



HAWAII INVASIVE SPECIES COUNCIL

Resolution No. 11-5

REGARDING AXIS DEER

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
Governor

SHAN TSUTSUI
Lieutenant Governor

Hawai'i Invasive Species Council

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U.S. Dept of the Interior
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Axis deer (*Axis axis*) were introduced to Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Maui, where they are hunted for recreation and food. The Maui axis deer population started with ten animals in 1959 and has grown to an estimated 12,000 animals today due to a lack of natural predators and natural environmental controls such as extreme weather or population-culling diseases, as well as the limited capacity to control population size through hunting. Axis deer have had devastating impacts on local agriculture, costing more than \$1 million in losses to vegetable crops, cattle, grapes, and sugarcane on Maui last year. Axis deer also threaten watershed forests and native species. Axis deer can jump or circumvent most existing ungulate fences that were built to exclude feral pigs. The presence of axis deer requires farmers, ranchers, and conservation agencies to retrofit or install taller fences (8') to protect food crops, endangered and threatened species, sensitive natural areas, and watershed forests from deer impacts.

The recent discovery of axis deer on Hawai'i island has highlighted significant gaps in existing Administrative Rules regarding the interisland and intransisland movement of restricted species, the release of game species, and access to controlling or eradicating HISC-designated invasive species.

Recommendation: That the Council and member agencies pursue statutory and administrative rule changes and administrative actions to effectively control and regulate the introduction and movement of introduced wildlife species.

Action: Unanimously approved, with the caveat that the issue be brought back to the Council for recommendations, including funding requests via the HISC budget.