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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 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;



(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; and

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

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 within any city with a population of three hundred thousand or more.

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

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

"Feral chicken" means a chicken that is free-roaming and 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:



- 1 (A) Public land; or
- 2 (B) Private property without the knowledge and
- 3 consent of the private property owner or lawful
- 4 occupant of the private property; and
- 5 (4) Creating or maintaining areas intended to attract or
- 6 allow the congregation of feral chickens on public
- 7 land;
- 8 (b) No person shall abandon, release, dump, or relocate
- 9 any chicken in a manner that is intended to evade or violate the
- 10 limits on household chicken keeping, as determined by a city
- 11 with a population of three hundred thousand or more.
- 12 (c) This section is in addition to any other applicable
- 13 state law prohibiting animal desertion or cruelty.
- 14 (d) Any act described in subsection (a) that is performed
- 15 for research or rescue purposes shall be exempt from the
- 16 prohibitions in subsection (a); provided that the act was
- 17 approved by the State or city before it was performed.
- 18 § -5 **Enforcement; coordination.** (a) This chapter may
- 19 be enforced by:
- 20 (1) The department of land and natural resources with
- 21 respect to state public lands; and



(2) The police department of a city with a population of three hundred thousand or more, through the department's authorized agencies with respect to city public lands.

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

**§ -6 Penalties.** (a) A person who violates section -4 shall be subject to a civil fine of:

(1) No more than \$250 for a first violation;

(2) No more than \$500 for a second violation within one year of the previous violation; and

(3) No more than \$1,000 for a third or additional violation within one year of the first violation.

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

**§ -7 Rules.** The department of land and natural resources may adopt rules pursuant to chapter 91 to implement 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)

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

