i due to feral pig transmission.

Hawai'i's farmers and ranchers are dedicated to increasing local food production and self-sufficiency, but they cannot succeed if feral animals continue to consume or destroy their crops and livestock. These invasive species cause widespread economic, environmental, and public health damage—threatening native ecosystems, cultural and historic resources, and even the safety of people, pets, and wildlife. Without effective solutions, the costs and consequences will only escalate.

HRS §145D-2 (ACT 54, 2023) already establishes liability protections for individuals and entities donating food in good faith, including wild game meat, ensuring such donations can be made without fear of legal repercussions. However, despite these protections, existing meat inspection and transportation requirements under Chapter 159 have remained a significant barrier to the donation and distribution of wild game. SB 1230, SD1 resolves this issue by explicitly exempting the processing, transportation, and donation of wild game meat from these inspection requirements, provided the meat is not mixed with federally regulated meat products and is transported only between approved locations.

This bill increases access to high-quality protein sources for food-insecure individuals and families by enabling more wild game donations. Without this exemption, much of the wild game harvested by hunters goes to waste due to legal restrictions. HB 1334 allows this resource to be put to good use in feeding our community. While HRS §145D-2 provides liability protections, SB 1230, SD1 further clarifies the legal framework surrounding wild game donations, eliminating uncertainties that may currently discourage hunters and organizations from participating.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau urges support of SB 1230, SD1 to help mitigate the impact of invasive species while simultaneously addressing food insecurity.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

**LATE**

**SB-1230-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 1:58:43 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Megan Fox	Testifying for Malama Kaua'i	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Bill Emerson Good Samaritan Food Donation Act protects the donation of meat, poultry, and eggs. The act protects donors and nonprofit organizations that receive the food. Therefore, there is no reason to not support this bill as it already has Federal level protections in place, and the State should follow suit.



**SB-1230-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 8:37:26 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jackie Keefe	Testifying for Maui Adaptation Project	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and members of the Committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection,

My name is Jackie Keefe, and I am writing as an environmental advocate and the Founder & Chair of Maui Adaptation Project. We are a nonprofit that envisions a resilient Maui where ecosystems and communities thrive for generations to come. Our nonprofit began with the idea of planting native species and eradicating invasive species. As the mission developed, I learned more about the Axis Deer crisis in Maui Nui and realized what an important piece of the puzzle it is. This led to the shift from *eradication* to *management*. Eradication isn't the right mentality because Axis Deer are a renewable, sustainable food source. A good friend who runs a nonprofit focused on combatting food security and supporting circular economics introduced me to Robin Kean, who runs Maui Wild Game Management. He shared so much with me about his experience from working in that space for over a decade, and I realized that we needed to work on legislation. Everyone experiences the impacts of "deerosion," as the Maui Food & Technology Center calls it, from ranchers and farmers to our watersheds. Many folks don't realize that the Axis Deer have crossed the Pali – they are found along the slopes of Pu'u Kukui and in the gulches adjacent to Lahainaluna. We know the deer are making our food cost more and it is only a problem that we can solve together. They don't care about property lines and fences only do so much. If you ask any farmer what would help them, their first answer is that something needs to be done about the deer.

Robin and I have been having discussions with County and State officials, legislators, and advocates, and SB1230 is a bill that was born of those discussions. He felt that if we were to pass one bill this session regarding Axis Deer, it should be this one.

We need liability protections for hunters that allow for the donation of venison without the additional limitation of a USDA inspector. There is no doubt that we need more meat processing & slaughterhouse capacity, but Federal Law:

1. Dictates that Axis Deer are considered "non-amenable," meaning they are not required to be inspected by the USDA (but rather the FDA).
2. The Good Samaritan Food Donation Act of 1996 and Food Donation Improvement Act of 2023 both encourage the donation of food and grocery products to nonprofit organizations for distribution to needy individuals or for donation directly to needy individuals.

3. Recently updated guidelines by the USDA's FSIS facilitate food donation by promoting the message that food is generally able to be donated unless there is a specific safety concern.

