

OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE, SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

**CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU**

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MAYOR

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EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &  
CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER

September 20, 2022

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

Dear Chair Elefante 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 Hawaii 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 CD2.

Recent events have highlighted vulnerabilities of our water supply and the importance of water efficiency for long-term conservation of one of our most valued resources. The need for efficiency and conservation is paramount given additional pressures from current and future climate change impacts, such as diminishing water supply in the face of increasing demand. As identified in the City's 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 these increasing climate change impacts<sup>1</sup>. Additionally adopting localized amendments to the codes ensures our buildings are designed for our unique and specific needs here on O'ahu, particularly in the face of a changing climate.

Bill 39, CD1's updates to our Plumbing Code will increase water efficiency in new buildings, and greater efficiency means resource and costs savings. In addition, Bill 39, CD1 complements efficiency efforts for existing buildings, such as the Board of Water

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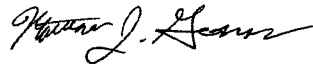
<sup>1</sup> City and County of Honolulu O'ahu Resilience Strategy, Action 11: Protect Lives and Property by Updating Building Codes: [https://www.resilientoahu.org/s/Ola\\_Oahu\\_Resilience\\_Strategy-Ifirm.pdf#page=27](https://www.resilientoahu.org/s/Ola_Oahu_Resilience_Strategy-Ifirm.pdf#page=27).

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Supply's WaterSensible rebates<sup>2</sup> and the City's Better Buildings Benchmarking Program<sup>3</sup>.

CCSR thanks the Council for the opportunity to provide comments in support of Councilmember Elefante's Proposed CD2 to Bill 39, CD1, and appreciates Council's attention to ensuring our codes progress 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](mailto:resilientoahu@honolulu.gov).

Sincerely,



Digitally signed by Gonser,  
Matthew  
Date: 2022.09.20 15:54:34  
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Matthew Gonser  
Executive Director and  
Chief Resilience Officer

APPROVED:



Michael D. Formby  
Managing Director

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<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: <https://www.resilientoahu.org/benchmarking>.