

OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

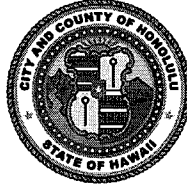
KE KE'ENA LOLI ANIAU MĀLAMA 'ĀINA A ME KE OLA LOA

CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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HOPE KAHU OLA LOA*

August 30, 2024

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

Dear Chair Waters and Councilmembers:

SUBJECT: Bill 40 (2024) Relating to Professional Self-Certification

The Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (CCSR) supports Bill 40 (2024), which adds solar, energy storage, and energy efficiency projects for multi-family dwellings and commercial buildings to the list of eligible projects for professional self-certification to expedite the review and processing of certain building permit applications.

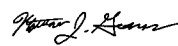
Multifamily buildings, and condos in particular, are currently under increasing financial pressure due to rapidly rising insurance costs related to the increase in climate disasters locally and globally. With much of O'ahu's building stock exceeding 50 years in age, many buildings also suffer from deferred maintenance of critical systems. Comprehensive, whole-building retrofits present a potential solution to both of these challenges by making building improvements that may reduce insurance premiums, update aging building systems, and reduce occupant energy bills.

While such renovations are never easy for buildings to undertake, a multitude of federal rebates, in combination with new financing tools, such as those available through the Hawai'i Green Infrastructure Authority, present a unique and timely opportunity for buildings to take on such projects today. Accelerating the permitting process for such retrofits contributes to much needed support for these buildings.

The Honorable Tommy Waters
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Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of Bill 40 (2024). Should you have any questions, please contact us at (808) 768-2277 or b.sullivan@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,



Digitally signed by
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Matthew Gonser
Executive Director and
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APPROVED:



Michael D. Formby
Managing Director