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OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY
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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
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BENJAMIN SULLIVAN
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &
CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER
PO'O HO'OKŌ & KAHU OLA LOA

December 9, 2024

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 59 (2024) Relating to Plastic

The Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency ("Resilience Office") supports the intent of Bill 59 (2024), CD1, which prohibits the sale of single-use plastic bottles at certain City and County of Honolulu ("City") facilities and events.

The waste we generate on O'ahu contributes significantly to plastic pollution in our streets and oceans. The creation and consumption of that plastic also creates carbon pollution, a primary driver of climate change. To address the environmental challenges posed by our waste systems, the City's Climate Action Plan includes strategies focused on waste prevention, such as reducing single-use plastics and expanding access to public drinking water fountains.[1]

The Resilience Office strongly supports reduction of single-use plastics at the source and recognizes the challenges and limitations to implementing these strategies City-wide. We commend the Council for recognizing the urgent need to address harmful environmental impacts of plastic waste and for drawing inspiration from the leadership of O'ahu's keiki, whose efforts continue to motivate us.

In support of the intent of this measure, the Resilience Office team commits to the elimination of single-use plastic water bottles in our programming, including

1 City and County of Honolulu Climate Action Plan 2020-2025 Strategy 8: Promote Waste Prevention: https://www.resilientoahu.org/s/2020-2025-Climate-Action-Plan.pdf#page-80

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distribution at events that we host. We look forward to piloting reusable alternatives and sharing lessons learned with our sister agencies to encourage and support those who are also able to make this small but important commitment. At the same time, we look forward to continued collaboration with the Council to explore ways to implement waste reduction measures on a larger scale.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony on Bill 59 (2024), CD1. Should you have any questions, please contact us at (808) 768-2277 or b.sullivan@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,

Sullivan, Benjamin

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Benjamin Sullivan
Executive Director and
Chief Resilience Officer

APPROVED:

Michael D. Formby, Managing Director
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