

Simple Summary of HB2561 (Feral Chickens Bill)

What the bill is about

This bill is focused on **feral chickens on public land**, mainly in large cities like Honolulu. It aims to treat feral chickens as a public nuisance and regulate how people interact with them.

Key changes the bill would make

1 Feral chickens would be officially labeled a “pest” on public land

The bill declares feral chickens on public property to be a **public nuisance and controllable pest** for health and sanitation reasons.

2 Feeding or supporting feral chickens on public land would be illegal

People would not be allowed to:

- Feed feral chickens
- Leave food or anything that attracts them
- Create areas where chickens gather

3 Dumping or abandoning chickens would be illegal

The bill bans intentionally releasing or dumping chickens:

- On public land
- On private property without permission

4 Rescue or research activities could be allowed — but only with approval

Animal rescue or research work would be exempt **only if approved by the state or city beforehand**.

5 Enforcement would be handled by state and local agencies

The bill says enforcement could be done by:

- Department of Land and Natural Resources
- City police or authorized agencies

6 Fines would be created

Violations could result in civil fines:

- Up to \$250 for the first violation
- Up to \$500 for the second
- Up to \$1,000 for additional violations

Each day a violation continues could count as a separate offense.

7 Possible funding for collection efforts

The bill allows state funds to be given to Honolulu to help with collecting feral chickens that have already been captured.

Where the bill applies

It applies to **cities with populations over 300,000**, which effectively means Honolulu.

Bottom line

👉 The bill would make it illegal to feed or support feral chickens on public land, classify them as pests, create fines, and give agencies authority to enforce these rules.