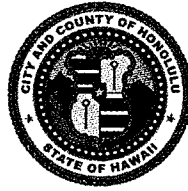


OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR

MATTHEW GONSER, AICP, CFM
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &
CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER

July 1, 2022

The Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair and Presiding Officer
and Members
Honolulu City Council
520 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii, 96813

Dear Chair Waters and Councilmembers:

SUBJECT: Bill 22 (2022), CD1, Relating to Better Buildings Benchmarking

The Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (CCSR) strongly supports Bill 22 (2022), CD1, which seeks to create a Better Buildings Benchmarking Program and establish an energy and water usage reporting and transparency requirement for large buildings within the City and County of Honolulu ("City").

Benchmarking means tracking a building's energy and water use over time, which allows owners and tenants to understand usage and identify opportunities to save money, cut waste, and conserve energy and water. Transparency means that benchmarking data is made publically available to incentivize the market to recognize and reward building efficiency and drive voluntary energy and water savings in buildings. The simple act of benchmarking is foundational towards achieving the City's climate action and sustainability goals and is a proven market mechanism with over a decade's worth of success in more than 40 jurisdictions. Benchmarking and transparency allows for more informed decision-making at the City on where to equitably and strategically invest critical resources to support businesses and residents in improving the efficiency and resiliency of their buildings.

CCSR is appreciative and encouraged by the collaboration and engagement of stakeholders to date, whose feedback has helped ensure effective implementation of the benchmarking program towards our collective sustainability goals. Upon Bill 22's passage, CCSR will be focused on efficient program delivery in the lead up to the first reporting deadline in June 2023. This includes hiring staff in CCSR to support program setup and property owner education and training, as well as ongoing coordination with all three utilities to ensure streamlined implementation and access to customer data.

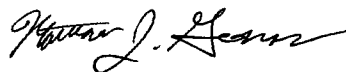
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The Honorable Tommy Waters
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and Members
July 1, 2022
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Given recent increases in local electricity prices and contamination of freshwater resources at Kapūkakī (Red Hill) highlighting the importance of efficiency, action is needed now more than ever on conservation to support affordability and resilience. The Honolulu City Council ("Council") has already recognized the benefits and savings a benchmarking program will provide O'ahu businesses and residents by adopting Resolution 21-229, which requests the City Administration work with the Council to establish a benchmarking program for commercial and residential buildings on O'ahu. CCSR looks forward to acting on this directive from the Council and implementing an effective benchmarking program upon passage of Bill 22.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of Bill 22 (2022), CD1 and for continuing to drive action on community and industry priorities established and adopted by Council in the City's *O'ahu Resilience Strategy and Climate Action Plan*. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at (808) 768-2277 or via e-mail at resilientoahu@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,



Digitally signed by Gonser,
Matthew
Date: 2022.07.01 07:20:14 -10'00'

Matthew Gonser
Executive Director and
Chief Resilience Officer

APPROVED:



Michael D. Formby
Managing Director