## OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

## CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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RICK BLANGIARDI MAYOR



M ATTHEW GONSER, AICP, CFM EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR & CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER

September 2, 2022

The Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair and Presiding Officer
and Members
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Waters and Councilmembers:

SUBJECT: Bill 39 (2022), CD1 Relating to the Adoption of the State Plumbing Code

The Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (CCSR) supports Bill 39 (2022) CD1, 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.

As identified in the O'ahu Resilience Strategy, 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<sup>1</sup>. Recent events have reminded us of the vulnerabilities of our water supply and highlighted the importance of water efficiency. The need for efficiency and conservation is additionally paramount given current and future climate change impacts as we navigate diminishing water supply and increasing demand. Water efficiency means resource and costs savings. Bill 39 will support water conservation efforts in new buildings and encourage complementary efforts for efficiency in existing buildings, such as the Board of Water Supply's WaterSensible rebates<sup>2</sup> and the City's Better Buildings Benchmarking Program<sup>3</sup>.

Adopting local code 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. CCSR appreciates the Council's attention to ensuring our codes remain up-to-date to reduce risk and increase resilience.

<sup>1</sup> City and County of Honolulu O'ahu Resilience Strategy, Action 11: Protect Lives and Property by Updating Building Codes: <a href="https://www.resilientoahu.org/s/Ola Oahu Resilience Strategy-Ifrm.pdf#page=27">https://www.resilientoahu.org/s/Ola Oahu Resilience Strategy-Ifrm.pdf#page=27</a>.

<sup>2</sup> Board of Water Supply WaterSensible: https://www.boardofwatersupply.com/conservation/watersensible/rebates.

<sup>3</sup> Better Buildings Benchmarking Program, Ordinance 22-17: <a href="https://www.resilientoahu.org/benchmarking">https://www.resilientoahu.org/benchmarking</a>.

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Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments in support of Bill 39 (2022), CD1. 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: 2022.09.02 10:17:01

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Matthew Gonser Executive Director and

Chief Resilience Officer

APPROVED:

Michael D. Formby Managing Director