April 14, 2021

MEMORANDUM

TO: MANAGING DIRECTOR MICHAEL D. FORMBY

CC: EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR MATTHEW GONSER
OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY, AND RESILIENCY

FROM: COUNCILMEMBER RADIANT CORDERO

SUBJECT: RESOLUTION 20-206, CITY SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EQUITY COMMISSION RECOMMENDATION

On September 9, 2020, the Honolulu City Council ("Council") adopted Resolution 20-206 establishing the Council’s commitment to equity and social justice and calling for equitable outcomes for frontline communities through COVID-19 pandemic economic recovery programs. In order to advance this commitment by the Council, Resolution 20-206 requested the City and County of Honolulu ("City") Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency ("Resilience Office") provide a recommendation to the Council regarding the establishment of a City Social Justice and Equity Commission within 120 days of the resolution’s adoption. The deadline for that recommendation was originally set for January 7, 2021. A thirty day extension was subsequently requested by the Administration on January 13, 2021, moving the new target date back to February 7, 2021 but to date no report has been provided.

As the Council and the Administration prepare to deploy the remaining CARES funds and a new round of American Rescue Plan Act funds, and as economic inequality has been exacerbated by the pandemic, the City’s commitment to equitable outcomes for frontline communities is more critical than ever. The Council wants to ascertain the effectiveness of the
initial rounds of CARES funding deployed into the community, and the recommendations regarding a Social Justice and Equity Commission to ensure that the voices of frontline communities who have suffered most during the pandemic are of utmost importance.

We request a status update on the recommendation called for in Resolution 20-206 and request that a report be provided as soon as possible. We hope to work in collaboration with the Administration to implement actions that promote proactive policy, decision-making, planning, workplace practices, operations, and services to advance equity and social justice throughout City government.