OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU '22AUG26 AM 10:04 CITY CLERK

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RICK BLANGIARDI MAYOR



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

The Honorable Brandon Elefante, Chair and Members Committee on Zoning and Planning Honolulu City Council 530 South King Street, Room 202 Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Elefante and Councilmembers:

SUBJECT: Bill 39 (2022) Relating to the Adoption of the State Plumbing Code

The Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (CCSR) supports Bill 39 (2022), which adopts the Hawai'i State Plumbing Code, 2018 Edition, as adopted by the State Building Code Council in May of 2020, with local amendments. CCSR additionally supports Councilmember Elefante's Proposed CD1 to Bill 39.

As identified in the Oʻahu Resilience Strategy (Resilience Action 11), adopting up-to-date building codes is one of the most important steps the City can take to protect public safety and infrastructure in the face of increasing climate change hazards and impacts. Recent events have reminded us of the vulnerabilities of our water supply and highlighted the importance of water efficiency. The need for water resource efficiency and conservation is paramount with current and future climate change as we navigate diminishing water supply and increasing demand. Bill 39's proposed local amendments to the updated State Plumbing Code will support water conservation efforts in new buildings. They additionally complement efforts to encourage water efficiency in existing buildings, such as the Board of Water Supply's Water Sensible rebates and the City's Better Buildings Benchmarking Program. Water efficiency is resource and cost savings.

Code requirements are too critical to unnecessarily constrain to only a statewide consensus process. Adopting local amendments is a critical policy tool for ensuring our buildings are designed for our unique and specific needs here on Oʻahu, particularly in the face of a changing climate. Local amendment processes afford diverse stakeholders to lead and innovate on solutions for climate resiliency and savings. Unique local water and wastewater aspects and existing City policy positions on resource efficiency have directly informed the amendments proposed in this bill to improve the function of those systems.

The Honorable Brandon Elefante, Chair and Members August 23, 2022 Page 2

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of Councilmember Elefante's Proposed CD1 to Bill 39 (2022). CCSR appreciates the Council's attention to ensuring our codes remain up-to-date to reduce risk and increase resilience. 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: 2022.08.23 13:46:27

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Matthew Gonser

Executive Director and Chief Resilience Officer

APPROVED:

Michael D. Formby Managing Director