

CITY COUNCIL
REFERRAL APPEAL FORM

DATE: October 30, 2020

TO: COUNCIL CHAIR
FROM: RON MENOR
COMMITTEE CHAIR

BILL/RESOLUTION/COMMUNICATION AND SUBJECT:
Resolution 20-239, Urging the City Administration to identify and designate City-owned lands for urban agriculture activities.

STATUS (Reading/PH):
Introduced: September 10, 2020 by Councilmember Pine

CURRENTLY REFERRED TO COMMITTEE(S): Zoning, Planning and Housing DESIRED COMMITTEE(S) RE-REFERRED TO:

OR

DIRECT REFERRAL TO COUNCIL FLOOR

Reason(s) for Appeal:
The introducer has requested that the measure be referred directly to Council floor due to timeliness.

Ron Menor

Committee Chair (Requestor)

Committee Chair

Ann N. Kobayashi
Council Chair

10/30/20
Date

Granted
Denied

cc: Councilmembers
City Clerk
Council Assistance

COUNCIL COM. 316

20OCT30 PM 4:18 CITY CLERK



RESOLUTION

URGING THE CITY ADMINISTRATION TO IDENTIFY AND DESIGNATE CITY-OWNED LANDS FOR URBAN AGRICULTURE ACTIVITIES.

WHEREAS, as the COVID-19 pandemic continues to impact the economy, fears of a global food crisis in the foreseeable future are also likely to become reality, as the United Nations has warned that an estimated 265 million people worldwide could face food insecurity by the end of 2020; and

WHEREAS, the practice of urban agriculture can address the growing need for food security and sustainability, increase local food supply yield, and provide more community food donation opportunities; and

WHEREAS, in addition to addressing food security needs, urban agriculture enhances economic prosperity by creating jobs and developing new local industries; promotes environmental sustainability, health, and nutrition; and fosters community engagement and empowerment; and

WHEREAS, furthermore, urban agriculture may be used as a tool to educate the public about the importance of a sustainable and resilient food system and to provide the community with the opportunity to experience food production firsthand; and

WHEREAS, urban agriculture generally refers to the production, distribution, and marketing of food and other products within urban, suburban, and rural built environments and encompasses activities such as private and community gardens, institutional and demonstration gardens, edible landscaping, hydroponics, and aquaponics; and

WHEREAS, a key determinant of urban agriculture's long-term success is the availability of and access to land for food production and processing purposes; and

WHEREAS, unlike rural agriculture, urban agriculture does not require large plots of contiguous land to be productive and successful, and land areas of 1,000 square feet or less have been put to productive urban agricultural use; and

WHEREAS, a number of U.S. jurisdictions have developed programs and policies to support the development of urban agriculture on vacant lots:

- The City of Baltimore's Power in Dirt Initiative allows residents to view a list of vacant lots online and adopt a lot for gardening or greening purposes;



RESOLUTION

- Under the Milwaukee Urban Gardens ("MUG") program, MUG, as a land trust, acquires vacant or derelict City-owned properties to preserve them from development and transform them into community gardens;
- The City of Minneapolis operates a garden lease program under which City-owned vacant lots are made available to be used as community or market gardens;
- The City of Seattle's P-Patch Program involves community gardening on 89 gardening plots located throughout the City and market gardening that is intended to develop the business skills of low-income and immigrant populations; and

WHEREAS, the City Administration can support the development of urban agriculture by identifying and designating City-owned vacant lands to be used for such activities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Council of the City and County of Honolulu that the City Administration is urged to identify and designate City-owned lands for urban agriculture activities; and

