

MAR 16 2026

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

URGING THIS BODY TO INTRODUCE AND PASS LEGISLATION TO ESTABLISH STRICT LIABILITY FOR INDIVIDUALS WHO KEEP, HARBOR, OR FEED CERTAIN ANIMALS IN A MANNER THAT RESULTS IN DAMAGE TO PROPERTY.

1 WHEREAS, the proliferation of feral and free-ranging
2 chickens in residential and urban communities across the State
3 is a nuisance that disrupts residents living in these areas; and
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5 WHEREAS, chickens were once limited to rural environs, but
6 now unchecked feeding and harboring of these animals by some
7 residents have led to significant property damage, neighborhood
8 disputes, and the spread of nuisance conditions that erode the
9 health, safety, and quiet enjoyment of the State's communities;
10 and
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12 WHEREAS, abundant feral chicken populations tend to
13 coalesce into feral colonies and produce negative impacts
14 similar to those of feral ungulates, including goats, sheep, and
15 pigs, and felids; and
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17 WHEREAS, such colonies have grown exponentially, creating a
18 wide range of problems for farmers, ranchers, property owners,
19 and users of transportation infrastructure, among many others;
20 and
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22 WHEREAS, these feral populations have disrupted native
23 ecosystems that evolved for millions of years without these
24 species present; and
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26 WHEREAS, state law establishes liability when domesticated
27 animals, such as dogs or livestock, cause injury or trespass
28 upon the property of others; and
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30 WHEREAS, despite their ability to damage gardens,
31 landscaping, and private property, there is currently no



S.C.R. NO. 71

1 comparable statute addressing the damage caused by chickens,
2 ungulates, and felids that are intentionally kept, harbored, or
3 fed by individuals; and
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5 WHEREAS, undomesticated chickens, ungulates, and felids
6 that are deliberately fed or harbored become effectively
7 domesticated animals stewarded by the individual providing food
8 and shelter; and
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10 WHEREAS, establishing penalties for damage caused by
11 chickens, ungulates, and felids will protect homeowners'
12 property and quality of life; now, therefore,
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14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
15 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2026, the
16 House of Representatives concurring, that this body is urged to
17 introduce and pass legislation establishing strict liability for
18 individuals who keep, harbor, or feed chickens, ungulates, or
19 felids in a manner that results in the animals damaging the
20 property of another individual; and
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22 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Invasive Species
23 Council is requested to conduct a study to determine whether the
24 harm to property caused by feral chickens amounts to
25 classification of feral chickens as an invasive species; and
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Hawaii Invasive Species
28 Council is requested to submit a report of its findings and
29 recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
30 Legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of
31 the Regular Session of 2027; and
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33 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
34 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Co-Chairpersons of
35 the Hawaii Invasive Species Council.
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OFFERED BY: *Keith M. Renteria*

