

RES24-243
Testimony

MISC. COMM. 537

PLANNING AND THE ECONOMY (P&E)

PLANNING AND THE ECONOMY (P&E) Meeting

Meeting Date: Nov 21, 2024 @ 09:00 AM

Support: 11

Oppose: 0

I wish to comment: 0

Name: Alexis Chapman	Email: Alexis.Chapman@HawaiiFood.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Hawaii Food Industry Association (HFIA)	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 18, 2024 @ 03:56 PM

Name: Taylor Kellerman	Email: tkellerman@kualoa.com	Zip: 96730
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2024 @ 04:48 AM

Testimony:

Aloha,

I think Bill 10/Bill 64 highlighted the fact that the county council can have a very large impact on our Oahu Agriculture matters. Because this is an industry with a long history containing many case by case nuances and rarely has a one size fits all standing I am very supportive of the reconvening of the Agricultural Development Task Force to help guide policy in a well informed format.

Mahalo

Taylor Kellerman

Director of Diversified Agriculture and Land Stewardship

Kualoa Ranch Hawaii

Name: India Clark	Email: india@oahurcd.org	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2024 @ 10:43 AM

Testimony:

Aloha,

I'm writing in support of the RES24-243 to RECONVENE THE HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL'S AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE TO FOSTER THE GROWTH AND ENHANCEMENT OF AGRICULTURAL ACTIVITIES ON O'AHU.

I've worked as an agriculture service provider, researcher and consultant since 2004 on O'ahu and neighbor islands. I've served as an active board member for the Hawaii Farmers Union United (HFUU) North Shore chapter since 2014. Agriculture is a viable industry for Hawaii and yet we're not capturing the local market on many of the speciality crops that we grow locally. This opportunity is being lost and impacts the health and vulnerabilities of our families and local economy.

The Task Force is necessary to move important studies and programming that will be needed to address:

*Food security (including access to locally grown foods, long-term food system resilience, and emergency food preparedness);

*Economic Incentives (including taxes, grant programs, and other funding sources);

*Support for Operations (including workforce housing, infrastructure coordination, biosecurity, invasive species and pest mitigation, theft prevention, supply chain coordination, and other operational needs);

*Land Use Policy (including zoning, land use, permitting, and infrastructure requirements);

*Demand-Side Improvements (including market access, institutional purchasing, and procurement policies); and

*Research and Education (including data gathering, analysis, and reporting).

Mahalo nui for supporting this resolution to reconvene this Task Force.

Name: David Elliott	Email: dave@oahurcd.org	Zip: 96759
Representing: Oahu Resource Conservation and Development Council	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2024 @ 10:43 AM

Testimony:

Re-establishing the Ag Development Task Force is a critical step for the City and County of Honolulu to achieve its agricultural and food system goals.

Name: Micah Munekata	Email: mmunekata@ulupono.com	Zip: 96813
Representing: Ulupono Initiative	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2024 @ 03:05 PM

Name: Frederick Mencher	Email: frederickmencher@gmail.com	Zip: 96817
Representing: East Oahu County Farm Bureau	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 19, 2024 @ 11:40 PM

Name: Brian Miyamoto	Email: brian@hfbf.org	Zip: 96759
Representing: Hawaii Farm Bureau	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 20, 2024 @ 07:58 AM

Name: Kathleen M Pahinui	Email: pahinuik001@hawaii.rr.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 20, 2024 @ 02:03 PM

Testimony:

Aloha Committee Chair Kia'aina and Committee Members -

I support resolution 24-243 regarding the Agricultural Development Task Force. I respectfully request, if set-up that the North Shore has a representative on it.

