

JOSH GREEN, M.D.  
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE  
Lt. Governor



SHARON HURD  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA  
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December 27, 2023

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,  
President and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-second State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 409  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

The Honorable Scott K. Saiki  
Speaker and Members of the House of  
Representatives  
Thirty-second State Legislature  
State Capitol, Room 431  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, I am transmitting a copy of the Annual Report on the State Meat Processing Task Force as required by Act 54, SLH 2023. In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawaii Revised Statutes, I am also informing you that the report may be viewed electronically at <https://hdoa.hawaii.gov/meetings-reports/legislative-reports/>.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Sharon Hurd".

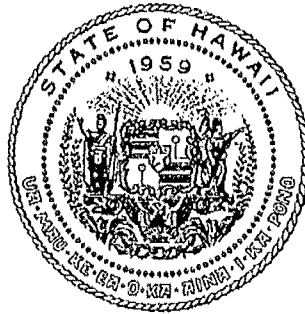
Sharon Hurd  
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

Enclosures



**REPORT TO THE THIRTY-SECOND LEGISLATURE  
2024 REGULAR SESSION  
STATE OF HAWAII**

**IN RESPONSE TO ACT 54, SLH 2023  
ESTABLISHING A MEAT PROCESSING TASK FORCE  
WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE  
TO DEVELOP AND IMPLEMENT A PLAN TO EXPAND THE  
MEAT PROCESSING CAPACITY IN THE STATE**



**Prepared by:**

**THE STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE**

**DECEMBER 2023**

## **Background**

Act 54, SLH 2023 created a Meat Processing task force to create and implement a master plan to expand meat processing capacity to allow axis deer and other wild game to be processed for distribution by nonprofit food distribution services and submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular sessions of 2024 and 2025.

## **Actions**

The task force met twice in 2023. Glenn Sako, Economic Development Specialist in Agriculture for the County of Hawai'i Department of Research and Development, volunteered to lead the task force because Hawai'i County has a similar ongoing project. A non-profit organization in Puna is implementing a model for trapping feral pigs; it is currently working on a plan to educate the public, including hunters, and to set up a system to distribute feral pork to the community.

A draft of questions has been developed and circulated among the task force members for comment and will be used to create the scope of services to procure a consultant to develop a plan outlining the process to allow for the donation of game meat. The plan will include safe food handling practices, current slaughter capacity for the State, and how to increase the slaughter capacity to accommodate the wild game protein for donation to under-resourced communities.

These questions are being shared with other entities, such as the University of Hawai'i, College of Tropical Agriculture and Human Resources (CTAHR) and the USDA Food Safety and Inspection Service (FSIS) for their collective input. The Department of Health will be looking at relaxing the regulations to get wild game from the field to the slaughter unit, as well as the food safe handling procedures.

We thank the legislature for their assistance in this matter. The task force will meet again in late January 2024 and will hold regular meetings to continue its work to develop the scope of services and to review any updated regulations on safe food handling procedures.

Please contact Dexter Kishida via [dexter.k.kishida@hawaii.gov](mailto:dexter.k.kishida@hawaii.gov) or (808) 973-9553.