

2026 LĀNA‘I AXIS DEER HUNTING SEASON ANNOUNCEMENT

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

October 06, 2025

The State of Hawai‘i, Department of Land and Natural Resources, Division of Forestry and Wildlife (DOFAW) is pleased to announce that applications for the 2026 Lāna‘i axis deer hunting season will be available to the general public online beginning Monday, October 13, 2025. **A ten-dollar (\$10.00) application fee will be assessed for each person applying for the hunt. All application fee sales are final and must accompany each application at the time of filing.**

To apply for this hunt, go to <https://gohunthawaii.ehawaii.gov> and select the 2026 Lāna‘i Axis Deer Season. The **DEADLINE** for submitting applications will be **4:00 PM HST on Friday, November 14, 2025**. Hunters are encouraged to submit applications well before the application deadline to ensure proper processing.

Hunter applicants **MUST** obtain and pay particular attention to the hunt announcement, instruction sheet, addendum, and online information for any changes in the application process and hunting season. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the 2026 Lāna‘i axis deer hunting season may be modified, rescheduled, or cancelled. The use of the OuterSpatial app (online check-in/out) has been **temporarily discontinued** for this hunt.

Hunters participating in the axis deer season are encouraged to purchase and print their either sex axis deer tag, and if applicable, any additional doe tag(s) online. The purchase of the axis deer tag and the potential purchase of additional doe tag(s) may be limited at the Lāna‘i hunter check station. Hawai‘i residents will be assessed twenty dollars (\$20.00) and non-Hawai‘i residents one hundred twenty-five dollars (\$125.00) for each axis deer tag. Tag fees for youths participating in the youth-only hunt will be waived.

Debit cards and credit cards will be accepted as payment for game mammal tags at the Lanai hunter check station. Cash will be accepted **ONLY** in unforeseen circumstances. Game mammal tags can be purchased and printed online at <http://gohunthawaii.ehawaii.gov> and by clicking “Purchase Tags and Permits.”

Pursuant to Title 13, Chapter 123, “Rules Regulating Game Mammal Hunting” (13-123-4), the following special conditions and procedures will be in effect for this hunt:

The 2026 Lāna‘i axis deer season will consist of four (4) hunts:

The **Archery Hunt** will consist of four (4) draws each totaling five (5) days. Subject to limited participation for non-Lāna‘i residents.

- The first draw hunt will begin on February 4, 2026, and end on February 8, 2026.
- The second draw hunt will begin on February 11, 2026, and end on February 15, 2026.
- The third draw hunt will begin on February 18, 2026, and end on February 22, 2026.
- The fourth draw hunt will begin on February 25, 2026, and end on March 1, 2026.

****The Youth Hunt** will be conducted for one (1) weekend (Friday through Sunday), March 6-8, 2026. Subject to limited participation for non-Lānaʻi residents.

The **Muzzleloader Hunt** will be conducted for one (1) weekend (Friday through Sunday), March 13-15, 2026. Subject to limited participation for non-Lanai residents.

The **General Rifle Hunt** will be held over eleven (11) consecutive weekends (Fridays through Sundays), beginning March 20, 2026, and ending on May 31, 2026. Subject to limited participation for non-Lānaʻi residents.

All four (4) hunts may be subject to a lottery drawing. Depending on application levels, standby hunting opportunities may be offered for the general rifle season. If application levels are lower than anticipated for the archery and general rifle seasons, one or more draws/weekends may be eliminated. Hunters can check lottery results online at <https://gohunthawaii.ehawaii.gov> or at <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/recreation/hunting/>.

One (1) hunter assistant will be allowed to accompany a hunter who is a senior citizen (age 65 or older) or disabled. Proper documentation (signed doctor note (within 90 days of selected hunt date), driver's license, hunting license, etc.), along with the hunter assistant permit, must be made available to any representative of the Department of Land and Natural Resources upon request.

The bag limit for the 2026 Lānaʻi axis deer season will be one (1) either sex axis deer per hunt applied and selected/drawn for. Additional axis deer doe tag(s) may be available based on aerial survey data. Tags are **NOT** transferable and are valid only for the specific hunt for which it was issued.