Mahalo,

Kathleen Pahinui

Waiialua Resident

Name: Taylor Campbell	Email: taylorpc@hawaii.edu	Zip: 96795
Representing: Waimanalo Agricultural Association	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 20, 2024 @ 11:23 PM
Name: Earl Yamamoto	Email: earl.j.yamamoto@hawaii.gov	Zip: 96814
Representing: Hawaii Department of Agriculture	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 21, 2024 @ 07:10 AM
Name: Racquel Achiu	Email: rhachiu@gmail.com	Zip: 96791
Representing: Self	Position: Support	Submitted: Nov 21, 2024 @ 08:24 AM

Testimony:

Aloha Chair & Committee Members - Racquel Achiu, Waiialua Moku (North Shore) in support of RES 24-243 - Reconvening the Agricultural Development Task Force, I believe, would be a critical component of ensuring the integrity and positive growth of our Agricultural Industry. The task force could also provide an opportunity to create a much needed resource to our ranchers and farmers for appropriate guidance, information and potential education that will benefit our Agricultural Industry.

Mahalo nui



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Executive Officers

Maile Miyashiro, C&S Wholesale Grocer, *Chair*
Kit Okimoto, Okimoto Corp., *Vice Chair*
Jayson Watts, Mahi Pono, *Secretary/Treasurer*
Lauren Zirbel, HFIA, *Executive Director*
Paul Kosasa, ABC Stores, *Advisor*
Derek Kurisu, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Toby Taniguchi, KTA Superstores, *Advisor*
Joe Carter, Coca-Cola Bottling of Hawaii, *Advisor*
Eddie Asato, Pint Size Hawaii, *Advisor*
Gary Okimoto, Safeway, *Immediate Past Chair*

TO: Committee on Planning and the Economy

FROM: HAWAII FOOD INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION
Lauren Zirbel, Executive Director

DATE: November 21, 2024

TIME: 9am

RE: Resolution 24-243 – RECONVENING THE COUNCIL’S AGRICULTURAL
DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE.

Position: Support

The Hawai’i Food Industry Association is comprised of two hundred member companies representing retailers, suppliers, producers, manufacturers, and distributors of food and beverage related products in the State of Hawaii.

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee,

HFIA is in support of this Resolution to reconvene the Council’s Agricultural Development Task Force, and asks that a representative from HFIA be included on the task force when it is formed. We are in strong agreement with the opening statement of this resolution, “agriculture is an important component of Hawai’i’s economy, culture, and history, and it merits focused and informed attention in policymaking and implementation.”

The Hawaii Food Industry Association represents a diverse array of businesses within the food industry, ranging from small local manufacturers to farmers, local grocery stores, and food distributors. Our retail members serve as a crucial link between producers and consumers. A representative from HFIA can provide valuable perspective on challenges in getting locally grown food to consumers.

As producers of the Made in Hawai’i Festival, we believe that locally made value added products using local agricultural commodities is essential to our state’s economic future. We agree that the County must support ongoing agricultural activities in order to enhance the profitability and viability of agricultural businesses on O’ahu.

HFIA is currently drafting language for legislation we hope to have introduced at the State level in 2025. This legislation aims to enhance the sustainability and disaster preparedness of Hawai'i's food and beverage supply chain, ensuring economic stability and food security while addressing the challenges posed by climate change and natural disasters.

The measure would include grants and tax credits for farmers and other businesses in the food supply chain to fund resiliency improvement projects; regulatory flexibility for those in the food system that are making resiliency upgrades; and public private partnerships to help facilitate, finance and manage a shift to more resilient food systems for our state.

We believe that this Task Force is a great example of the type of intentional and forward-looking support that our agricultural producers and food systems as a whole would benefit from. We encourage the Committee to pass this member, and for the Council to consider including a representative from HFIA as a member of the Task Force. We thank you for the opportunity to testify.



Email: communications@ulupono.com

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL COMMITTEE ON PLANNING & THE ECONOMY
Thursday, November 21, 2024 — 9:00 a.m.

UluPono Initiative supports Resolution 24-243, Reconvening the Council's Agricultural Development Task Force.

Dear Chair Kia'aina and Members of the Committee:

My name is Micah Munekata, and I am the Director of Government Affairs at UluPono Initiative. We are a Hawaii-focused impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life throughout the islands by helping our communities become more resilient and self-sufficient through locally produced food, renewable energy and clean transportation choices, and better management of freshwater resources.