Regardless of these federal regulations, the State of Hawai'i's DOH places extra regulations on donors. Over a decade ago, I believe in 2013 – when Robin was first starting Maui Wild Game Management - he wrote guidelines that he had approved by DOH. He quickly realized that they were limiting the work that nonprofits could do to donate meat, because the cost of bringing a meat inspector on hunts was a burden carried by the organization. He tried to request an update to these guidelines, but DOH said they wouldn't do so without legislation (even though it was not legislation that created the approved guidelines). The current State guidelines have a grey area as to whether hunters who donate meat are protected from liability. According to Federal Law, venison *does not* need to be inspected by the USDA. This is an additional barrier that has been placed on hunters in Hawai'i and it limits donation capabilities. Furthermore, the veterinarian that he brought with him found no diseases in the inspection of thousands of deer.

When you have “the axis deer conversation,” it ultimately always ends up with a discussion of meat for sale. Yes, we *absolutely* need to expand our meat processing capabilities, but that's not what this bill is about. We are strictly talking about meat donation. To address this crisis, we need a *kako'o* effort. Hunters must be granted the ability to donate meat without fear of liability. This will significantly improve the availability of fresh, local food to our communities – who are currently experiencing some of the worst food insecurity we have ever seen.

### **Environmental Benefits**

The overpopulation of axis deer is causing severe damage to Hawaii's ecosystems, including deforestation, soil erosion, and destruction of agricultural lands. Responsible harvesting of these animals helps restore ecological balance, and allowing donations ensures that this effort also benefits our communities. This is a common-sense solution that supports both conservation and food security. Local venison is in many ways more environmentally friendly than vegetarianism because it is not imported to the island.

### **Safe and Responsible Meat Donation**

Wild game meat donations have been successfully implemented in many other states, aligning with federal exemptions under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA), which does not require inspection for donated venison. SB 1230 follows proven models that allow for safe and regulated donation, ensuring that harvested meat is properly handled and distributed to those who need it most.

### **Conclusion**

House Bill 1334 represents a win-win solution for Hawaii, addressing both environmental and food insecurity challenges at no cost to taxpayers. **I urge the committee to support and pass this legislation to reduce waste, protect our environment, and provide essential food resources to our communities.**

If I have ONE comment on the bill, it's that I believe that it should be "axis deer" rather than "wild game," because axis deer do not carry the same diseases that other ungulates like boar, goats, and sheep and I fear that lumping them into one category could create a reason for DOH to implement extra regulations. That is, after all, what we're looking to avoid with the passage of SB1230.

Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Jackie Keefe

Lahaina, HI



**MAUI**  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE  
VOICE OF BUSINESS

**LATE**

**LATE**

**HEARING BEFORE THE SENATE COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE AND CONSUMER PROTECTION  
HAWAII STATE CAPITOL, SENATE CONFERENCE ROOM 229  
Thursday, February 20, 2025, 9:30 A.M.**

To The Honorable Senator Jarrett Keohokalole, Chair  
The Honorable Senator Carol Fukunaga, Vice Chair  
Members of the committee on Commerce and Consumer Protection

**SUPPORT SB1230 SD1 RELATING TO MEAT DONATION**

The Maui Chamber of Commerce **SUPPORTS SB1230 SD1** which exempts the donation of wild game meat, including axis deer, to a charitable, religious, or nonprofit organization to needy persons from certain laws regarding the inspection and transportation of meat.

The Chamber would like to point out that axis deer, an invasive species that poses a continuing threat to Hawaii's environment, could provide significant quantities of meat as a protein source for nonprofit food distribution services, such as the State's network of food banks and Feed My Sheep, Inc. of Maui County. However, there is a gap between the hunters and the retailers and nonprofit services because the meat requires processing prior to distribution. For meat donation, other states such as Wisconsin and Michigan offer models that Hawaii can assess to develop processes for plan implementation and program funding, including licensing fees and other funding sources managed by wildlife agencies or nonprofits.

This bill will be one of a few major tools in controlling the over-population of Axis deer on all islands.

For these reasons we **SUPPORT SB1230 SD1** and respectfully request its passage.

Sincerely,

Pamela Tumpap  
President

To advance and promote a healthy economic environment for business, advocating for a responsive government and quality education, while preserving Maui's unique community characteristics.

