

# Axis Deer Panel of Experts

## Community Meeting Summary: January 10, 2022

**Senator Lynn DeCoite,**  
[sendecoite@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:sendecoite@capitol.hawaii.gov)

**Councilmember Yukilei Sugimura**  
[yukilei.sugimura@mauicounty.us](mailto:yukilei.sugimura@mauicounty.us)

**Dr. Steven Hess**  
 USDA-APHIS-WS, Supervisory  
 Research Biologist

**Jonathan Sprague**  
 Pūlama Lānaʻi, Director of  
 Conservation  
[jsprague@pulamalanai.com](mailto:jsprague@pulamalanai.com)

**Shane De Mattos,**  
 DLNR, Forestry & Wildlife,  
 Wildlife Biologist (Game)  
 for Maui Nui

### COMMON GOALS

- Humanely reduce herd size to a healthy manageable level
- Minimize detriments and waste
- Maximize benefits for Lānaʻi and its residents
- Collaboration, it's a kākou thing

### ENCOURAGE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT

- Email Senator DeCoite, Representative Clark, Councilmember Sugimura and Councilmember Johnson on ideas for any new legislation
- Community members may assist in the following ways
  - Increase the number of short term rentals on Lānaʻi
  - Reimbursement for hunting expenses
  - Slaughterhouse to process meat
  - On island USDA inspectors
  - Assistance with processing carcasses
  - Special rental rates for hunters that come to hunt
  - Report what you observe on the land to Pūlama Lānaʻi regarding deer population

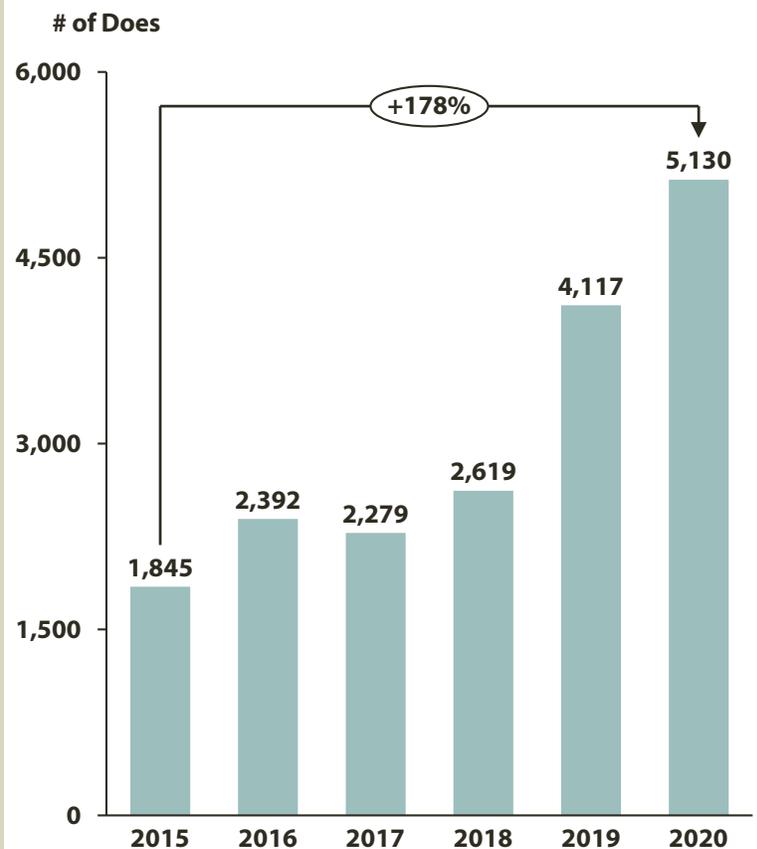
### KEY INSIGHTS FROM PANELISTS

- Government Officials** Set policies to ensure safety and provide potential opportunities for additional support via grants or CIP
- Biologists** Populations rise and fall, maintaining equilibrium requires ongoing management
  - Results from Molokaʻi drought (2020-2021) indicated malnourished animals, negative for tuberculosis, brucellosis, chronic wasting disease, and deer adenovirus. Toxicology did not identify toxicants or metals and there were no significant parasite burdens.
- Pūlama Lānaʻi** Need to use all the available tools to manage the situation on island—increased available number of hunts, reduced or free hunts, focus on doe harvests, partner with experts, continue to work on fencing on the landscape
  - Data survey was completed in 2013, herd size was estimated between 17.6k and 19.5k at the time

### COMMUNITY CONCERNS

- How many deer died during the drought?** Unclear, it will take months to assess; however, >200 carcasses were picked up over 45 days in the city and more died undetected in the field.
- Is it possible to open up more hunting areas?** There are lots of areas to hunt already, we have tons of open timeslots as well. In the future we can evaluate opening other areas.
- What is being done to stop erosion on Keōmoku side?** As part of the Kuahiwi A Kai Project, outplanting and a significant amount of fencing is being installed.
- A deer hit my vehicle. Can I be compensated?** Call Maui Police Department and file a report. You should also call your insurance company to inquire whether your policy will cover any expenses.
- Do we have a habitat or drought mgmt. plan?** <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/recreation/files/>
- What is process for setting # of hunts and tags?** Based off of bi-annual aerial surveys (population), currently there is no limit on does.

### LĀNAʻI DOE HARVEST (ALL SOURCES)



For more information, please reach out to [communitymeetings@pulamalanai.com](mailto:communitymeetings@pulamalanai.com)

Info as of January 10, 2022, subject to change without notice