UluPono supports Resolution 24-243, which reconvenes the Honolulu City Council's Agricultural Development Task Force, with a membership consisting of not more than nine and not less than five members with no term limits, to foster the growth and enhancement of agricultural activities on O'ahu.

In October 2022, Bill 10 (Land Use Regulations) decision-making was postponed primarily due to the advocacy of agricultural entities. The agriculture industry was not involved in developing the proposed bill, which contained land use changes that affect agriculture production and related activities. The bill's postponement was critical in order to allow for key agricultural stakeholder input and recommendations.

To ensure this occurred, a group of agricultural industry organizations met for three full days in early 2023 to discuss, line by line, the proposed land use regulation updates pertaining to agriculture. This group consisted of the following agricultural stakeholders: O'ahu Agriculture and Conservation Association, Kualoa Ranch, Waimanalo Agricultural Association, KoHana, Hawai'i Cattlemen's Council, UluPono Initiative, Hawai'i Farm Bureau, East County Farm Bureau, and Kuilima Farms. Government agencies—the State of Hawai'i Department of Agriculture and the City and County of Honolulu's Department of Planning and Permitting and Office of Economic Revitalization—also joined the conversation to provide context and feedback to the group's comments. As agriculture producers and stakeholders, we support agriculture and accessory agriculture on AG-1 and AG-2 lands for active farm/ranch production.

Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i

The top general recommendation to the Council was to re-activate the Agriculture Task Force and Agriculture Liaison, which would meet regularly for substantive discussions about agriculture and make recommendations to the Honolulu City Council. The Task Force should also ensure the representation of small farms.

As the Council continues to consider Bill 64 and any future funding or policies related to agriculture, we commend this resolution as a progressive step to incorporate more voices from O'ahu's agricultural industry in these important decisions. We believe that this Task Force will help to address agricultural land's priority issues, assist with implementing the outcomes from Bill 64, and offer guidance to protect and support a vibrant and resilient agricultural industry.

We look forward to the collaborative efforts of the City and County of Honolulu and the Agricultural Development Task Force to bolster O'ahu's agricultural future.

Respectfully,

Micah Munekata
Director of Government Affairs



EAST OAHU COUNTY FARM BUREAU
910 CALIFORNIA AVE., WAHIAWA, HI 96786

November 19, 2024

Councilmember Esther Kia'aina, Chair
Councilmember Radiant Cordero, Vice Chair
Committee on Planning and the Economy
Honolulu City Council
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813-3077

Dear Chair Kia'aina, Vice Chair Cordero, and Members of the Committee,

The East O'ahu County Farm Bureau, which represents approximately 420 farmers and supporters of agriculture from Waimanalo to Kahuku, strongly supports Resolution 24-243, which would reconvene Honolulu's Agricultural Development Task Force. If agriculture is to remain viable on O'ahu, the City Council and the City Administration must have someplace to go for information and advice on the needs of O'ahu's farmers. The original task force, established by Resolution 04-218 and extended by later resolutions, met and made recommendations to the City Council through 2019, but has been inactive since then. Many of the concerns that existed when the Task Force was established are still present; for example: designation of important agricultural lands, outdated or inappropriate land use regulations, access to land and water at acceptable cost, and the impacts of invasive species. Meanwhile, Honolulu imports most of its food needs, and remains vulnerable to supply interruptions such as the recent East Coast longshore workers' strike. We therefore encourage your Committee and the full Council to pass Resolution 24-243 and to re-establish the Agricultural Development Task Force with members reflecting the diversity of O'ahu's farming and ranching industry.

Further, we suggest two amendments to help ensure that the Task Force meets the needs of both the City Council and the agricultural community: 1) that the majority of the Task Force's members should be active farmers and ranchers, and 2) in view of the critical importance of water to all agriculture, that water issues should be specifically included among the priority topics for the Task Force to review.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important matter.