**SB-1230-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 2:28:08 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Matt Holland	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The Maui Wild Game Management team has been providing solutions for two important problems on Maui, feeding the needy and eradicating the overpopulated axis deer and wild pigs. These guys are professional and efficient and are doing the right thing for the local population. They are experienced, skilled, put a priority on safety, and give back to the community in many ways. The island needs more teams like this.



**Maui Food Bank**  
Nourishing Lives. Feeding Futures

February 20, 2025

**RE: Support for SB 1230 SD1, Relating to Meat Donation**

Aloha Chair Keohokalole, Vice Chair Fukunaga, and members of the committee,

On behalf of the Maui Food Bank, I express our strong support for SB 1230 SD1 Relating to Meat Donation which would exempt the donation of wild game meat, including axis deer, to a charitable, religious, or nonprofit organization to needy persons from certain laws regarding the inspection and transportation of meat.

For 30 years, Maui Food Bank has provided daily and emergency assistance to those facing food insecurity in Maui County. Maui Food Bank distributes food to families and individuals on Maui, Molokai and Lanai through direct service programs and through our network of 170 agency partners. Last year, we served an average of 45,000 people each month, distributing a total of 8.7 million pounds of nutritious food, including 2.3 million pounds of fresh produce.

SB 1230 removes unnecessary barriers that prevent charitable organizations from accepting and distributing wild game meat. By allowing for the donation of responsibly harvested game, we can increase food access for those in need, reducing dependency on imported proteins and strengthening local food security.

In addition to its benefits for food distribution, this bill directly supports environmental conservation efforts. The overpopulation of axis deer in Hawaii has led to significant ecological damage, including soil erosion, destruction of native plants, and agricultural losses. By allowing responsible harvesting and donation of these animals, we turn an environmental challenge into a community benefit, ensuring that excess game does not go to waste.

The Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA) exempts wild game meat, including venison, from mandatory federal inspection when donated to charitable organizations. Many states have successfully implemented similar donation programs, proving that wild game can be safely distributed to food banks without the same regulatory burdens as commercial meats. SB 1230 aligns Hawaii's policies with these federal exemptions, ensuring that valuable food resources are not discarded due to unnecessary bureaucratic restrictions.



**Maui Food Bank**  
Nourishing Lives. Feeding Futures

Senate Bill 1230 SD1 presents a unique and necessary opportunity to reduce food waste, fight hunger, and support conservation efforts all at once. I strongly urge the committee to support and pass this bill for the benefit of our environment and those who rely on food assistance programs across the state.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony,

Lisa H. Paulson  
CEO, Maui Food Bank

**SB-1230-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 11:25:57 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
eric benedit	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am writing as a concerned citizen and supporter of sustainable food practices and environmental conservation to express my strong support for House Bill 1334 and Senate Bill 1230. These bills would allow for the donation of wild game meat, including axis deer, to charitable, religious, or nonprofit organizations by exempting it from certain inspection and transportation regulations.

Addressing Food Insecurity

Hawaii faces significant food insecurity, with many families, seniors, and individuals struggling to access high-quality protein. Wild game meat is a nutritious, lean, and locally sourced food that could provide a valuable protein source for food banks, shelters, and community programs. Instead of letting harvested game go to waste, HB 1334 and SB 1230 ensure that this resource can be used to help feed those in need.

Environmental Benefits

The overpopulation of axis deer is causing severe damage to Hawaii’s ecosystems, including:

- Deforestation and destruction of native plant life
- Soil erosion and damage to watersheds
- Devastating agricultural losses for local farmers

Responsible harvesting of these animals helps restore ecological balance, and allowing donations ensures that this effort also benefits our communities. These bills present a common-sense solution that supports both conservation and food security.

Safe and Responsible Meat Donation

Wild game meat donations have been successfully implemented in many other states, aligning with federal exemptions under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA), which does not require inspection for donated venison. HB 1334 and SB 1230 follow proven models that allow for safe and regulated donation, ensuring that harvested meat is properly handled and distributed to those who need it most.

Conclusion

House Bill 1334 and Senate Bill 1230 represent a win-win solution for Hawaii, addressing both environmental and food insecurity challenges at no cost to taxpayers. I urge the committee to support and pass these critical pieces of legislation to reduce waste, protect our environment, and provide essential food resources to our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely Eric Bedit

**SB-1230-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 11:51:04 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kalaniua Ritte	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Ua Ritte, born and raised on Molokai, I was brought up eating axis venison. Venison was my staple growing up. It is a healthy protein that is in abundance in Hawaii. We should utilize it in feeding ppl. Times are hard, to have cheap, healthy protein available is a blessing that should be used.

