

**NINETEENTH COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN
MARIANA ISLANDS YOUTH CONGRESS**

3RD REGULAR Session, 2023

Y.C.B. No. 19- 02

A BILL FOR AN ACT

To establish the Youth Community Gardens (YCG)
on the islands of Rota, Tinian, and Saipan.

**BE IT ENACTED BY THE NINETEENTH COMMONWEALTH OF THE
NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS YOUTH CONGRESS:**

Section 1. Finding and Purpose.

The Youth Congress recognizes the growing disinterest in the youth regarding agriculture as a future career. Agriculture has been and continues to be a large part of the CNMI's economy and the Youth Congress can demonstrate that to children and teens through the establishment of the Youth Community Gardens (YCG). The YCG would be a CNMI-wide agricultural co-op program that is open to the public but targets and is primarily maintained by the youth community. Through this, young individuals can create, maintain, and learn from a community garden. Where they are afforded the opportunity to gain experience in agricultural practices and witness first-hand the importance of agriculture and the value of the industry. The Youth Congress also finds that the YCG will substantially benefit the CNMI by increasing food security and creating an inclusive space where the youth of the CNMI regardless of cultural background can share experiences.

The purpose of this Act is to establish Youth Community Gardens in each Senatorial District.

Section 2. Enactment. Subject to the codification by the Law Revision Commission the following is enacted:

“Section 101. Youth Community Gardens Established.

The Youth Community Gardens (YCG) is hereby established on Saipan, Rota, and Tinian.

Section 102. Land Designation.

- (a) The Department of Public Lands (DPL) shall designate public land in each senatorial district, not less than one hectare, to be used for the YCG.
- (b) DPL shall collaborate and coordinate with the Secretary of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources to designate the public land for the YCG.

Section 103. Management and Control of the YCG.

- (a) The Saipan YCG shall be managed and controlled by the Director of the Division of Agricultural Service;
- (b) The Rota YCG shall be managed and controlled by the Rota Resident Director of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources; and
- (c) The Tinian YCG shall be managed and controlled by the Tinian Resident Director of the Department of Lands and Natural Resources.

Section 104. Youth Community Garden.

The designated personnel as provided in Section 103 shall collaborate to establish the YCG to include but not limited to the following:

- (1) Eligibility Criteria;
- (2) Size of a garden plot;
- (3) Type of plants;
- (4) Use of organic fertilizers;
- (5) Use of homemade pesticides;
- (6) Non-use of herbicides; and
- (7) Application and approval process.

Section 105. Rules and Regulations.

The designated personnel as provided in Section 103 shall jointly collaborate in establishing any necessary regulations to carry out the intent of this Act.”


Section 3. Severability. If any provision of this Act or the application of any such provision to any person or circumstance should be held invalid by a court of competent jurisdiction, the remainder of this Act or the application of its provisions to persons or circumstances other than those to which it is held invalid shall not be affected thereby.

Section 4. Savings Clause. This Act and any repealer contained herein shall not be construed as affecting any existing right acquired under contract or acquired under statutes repealed or under any rule, regulation, or order adopted under the

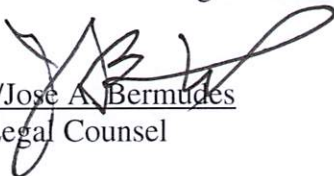
statutes. Repealers contained in this Act shall not affect any proceeding instituted under or pursuant to prior law. The enactment of the Act shall not have the effect of terminating, or in any way modifying, any liability, civil or criminal, which shall already be in existence on the date this Act becomes effective.

Section 5. Effective Date. This Act shall take effect upon its approval by the Governor or becoming law without such approval.

Prefiled: 8/15/2023

Date: 8/19/2023 Introduced by: 
Senator Aden Chonne H. Calvo

Reviewed for Legal Sufficiency by:


s/José A. Bermudes
Legal Counsel