Sincerely,

Frederick M. Mencher
for Grant Hamachi, President
East O'ahu County Farm Bureau



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November 21, 2024

HEARING BEFORE THE
COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE ECONOMY

TESTIMONY ON RESOLUTION 24-243 PROPOSED CD1

Reconvening the Honolulu City Council's Agricultural Development Task Force, with a membership consisting of not more than nine and not less than five members with no term limits, to foster the growth and enhancement of agricultural activities on O'ahu.

City Council Chamber
9:00 AM

Aloha Chair Kia'aina, Vice Chair Cordero, and Members of the Committee,

I am Brian Miyamoto, Executive Director of the Hawai'i Farm Bureau (HFB). Organized in 1948, the HFB is comprised of 1,800 farm family members statewide and serves as Hawai'i's voice of agriculture to protect, advocate, and advance the social, economic, and educational interests of our diverse agricultural community.

The Hawai'i Farm Bureau is in strong support of Resolution 24-243, which would reconvene the Honolulu City Council's Agricultural Development Task Force.

The original priority focus of the Agricultural Development Task Force (ADTF) is to recommend areas where city policy may support agricultural development, including, but not limited to 1) reviewing the land use ordinance regarding zoning for agricultural areas and the necessary changes in zoning to reflect changes in agricultural practices; 2) addressing gentleman farming from a land use perspective by restricting these uses in agricultural areas; 3) reevaluating requirements for roads and utilities within agriculturally zoned areas; 4) examining the agricultural tax rate; and 5) developing incentives to benefit and enhance the agricultural history.

The ADTF's first meetings in 2005 focused on Agricultural Theft (1/24/05), Agricultural Tax (2/7/05), LUO (3/7/05), and IAL (4/4/05). The last two ADTF meetings (1/12/18 and 1/29/19) focused primarily on IAL.

The ADTF members included stalwarts of agriculture with extensive experience and background in agriculture. They were assets to the Council and the administration through collaboration with the Mayor's Ag Liaison. Some of the past ADTF members include:

Yuki Kitagawa, former HDOA Chair

Jimmy Nakatani, HDOA Chair, ADC Executive Director, HFB President

Dean Okimoto, Nalo Farms, Hawaii Ag Foundation Chair, and HFB President

Dr. Cal Lum, Former State Veterinarian, DOA Animal Health Division Administrator, and North Shore Cattle Company, and Rancher

Kapu Smith, Senior Land Manager for KS

Wayne Ogasawara, Mililani Ag Park

Alan Takemoto, Bayer and Executive Director at the Hawaii Farm Bureau

Fred Humphrey, Waimanalo Farmer, Ag, nursery supplies

Agriculture has evolved since the ADTF was established, and the new proposed Priority Focus area in the Proposed CD1 reflects the current issues of O'ahu's farmers and ranchers.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this critical matter.



PO Box 42
Waimanalo, HI 96795-0042
<http://waimanaloag.com>

Waimanalo Agricultural Association

November 21, 2024

Support of Resolution 24-243

Reconvening the Honolulu City Council's Agricultural Development Task Force, with a membership consisting of not more than nine and not less than five members with no term limits, to foster the growth and enhancement of agricultural activities on O'ahu.

Honolulu City Council
Committee on Planning and Economy

Thursday, November 21, 2024
9:00 a.m.

Dear Chair Kia'aina, Vice Chair Cordero and Committee Members,

The Waimanalo Agricultural Association (WAA) is writing in strong support of Resolution 24-243 which would reconvene the Honolulu City Council's Agricultural Development Task Force. Members of the Waimanalo agricultural community have served on the City's Agricultural Task Force in the past and would welcome the opportunity to serve again.

WAA requests consideration of two amendments (1) that the majority of task force members should be active farmers and ranchers; and (2) that water access be an added area of responsibility for the task force to consider. Access to water is one of the most important factors for the success of farming or ranching, whether it be agriculture water, fresh water or county water, access to water is very important.