**SB-1230-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 2:31:36 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nicolaas van der Lee	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Testimony in Support Senate Bill 1230  
Relating to Meat Donation

February 18, 2025

To: Senate Committees on Agriculture

I am writing as a concerned citizen and supporter of sustainable food practices and environmental conservation to express my strong support for House Bill 1334 and Senate Bill 1230. These bills would allow for the donation of wild game meat, including axis deer, to charitable, religious, or nonprofit organizations by exempting it from certain inspection and transportation regulations.

**Addressing Food Insecurity**

Hawai‘i faces significant food insecurity, with many families, seniors, and individuals struggling to access high-quality protein. Wild game meat is a nutritious, lean, and locally sourced food that could provide a valuable protein source for food banks, shelters, and community programs. Instead of letting harvested game go to waste, HB 1334 and SB 1230 ensure that this resource can be used to help feed those in need.

**Environmental Benefits**

The overpopulation of axis deer is causing severe damage to Hawai‘i’s ecosystems, including:

- Deforestation and destruction of native plant life
- Soil erosion and damage to watersheds
- Devastating agricultural losses for local farmers

Responsible harvesting of these animals helps restore ecological balance, and allowing donations ensures that this effort also benefits our communities. These bills present a common-sense solution that supports both conservation and food security.

**Safe and Responsible Meat Donation**

Wild game meat donations have been successfully implemented in many other states, aligning with federal exemptions under the Federal Meat Inspection Act (FMIA), which does not require inspection for donated venison. HB 1334 and SB 1230 follow proven models that allow for safe and regulated donation, ensuring that harvested meat is properly handled and distributed to those who need it most.

#### Conclusion

House Bill 1334 and Senate Bill 1230 represent a win-win solution for Hawai'i, addressing both environmental and food insecurity challenges at no cost to taxpayers. I urge the committee to support and pass these critical pieces of legislation to reduce waste, protect our environment, and provide essential food resources to our communities.

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,  
Nic van der Lee

Testimony in Support of Senate Bill 1230  
Relating to Meat Donation

**SB-1230-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 9:42:42 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michele McLean	Testifying for Maui Food Bank	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony in **STRONG SUPPORT** of SB1230.

I serve as a Board member for the Maui Food Bank; as such, I believe that SB1230 would give the Maui Food Bank another tool to fulfill its mission – to help the hungry in Maui County by collecting and distributing food through community partnerships. As you know, SB1230 would allow an exemption from certain inspection and transportation regulations for the donation of wild game meat -- including, significantly axis deer! -- to charitable, religious, or nonprofit organizations. Not only would this bill be a crucial step forward in our ability to expand access to a nutritious, locally-cultivated, high-protein food source, it would also help to address the environmental devastation that axis deer and other invasive species are causing to our watersheds and other ecosystems.

Please support this unique and vital opportunity to reduce food waste, fight hunger, and support conservation efforts all at once for the benefit of our environment and those who rely on food assistance programs. **VOTE YES ON SB1230!**

Mahalo for your consideration,

Michele McLean

**LATE**

**SB-1230-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 5:02:13 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Michael Keeney	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

It's imperative we help put wild game into the hands of those in need. Axis deer are an incredibly nutrient dense protein, and with their sheer abundance there is no better food to hand out to our community while simultaneously helping to control an invasive species. Mahalo

**LATE**

**SB-1230-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/18/2025 6:37:55 PM

Testimony for CPN on 2/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Kegan J Conway	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I am in full support of this bill and I think it's crazy to think we wouldn't take advantage of these opportunities with such a great sustainable resource.

**LATE**

**SB-1230-SD-1**

Submitted on: 2/19/2025 7:43:06 AM

Testimony for CPN on 2/20/2025 9:30:00 AM

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Testify</b>
Nissen Osterneck	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Axis deer are our most valuable meat commodity that needs to be distributed throughout our community to those in need. There are no dangers to the public with pushing this common sense bill through.