

(S. B. 1002)

(No. 94-2015)

(Approved June 25, 2015)

## AN ACT

To declare La Hermosura Plantation, along with its nine hundred and ten (910) *cuerdas* of important agricultural land, located in the Quebrada Arenas Ward of the Municipality of Las Piedras, as an agricultural reserve; require, as well, the identification of all lands with potential for agriculture and livestock farming, and the devising of a development plan for La Hermosura Plantation in this municipality; and for other purposes.

### STATEMENT OF MOTIVES

The appropriate use of the land within La Hermosura Plantation, located in the Quebrada Arenas Ward of the Municipality of Las Piedras, could contribute significantly to the production of food for local consumption on the Island, thus saving us from incurring in the high costs of importing goods of high necessity at higher prices. Together with other agricultural reserves in Puerto Rico used for agricultural production it would help reduce our dependence on other countries to satisfy our food needs. Currently, we import more than two thirds of the food we need for human consumption.

The nine hundred and ten (910) (or more) *cuerdas* of land within La Hermosura Plantation could make a big difference. Such lands are suitable for the development of agricultural businesses that involve farming livestock for meat, growing starchy or green vegetables, aquaculture, pig farming, and many additional economic activities. The Government of the Commonwealth, with its SIEMBRA FUTURO agricultural program, recognizes the need to ensure stocks of healthy, nutritious foods that promote a balanced diet.

***BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATIVE ASSEMBLY OF PUERTO RICO:***

Section 1.- La Hermosura Plantation, along with its nine hundred and ten (910) *cuerdas* of important agricultural land, located in the Quebrada Arenas Ward of the Municipality of Las Piedras, Puerto Rico, is hereby declared as an agricultural reserve.

Section 2.- The Planning Board, in coordination with the Department of Agriculture, shall identify all lands with potential for agriculture and livestock farming in the Municipality of Las Piedras and adjoining areas so that, after due process, they may be declared and included as part of the Las Piedras Agricultural Reserve under Special Zoning.

Section 3.- The Agricultural and Livestock Business Development Administration of the Department of Agriculture of Puerto Rico is hereby required to devise a development plan for La Hermosura Plantation in the Municipality of Las Piedras.

Section 4.- The Secretary of the Department of Agriculture is hereby directed to enter into agreements with other government and private organizations, if necessary, for the administration and management of this agricultural reserve.

Section 5.- The Secretary of Agriculture shall file an annual report with the Legislative Assembly regarding the operational progress of La Hermosura Plantation in the Municipality of Las Piedras.

Section 6.- The approval of location consultations by the Planning Board and permits by the Permit Management Office and the Municipal Government of Las Piedras that is inconsistent with the State's public policy of protecting farmland to foster economic development and food security is hereby prohibited.

Section 7.- Any non-agricultural activity currently taking place in farmland or which adversely affects agricultural activity within the Reserve shall cease within two (2) years as of the approval of the Special Zoning Resolution; provided, that any

non-agricultural activity to which any regulatory agency had issued location, construction, use, or enjoyment permits and which had not begun or been completed shall cease immediately and all permits granted shall be revoked subject to just compensation.

Section 8.- The installation of large- or mid-scale renewable energy systems in this Special Agricultural Zoning is hereby prohibited. Only those alternative energy systems meant to complement electric power needs for the farms' agricultural production shall be allowed.

Section 9.- It is hereby provided that, in the Las Piedras Agricultural Reserve, only segregations for agricultural purposes of at least fifty (50) *cuerdas* of land shall be allowed.

Section 10.- This Act shall take effect immediately after its approval.

## CERTIFICATION

I hereby certify to the Secretary of State that the following **Act No. 94-2015 (S. B. 1002)** of the **5<sup>th</sup> Regular Session** of the **17<sup>th</sup> Legislative Assembly of Puerto Rico**:

**AN ACT** to declare La Hermosura Plantation, along with its nine hundred and ten (910) *cuerdas* of important agricultural land, located in the Quebrada Arenas Ward of the Municipality of Las Piedras, as an agricultural reserve; require, as well, the identification of all lands with potential for agriculture and livestock farming, and the devising of a development plan for La Hermosura Plantation in this municipality; and for other purposes.

has been translated from Spanish to English and that the English version is correct.

In San Juan, Puerto Rico, on this 14<sup>th</sup> day of November, 2017.

Orlando Pagán-Ramírez  
Acting Director