The Waimanalo Agricultural Association is dedicated to the preservation of agriculture in Waimanalo. WAA members represent diverse agricultural businesses, including food producers, tree farms, plant nurseries & retail businesses, poultry & egg farms, and horse farms. Waimanalo's agriculture lands include smaller lots, including leaseholds with the Department of Agriculture and Department of Land and Natural Resources, and fee simple lands. WAA brings a unique perspective because of the special characteristics of the valley, including smaller lot size, close proximity to residential neighborhoods, schools and other publicly accessed areas. The agricultural characteristics of Waimanalo are not widely known outside of Waimanalo – thus a Task Force such as this one is of great importance to the Waimanalo agricultural community to ensure we have a voice at the table.

As an example of WAA's involvement, WAA has been involved the evolution of Bill 64 (2023), which is proposing to do a major overhaul of the City's Land Use Ordinance. If the Agricultural task force existed before this undertaking – the task force would have been able to provide guidance from a farmer perspective, thus going forward this task force will play an important role in the agricultural priorities of the City for its future. In Waimanalo, there are many competing interests on agricultural lands, leading some to misuse agricultural lands for unpermitted activities. The task force will be able to address these issues and create solutions for the continued preservation of agricultural lands in the City and County of Honolulu.

WAA strongly supports Resolution 24-243 and requests its passage. Thank you for the opportunity to express the Waimanalo Agricultural Association's strong support.

JOSH GREEN, M.D.
Governor

SYLVIA LUKE
Lt. Governor



State of Hawai'i
DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE
KA 'ŌIHANA MAHI'AI
1428 South King Street
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SHARON HURD
Chairperson, Board of Agriculture

DEXTER KISHIDA
Deputy to the Chairperson

**TESTIMONY OF SHARON HURD
CHAIRPERSON, BOARD OF AGRICULTURE**

**BEFORE THE CITY COUNCIL
COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE ECONOMY
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

**TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 21, 2024
9:00 A.M.
CITY COUNCIL CHAMBER**

**RESOLUTION 24-243
RECONVENING THE COUNCIL'S AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT TASK FORCE**

Chair Kia'āina, Vice Chair Cordero and Members of the Committee:

The Department of Agriculture (Department) strongly supports Resolution 24-243 that reconvenes the Agricultural Development Task Force to foster the growth and enhancement of agricultural activities on Oahu.

The initial designation of Task Force members is to be done by the Council Chair and Vice Chair. Membership is not to exceed nine and not be less than five, and one member is to have expertise in traditional Native Hawaiian agricultural practices. An annual report from the Task Force is required to be transmitted to the City Council, Mayor, Managing Director, Director of the Office of Economic Revitalization, and the Director of the Department of Planning and Permitting. Open and ongoing communication between the Task Force and these City legislative and executive functions is encouraged.

The priority function of the Task Force is to recommend means by which City policy can support agricultural development in 12 areas. The Department took the liberty of organizing and adding to these areas as follows:

- Direct and general assistance to agricultural operations in the form of grants, preferential water rates, property tax abatement for productive agricultural lands, agricultural support infrastructure which may consider collaboration and investment in major post-production facilities proposed for Oahu that could increase agricultural product volume, quality, and variety to meet the requirements of institutional purchasers;



- In addition to zoning, permitting, and data gathering and analysis, the Department recommends the Task Force consider how the City general and communities plans, zoning ordinance, subdivision rules and control over other partitioning of agricultural lands can be harmonized to suppress, if not reverse, the runaway increase in value of agricultural land for rural-residential living with little, if any, meaningful agricultural production.

The Department believes both food security and economic development can be achieved from the focus the Task Force can bring to the elements described above.

The Department recommends that the Task Force be provided support personnel to ensure continuity and recordation of their efforts and to arrange meetings and communication with the Council, Mayor, and the executive departments

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on this critically important tool to protect and promote Oahu's agricultural resources and agricultural operators.