



MAUI COUNTY FARM BUREAU

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Axis Deer Mitigation (ADEPT-1(8))

The Maui County Farm Bureau appreciates this opportunity to provide comments on HCR200 SD1, "URGING THE STATE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE AND THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE OF THE COUNTY OF MAUI TO MAKE FURTHER MEANINGFUL ACTION TO ADDRESS THE AXIS DEER OVERPOPULATION." Our comments are as follows:

- A sustainable comprehensive strategic plan, coupled with a pragmatic implementation plan is critical to bring Maui's overpopulation of axis deer under control.
- There are many steps including fencing currently in effect today; However, what happens outside of the fence? This is where the comprehensive plan is critical.
- The Plan needs to include the entire community, large and small landowners, private and public interests .. must all have input in the planning process and ultimately have buy in with a commitment to be an active participant in implementation activities. The buck stops here means each and every one of us. Leaving it up to your neighbor or government to solve the problem will not work.
- There is a demand for products from the deer and there is room for participation by the larger community.
- Food safety needs to be a priority and the process needs to be simple. Depending on Federal inspections results in limited access by potential producers. This must be simplified. Other states have recognized that the move to solely depend on federal inspectors does not work and many states have reinstituted State inspectors. Liability issues need to be addressed.
- Hawaii has passed legislation to hire inspectors .. we need to push to see these measures implemented.
- After inspection, we need processing facilities that will make products user friendly. The Food Bank sees deer as a valuable protein source.... But it needs to be delivered in a form that can be distributed to their customers without further "processing" .
- Reasonable inspection procedures will facilitate expansion of local value added activities that will incentivize active management of the herds. This increases local employment as well as the economy.
As mentioned earlier, the deer provide important protein for the Food Bank and other agencies serving the poor. The model exists for us to adapt to work for Maui.
- Work with an entrepreneur to prepare animal food including for the animal shelter.
- **Hunters for the Hungry**
 - The Congress Hunters for the Hungry project is a collaborative initiative aimed at addressing food insecurity through the donation of game meat.

Background

- Established in the early 1990s, the program encourages hunters to donate venison and other game to food banks and shelters.

- It operates in various states across the U.S., often in partnership with local wildlife agencies and food assistance organizations.

Objectives

- To provide nutritious protein sources to individuals and families in need.
- To promote responsible hunting practices and wildlife management.

Impact

- The program has successfully contributed millions of pounds of meat to food banks, helping to alleviate hunger in communities.
- It raises awareness about food waste and the benefits of utilizing wild game.

Participation

- Hunters can participate by donating their harvested game to designated processing facilities that prepare the meat for distribution.
- Many states offer incentives or programs to facilitate donations, including tax deductions or processing fee reimbursements.

The next agenda item references a County level Biosecurity Plan. The deer management plan should be a part of this plan. And the Plan is only as good as it is used ..not sitting on a shelf. An implementation plan with pragmatic measures of accomplishment is critical for success.

MCFB is committed to continuing working with the Legislature as well as Federal and local governments and the community to reach a solution that protects our communities and environment. Thank you.



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Maui County Farm Bureau