

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO FERAL ANIMALS.

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

1 PART I

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

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

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



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

10 "CHAPTER

11 FERAL CHICKENS

12 **§ -1 Applicability.** This chapter shall apply to lands
13 within any city with a population of three hundred thousand or
14 more.

15 **§ -2 Definitions.** As used in this chapter, unless the
16 context clearly requires otherwise:

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

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



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

3 "Public land" means land owned, leased, managed, or
4 controlled by the State or a city with a population of three
5 hundred thousand or more.

6 **§ -3 Feral chickens; pests; public lands.** (a) Feral
7 chickens present on public lands shall be declared a public
8 nuisance and controllable pest for purposes of public health,
9 sanitation, and the safe use and enjoyment of public property.

10 (b) This designation is intended to support coordinated
11 control and nuisance abatement and is consistent with the
12 recognition that household pests may include birds for pest-
13 control purposes.

14 **§ -4 Prohibited acts on public lands; feeding and**
15 **placement.** (a) Prohibited acts regarding feral chickens shall
16 include but are not limited to:

17 (1) Feeding feral chickens on public land;
18 (2) Placing food or other attractants for feral chickens
19 on public land;
20 (3) Intentionally abandoning, depositing, dumping,
21 relocating, or releasing chickens onto:





5 (b) The authorized enforcing agencies may coordinate with
6 animal welfare partners and public health partners regarding
7 complaint response, education, and humane handling of feral
8 chickens.

9 § **-6 Penalties.** (a) A person who violates
10 section -4 shall be subject to a civil fine of:
11 (1) No more than \$250 for a first violation;
12 (2) No more than \$500 for a second violation within one
13 year of the previous violation; and
14 (3) No more than \$1,000 for a third or additional
15 violation within one year of the first violation.
16 (b) Each day of a continued violation pursuant to this
17 section shall constitute a distinct and separate violation
18 subject to penalties.

19 **§ -7 Rules.** The department of land and natural
20 resources may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to implement
21 and administer this chapter for state lands, including rules



1 regarding signage, notice, and coordinated response for feral
2 chickens, consistent with this chapter."

3 PART II

4 SECTION 3. There is appropriated out of the general
5 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
6 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to
7 the city and county of Honolulu to facilitate the collection of
8 feral chickens that have already been caught.

9 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the city and
10 county of Honolulu for the purposes of this part.

11 PART III

12 SECTION 4. If any provision of this Act, or the
13 application thereof to any person or circumstance, is held
14 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or
15 applications of the Act that can be given effect without the
16 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions
17 of this Act are severable.

18 SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 3000.



Report Title:

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

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. Appropriates funds. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

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