BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY
KA 'OIHANA WAI
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

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November 7, 2024

The Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair and Presiding Officer
and Members
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 100
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

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Dear Chair Waters and Councilmembers:

SUBJECT: **Council Resolution No. 24-261: Relating to the Appointment of Kehaulani Pu`u to Serve on the Board of Water Supply of the City and County of Honolulu**

The Board of Water Supply (BWS) supports Council Resolution No. 24-261, relating to the appointment of Kehaulani Pu`u to serve as a member of the Board of Water Supply Board of Directors (BWS Board) of the City and County of Honolulu.

Ms. Kehaulani Pu`u's extensive knowledge of Hawaiian culture, language and education is impressive. The BWS welcomes Ms. Pu`u to the BWS Board as her expertise in Hawaiian heritage, culture practices and traditions aligns well with the principles and values that reflect the BWS vision and mission, which is *Ka Wai Ola* or *Water for Life*. With this vision comes the responsibility of the BWS's stewardship of, and the duty to manage, our natural water resources and watersheds for present and future generations.

The BWS looks to the wisdom of the ancient Hawaiians to manage our island water supply today . . . and for generations to come. To meet the challenges of modern water management, the BWS continues to make the ahupua`a concept of water planning and resource management a greater part of its community-based water planning process.

As a former deputy director of the City's Department of Parks and Recreation, Ms. Pu`u is familiar with government operations. The BWS Board provides oversight and

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foresight into the direction of the BWS. As a semi-autonomous and self-supporting City agency, the BWS Board sets the policies, regulations for management, control and operation of the public water systems on Oahu and fixes and adjust rates and charges for the furnishing of water services. The BWS has adopted a five-year strategic plan to balance three overarching sustainability goals – resource sustainability, operational sustainability, and financial sustainability to support the BWS mission. These overarching BWS goals create alignment with the vision and mission, program priorities, and action plans. Ms. Pu`u's expertise and knowledge of Hawaiian cultural practices would greatly complement the make-up of existing Board members.

The BWS is committed to providing its residents and businesses with safe, dependable and affordable drinking water now and into the future.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of Resolution No. 24-261.

Very truly yours,

ERNEST Y. W. LAU, P.E.
Manager and Chief Engineer