

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

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March 6, 2025

The Honorable Esther Kia'āina, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Zoning  
Honolulu City Council  
530 South King Street  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Kia'āina and Members:

**SUBJECT: Council Resolution No. 25-69, Proposed CD1: Authorizing Exemptions from Certain Requirements Relating to The Waiakoa Affordable and Market Rate Housing Project in Honolulu, O'ahu**

The Board of Water Supply (BWS), for the most part, supports City Council Resolution No. 25-69, Proposed Committee Draft (CD) 1, authorizing exemptions from certain requirements relating to The Waiakoa Affordable and Market Rate Housing Project in Honolulu, O'ahu, (herein "Project").

The Board recognizes the importance of affordable water to meet essential household needs and allows for waiver(s) of the water system facilities charge and new meter cost for qualified affordable and homeless dwelling units, up to 500 dwelling units per fiscal year. Currently, the waivers for affordable dwelling units have already been allocated, but new allocations for up to 500 units will be available on July 1, 2025, at the start of the new fiscal year. The dwelling units must meet certain requirements as specified in the BWS Resolution.

The BWS is a semi-autonomous agency that does not receive funds from property taxes. As such, the BWS does not allow for exemptions, but may allow for deferrals for affordable housing units. Under Section 1-102 and 2-202 of the BWS Rules and Regulations, the BWS may allow a deferral of payment of water system facilities charges and installation of water service fees until the installation of the water meter, provided that all BWS requirements are satisfied. The BWS will determine the actual fees to be deferred during their review of the building permit application.

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The Honorable Esther Kia'āina, Chair  
and Members  
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Based on the foregoing considerations and to accurately reflect the conditions under which BWS is willing to accommodate the Project, the BWS suggests revising the resolution, on page 4, item #11, as stricken and underscored below:

Board of Water Supply Rules and Regulations:

11. Deferral from Sections 1-102 and 2-202 of the Board of Water Supply ("BWS") Rules and Regulations, [~~to allow a deferral until the installation of the Project's water meter of the~~] regarding payment of water system facility charges and the installation of water service fees attributed to the 620 affordable units, estimated at \$210,652; until the installation of the water meter; provided that all Board of Water Supply requirements are satisfied. The actual charges and fees to be deferred will be determined by the BWS during review of the Project's building permit application.

Thank you for your consideration and the opportunity to provide testimony on Resolution No. 25-69, Proposed CD 1.

Very truly yours,



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