A lottery will be conducted for the **Archery Hunt** to assign hunting dates. Interested archers must apply for this hunt by submitting an application for a permit. Hunters applying for and participating in the **Archery Hunt** may apply for and participate in either the **Muzzleloader Hunt** or the **General Rifle Hunt** lotteries. Archery hunters may check in on the Tuesday preceding the first day of their draw from 8:00 am and 6:00 pm or from Wednesdays through Fridays between 8:00 am and 3:00 pm to validate permits and receive their tags. Hunters are encouraged to purchase and print the either sex axis deer tag, and if applicable, additional doe tag(s) online and check in at the Lānaʻi hunter check station. Upon checking in at the Lānaʻi hunter check station, hunters must provide identification and present their permit card to a representative of the Department of Land

and Natural Resources representative. Upon completing the hunt, hunters must check out by submitting their permit card, including providing harvest data, to the Lānaʻi hunter check station. Hunter check sheets may be left outside of the Lānaʻi hunter check station to accommodate those late-arriving hunters who have purchased and printed their tag(s) online.

AXIS DEER HUNTING OPPORTUNITIES FOR YOUTH HUNTERS:

****YOUTH HUNT**

- Youth hunters must be 15 years of age or younger (HAR 13-123-2) up to the hunt date, possess a valid 2025-26 State of Hawaiʻi hunting license, and be accompanied by a non-hunting adult (18 years of age or older) who also possesses a valid 2025-26 State of Hawaiʻi hunting license.
- Youth hunters must submit an application to participate in this hunt.
- A total of 175 youth hunters will be drawn for the weekend.
- At the time of hunter check-in, youth hunters will be issued either a sex axis deer tag and, if applicable, additional axis deer doe tag(s), and the non-hunting adult will be issued a permit. Check-ins and game tags for the youth hunt will not be available online.
- Game tags are valid only for the specific hunt applied for.
- Youth hunters will be limited to carrying one (1) means of take while in the hunting area. Blaze orange is required for all youths and accompanying adults.
- One (1) non-hunting adult may accompany one (1) youth for this hunt.
- Youth hunters will be allowed to apply for and participate in the archery hunt and either the muzzleloader hunt or the general rifle hunt. Youths must submit a separate application for each hunt.

Participation in the **Youth and Muzzleloader Hunts** may be assigned by lottery if application levels exceed the allotted number of hunters allowed in the hunting area.

General Rifle Hunt dates will be assigned by lottery drawing. Interested hunters **may apply for either the Muzzleloader Hunt** lottery or the **General Rifle Hunt** lottery but may **not** apply for **both**.

Public drawings for the Archery, Youth, and Muzzleloader Hunts will be held on Friday, December 5, 2025, at 10:00 AM at the J Cameron Center, MEO facility on the island of Maui. At 12:00 noon, a **public drawing** will be held to assign hunting dates for the **General Rifle Hunt**. The Lanai resident public drawing will be held at 9:00 am at the same location above. If necessary, the standby selection process will begin upon completion of the general rifle lottery.

All eligible Youth, Muzzleloader, and General Rifle participants must check in either on the Thursday preceding their assigned hunting date between 8:00 am and 6:00 pm or on Friday between the hours of 7:00 am and 9:00 am or from 1:00 pm and 3:00 pm at the Forestry and Wildlife Office in Lānaʻi City, located at 917 Fraser Ave. If applicable, general rifle standby hunters must be present at the Lānaʻi City, Division of Forestry and Wildlife office at 4:00 pm on the Thursday before their assigned hunting date to be

eligible to replace no-show hunters. Muzzleloader and general rifle hunters are encouraged to purchase and print the either sex axis deer tag, and if applicable, any additional doe tag(s) online and check in at the Lānaʻi hunter check station. Upon checking in at the Lānaʻi hunter check station, hunters must provide identification and present their permit card to a Department of Land and Natural Resources representative. Upon completion of the hunt, hunters must check out by submitting their permit card, including providing harvest data, to the Lānaʻi hunter check station. Hunter check sheets may be left outside of the Lānaʻi hunter check station to accommodate those late-arriving hunters who have purchased and printed their tag(s) online. Hunting Units 1, 2, and 3 will be open for the archery hunt. Hunting Units 1 and 2 will be opened for the Youth, Muzzleloader, and General Rifle Hunts.

Additional details for this season are available at the Division of Forestry and Wildlife Offices at the following telephone numbers:

Oahu: (808) 587-0166
Hawaii: (808) 974-4221 (Hilo)
Kauai: (808) 274-3433

Maui: (808) 984-8100
Molokai: (808) 553-1745
Lanai: (808) 565-7916