REPORT OF THE COMMITTEE ON PLANNING AND THE ECONOMY

Voting Members:
Esther Kia'āina, Chair; Radiant Cordero, Vice Chair;
Val A. Okimoto, Calvin K.Y. Say, Matt Weyer

Committee Meeting Held
November 21, 2024

Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair, City Council
City and County of Honolulu

Mr. Chair:

Your Committee on Planning and the Economy, which considered Resolution 24-243 entitled:

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

introduced on September 25, 2024, reports as follows:

The purpose of Resolution 24-243 is to reconvene, pursuant to Council Rule 9A, the Honolulu City Council's Agricultural Development Task Force ("Task Force") that was previously established by Resolution 04-288, CD1, as amended by Resolution 08-31.

The reconvening of the Task Force, which is a panel of no more than nine and no less than five members with 5-year staggered terms, was in part a response to numerous agricultural stakeholders who testified during the consideration of Bill 64 (2023), FD1, CD1, relating to land use regulations.

The priority focus areas of the Agricultural Development Task Force include:

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

ADOPTED ON DEC 11 2024

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

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

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

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

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

At your Committee's meeting on October 22, 2024, your Committee held an informational discussion of Resolution 24-243, to start the conversation and seek comments on the organization and scope of the Task Force.

At your Committee's meeting on November 21, 2024, a representative of the Department of Planning and Permitting ("DPP") testified in support of the Resolution, stated that the DPP is excited to participate in the Task Force and work on zoning reform to support farmers and agriculture on Oʻahu, and responded to questions from Councilmembers.

The State of Hawaiʻi Department of Agriculture, Waimanalo Agriculture Association, Ulupono Initiative, Hawaiʻi Farm Bureau, and one individual testified in support of the Resolution.

Your Committee received written testimony in support of the Resolution from Ulupono Initiative; Waimanalo Agricultural Association; State of Hawaiʻi Department of Agriculture; Hawaiʻi Food Industry Association (HFIA); Oʻahu Resource Conservation and Development Council; East Oʻahu County Farm Bureau; Hawaiʻi Farm Bureau; and four individuals.

Your Committee considered and approved a proposed CD1 version of the Resolution that makes the following amendments:

A. Adds to the second WHEREAS clause two examples of the Council's prior support of agriculture: Resolutions 18-233, CD1, FD1, identifying Important Agricultural Lands on Oʻahu, and Resolution 20-044, adopting the Revised General Plan of the City, which includes among its objectives: "To ensure the long-term viability and continued productivity of agriculture on Oʻahu."

B. Adds a penultimate WHEREAS clause referencing Council Rule 9A relating to the establishment of Council Advisory Committees.

C. Amends the BE IT RESOLVED clause to include reference to Council Rule 9A and delete the provision that the members of the Agricultural Development Task Force ("Task Force") have no term limits.

D. Amends the first BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED clause to provide that the Council Chair (instead of the Council Chair and Vice Chair) shall appoint the members of the Task Force.

E. Adds a new second BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED clause to provide that members of the Task Force shall serve for staggered terms of five years, and sets forth the staggered terms of the members, depending upon the size of the Task Force.

F. Adds a new third BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED clause to provide that each succeeding appointment will be for a term ending five years after the date of the expiration of the term for which the predecessor had been appointed.

G. Amends the fourth BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED clause to provide that any vacancy occurring other than by expiration of the term of office will be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as for the original appointment.

H. Amends the fifth BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED clause to provide for the following Task Force priority focus topics:

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

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

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

4. Land Use Policy (including planning, zoning, subdivision, land use, permitting, and infrastructure requirements);

5. Workforce Development (including educational pipelines, training programs, and other labor and employment matters);

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

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

I. Amends the sixth BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED clause to add the Executive Director of the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency to the list of agencies that receive the Task Force report.

J. Makes miscellaneous technical and nonsubstantive amendments.

Your Committee on Planning and the Economy is in accord with the intent and purpose of Resolution 24-243, as amended herein, and recommends its adoption in the form attached hereto as Resolution 24-243, CD1. (Ayes: Cordero, Kia'āina, Okimoto, Say, Weyer – 5; Noes: None.)

Respectfully submitted,

Esther Kia'āina
Committee Chair

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. **24-243, CD1**

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 the economy, culture, and history, of the State of Hawai'i ("State") and the City and County of Honolulu ("City") 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 City 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 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;
- Resolution 18-233, CD1, FD1, identifying Important Agricultural Lands on O'ahu;

- Resolution 20-044, adopting the Revised General Plan of the City, which included among its objectives: "To ensure the long-term viability and continued productivity of agriculture on O'ahu," and established 17 policies in support of that objective; 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") was initially 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 comosed 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 real property tax rate for agricultural lands, 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

WHEREAS, Council Rule 9A provides for the establishment of Council advisory committees, such as the Task Force, by resolution; and

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, as amended by Resolution 08-31, is hereby reconvened pursuant to Council Rule 9A with a membership consisting of not more than nine and not less than five members; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that within 60 days after the adoption of this resolution, the Council Chair shall appoint 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 all appointed members shall serve for staggered terms of five years, and shall serve until their successors have been appointed; and that initial appointments, depending on the size of the Task Force, will be as follows:

1. Five members: One member each to serve for five, four, three, two, and one year, respectively;

2. Six members: Two members to serve for five years, one member to serve for four years, one member for three years, one member for two years, and one member for one year;

3. Seven members: Two members to serve for five years, one member for four years, two members for three years, one member for two years, and one member for one year;

4. Eight members: Two members to serve for five years, two members for four years, two members for three years, one member for two years, and one member for one year; and

5. Nine members: Two members each to serve for five, four, three, and two years, respectively, and one member for one year; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each succeeding appointment will be for a term ending five years after the date of the expiration of the term for which the appointee's predecessor had been appointed; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that any vacancy occurring other than by expiration of the term of office will be filled for the remainder of the unexpired term in the same manner as for the original appointment; and

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

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

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

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

4. Land Use Policy (including planning, zoning, land use, subdivision, permitting, and infrastructure requirements);

5. Workforce Development (including educational pipelines, training programs, and other labor and employment matters);

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

7. Research and Education (including data gathering, analysis, and reporting); 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 resolution and annually thereafter to the Council; Mayor; Managing Director; Executive Director of the Office of Economic Revitalization; Director of Planning and Permitting; and Executive Director of the Office of Climate Change, Sustainability, and Resiliency; provided that nothing herein is intended to restrict open, ongoing communication between the Task Force and these parties, which is hereby encouraged; and

HONOLULU CITY COUNCIL

KE KANIHELA O KE KALANA O HONOLULU

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

No. **24-243, CD1**

RESOLUTION

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

INTRODUCED BY:

Esther Kia'āina

Andria Tupola

DATE OF INTRODUCTION:

September 25, 2024
Honolulu, Hawai'i

Councilmembers

Report Title:
Local Agriculture; Agricultural Activity; Agricultural Business; Food Security; Economic Incentives; Support for Operations; Land Use Policy; Workforce Development; Demand-Side Improvements; Research and Education; Important Agricultural Land Designation; Reconvene; Agricultural Development Task Force; Council Advisory Committees

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