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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FERAL ANIMALS.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:**

1 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the city and county  
2 of Honolulu currently regulates the keeping of chickens in urban  
3 Honolulu, including limits on the number of chickens or peafowl  
4 per household and land use standards that allow the accessory  
5 keeping of hens but not roosters. The legislature further finds  
6 that although existing animal nuisance provisions prohibit  
7 nuisance behavior by animals, including poultry, increasing  
8 feral chicken activity on public lands may contribute to public  
9 nuisance conditions, sanitation concerns, and impacts to public  
10 facilities and neighboring properties.

11 The purpose of this Act is to strengthen and complement  
12 existing local rules in cities with a population of three  
13 hundred thousand or more by:

14 (1) Classifying feral chickens on public lands as a  
15 controllable pest for purposes of public health and  
16 nuisance prevention;



(2) Prohibiting the intentional keeping, maintaining, or supporting of feral chickens on state or city lands, including by feeding or placing chickens in these areas;

(3) Prohibiting the abandonment or dumping of chickens on public lands or on private property without consent; and

(4) Affirming the authority of private property owners to humanely control feral chickens on their own property, consistent with state animal protection laws and city requirements.

SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by  
adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read  
as follows:

## "CHAPTER

## FERAL CHICKENS

§ -1 **Applicability.** This chapter shall apply to lands in any city with a population of three hundred thousand or more.

20        § -2 **Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the  
21 context clearly requires otherwise:



1        "Chicken" means any domestic fowl of the species *Gallus*  
2        *gallus domesticus*, including roosters and hens.

3        "Feral chicken" means a chicken that is free-roaming and  
4        not under the custody and control of an owner or keeper.

5        "Owner" includes any person who possesses, keeps, harbors,  
6        or exercises control over a chicken.

7        "Public land" means land owned, leased, managed, or  
8        controlled by the State or a city with a population of three  
9        hundred thousand or more.

10       "Support" means to intentionally feed, water, shelter,  
11       harbor, place, relocate, or otherwise maintain a feral chicken  
12       population in a manner that encourages continued presence or  
13       congregation on public land.

14       **S -3 Feral chickens; pests; public lands.** (a) Feral  
15       chickens present on public lands shall be declared a public  
16       nuisance and controllable pest for purposes of public health,  
17       sanitation, and the safe use and enjoyment of public property.

18       (b) This designation is intended to support coordinated  
19       control and nuisance abatement and is consistent with the  
20       recognition that household pests may include birds for pest-  
21       control purposes.



1           **§ -4 Prohibited acts on public lands; feeding and**

2   **placement.** (a) Prohibited acts regarding feral chickens shall

3    include but are not limited to:

4       (1) Feeding feral chickens on public land;

5       (2) Placing food or other attractants for feral chickens

6        on public land;

7       (3) Intentionally abandoning, depositing, dumping,

8        relocating, or releasing chickens onto:

9        (A) Public land; or

10      (B) Private property without the knowledge and

11        consent of the private property owner or lawful

12        occupant of the private property; and

13      (4) Creating or maintaining areas intended to attract or

14        allow the congregation of feral chickens on public

15        land.

16      (b) No person shall abandon, release, dump, or relocate

17    any chicken in a manner that is intended to evade or violate the

18    limits on household chicken keeping, as determined by a city

19    with a population of three hundred thousand or more.

20      (c) This section is in addition to any other applicable

21    state law prohibiting animal desertion or cruelty.



1           **S -5 Feral chickens; humane control on private property.**

2       (a) A private property owner or lawful occupant may capture and  
3       humanely control a feral chicken located on that property  
4       owner's or lawful occupant's property; provided that all actions  
5       to humanely control the feral chicken shall comply with state  
6       laws prohibiting cruelty to animals, including provisions as  
7       prescribed in section 711-1108.5 or 711-1109, and any applicable  
8       city requirements.

9           (b) Nothing in this chapter shall be construed to require  
10      a private property owner to provide food, water, or shelter to a  
11      feral chicken.

12          **S -6 Enforcement; coordination.** (a) This chapter may  
13      be enforced by:

14           (1) The department of land and natural resources with  
15           respect to state public lands; and  
16           (2) The police department of a city with a population of  
17           three hundred thousand or more, through the  
18           department's authorized agencies with respect to city  
19           public lands.

20           (b) The authorized enforcing agencies may coordinate with  
21      animal welfare partners and public health partners regarding



1 complaint response, education, and humane handling of feral  
2 chickens.

3       **§ -7 Penalties.** (a) A person who violates  
4 section -4 shall be subject to a civil fine of:  
5           (1) No more than \$250 for a first violation;  
6           (2) No more than \$500 for a second violation within one  
7           year of the previous violation; and  
8           (3) No more than \$1,000 for a third or additional  
9           violation within one year of the first violation.

10          (b) Each day of a continued violation pursuant to this  
11 section shall constitute a distinct and separate violation  
12 subject to penalties.

13       **§ -8 Rules.** The department of land and natural resources  
14 may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to implement and  
15 administer this chapter for state lands, including rules  
16 regarding signage, notice, and coordinated response for feral  
17 chickens, consistent with this chapter."

18          SECTION 3. If any provision of this Act, or the  
19 application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held  
20 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or  
21 applications of the Act that can be given effect without the



1 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions  
2 of this Act are severable.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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INTRODUCED BY: 

JAN 28 2026



# H.B. NO. 2561

**Report Title:**

Department of Land and Natural Resources; Feral Chickens; Prohibition; Fines; Enforcement

**Description:**

Designates feral chickens on public lands, in a city with a population of three hundred thousand or more, as a controllable pest for purposes of public health and nuisance prevention. Prohibits the intentional keeping, maintaining, or supporting of feral chickens on state or certain city lands, including by feeding or placing chickens in such areas. Prohibits the abandonment of chickens on public lands or on private property without consent. Establishes fines and authorized enforcing agencies.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

