# HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

*KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU*

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. 24-243

## RESOLUTION

RECONVENING THE HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL'S AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE TO FOSTER THE GROWTH AND ENHANCEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES ON O'AHU.

WHEREAS, agriculture is an important component of Hawai'i's economy, culture, and history, and it merits focused and informed attention in policymaking and implementation; and

WHEREAS, the Honolulu City Council ("Council") has consistently recognized the need to support ongoing agricultural activities and enhance the profitability and viability of agricultural businesses on O'ahu through resolutions such as:

- Resolution 98-55, CD1, which requested that the Mayor establish an agricultural advisory committee;
- Resolution 02-100, CD1, which supported the establishment of an agricultural industry development task force as described in State of Hawai'i ("State") House Concurrent Resolution 94, HD1, Regular Session 2002;
- Resolution 03-125, CD1, which urged the administration to designate an agricultural development officer to foster the growth and enhancement of agricultural activities on O'ahu;
- Resolution 04-45, which urged the State Legislature to enact legislation that would identify, conserve, and protect important agricultural lands;
- Resolution 04-218, CD1, FD1, which created a task force to recommend long-term solutions to the problems related to the real property taxation of agricultural land;
- Resolution 04-288, CD1, which established an agricultural development task force for the City and County of Honolulu ("City") to foster the growth and enhancement of agricultural activities on O'ahu; and
- Resolution 21-79, CD1, FD1, urging the City Administration to establish and expend funds for a grant program to support local agriculture through the Office of Economic Revitalization, which resulted in the formation of the O'ahu Agriculture Grant Program to support local agriculture with $3 million in grants

to small farmers, ranchers, and growers on O'ahu, with 66 grants ranging from $10,000 to $49,000 issued to date; and

WHEREAS, the Agricultural Development Task Force ("Task Force") convened by Resolution 04-288, CD1, and began its service on January 10, 2005; and

WHEREAS, the Council found that the Task Force meetings were productive, and it extended the work of the Task Force twice through:

- Resolution 05-407, which extended the Task Force for a year and amended its membership to be comprised of seven persons selected by the Council Chair; and

- Resolution 07-52, which extended the Task Force indefinitely, until terminated by the Council, and required the Task Force to report its findings and recommendations to the Council on a semi-annual basis; and

WHEREAS, Resolution 08-31 further amended the membership of the Task Force to require not more than nine and not less than five members, and to authorize the Task Force to appoint new members by a majority vote of the task force, subject to the final approval of the Council Chair; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force continued to operate actively through the issuance of its latest semi-annual report, Council Communication 35 (2019), on February 5, 2019, but it has been inactive since that date; and

WHEREAS, the Task Force provided the Council with important policy recommendations regarding key agricultural matters such as zoning, restricting gentleman farming, re-evaluating requirements for roads and utilities, examining the agricultural tax rate, and developing incentives, and it most recently submitted recommendations regarding the Important Agricultural Land Designation and related possible incentives; and

WHEREAS, the members of the agricultural community who served on the Task Force brought significant industry expertise, knowledge, motivation, and commitment to guide and implement the policymaking of the Council; and

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WHEREAS, the Council seeks to reconvene the Task Force to ensure that the Council's policy decisions continue to reflect and incorporate the expertise of relevant agricultural stakeholders and practitioners; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the Agricultural Development Task Force ("Task Force") previously established by Resolution 04-288, CD1, and amended by Resolution 08-31, is hereby reconvened with a membership consisting of not more than nine and not less than five members with no term limits; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that within 60 days of adoption of this resolution, the Council Chair and Vice Chair shall jointly designate the members of the Task Force, which shall include at least one task force member with expertise in traditional Native Hawaiian agricultural practices and food systems; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that, following the initial designation of members by the Council Chair and Vice Chair, the Task Force is authorized to designate new members by majority vote of the Task Force to fill vacancies on the Task Force as they arise; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the priority focus of the reconvened Task Force will be to recommend ways City policy can support agricultural development in areas such as:

1. Zoning;
2. Land use;
3. Infrastructure requirements;
4. Taxes;
5. Grants and other incentives;
6. Data gathering and analysis;
7. Food security;
8. Institutional purchasing and other demand-side improvements;

9. Biosecurity (e.g., invasive species);

10. Economic development;

11. Permitting; and

12. Certifications; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Task Force shall report its findings and recommendations in writing no later than one year from the date of adoption of this measure and annually thereafter to the Council, Mayor, Managing Director, Executive Director of the Office of Economic Revitalization, and Director of Planning and Permitting, provided that nothing herein is intended to restrict open, ongoing communication between the Task Force and these entities, which is hereby encouraged; and

BE IT FINALLY RESOLVED that copies of this resolution be transmitted to each Councilmember.

INTRODUCED BY:

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

SEP 2 5 2024
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

**Report Title:**
Agriculture; Agricultural Activity; Agricultural Business; Local Agriculture; Zoning; Land Use; Biosecurity; Food Security; Economic Development; Agricultural Tax Rate; Incentives; Grants; Important Agricultural Land Designation; Reconvene; Agricultural Development Task Force

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