

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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March 18, 2025

The Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair and Presiding Officer
and Members
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Waters and Councilmembers:

SUBJECT: Bill 15 (2025), CD1 Relating to the Climate Resiliency Fund

The Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency ("Resilience Office") supports Bill 15, CD1, which creates a fund to receive and expend monies to support climate resiliency.

The City Administration has identified the following priority uses for the fund aligned with both the amended language in the Honolulu City Charter, as approved by the voters in November 2024, and the additional language included in Bill 15, CD1 further defining the acceptable uses of the fund:

- Implementation of critical City infrastructure solutions necessary for climate adaptation by increasing investment to enable accelerated planning and prioritized project development.
- Partnership with community-based organizations in order to build resilience in communities across the island and strengthen the connections and relationships between City agencies and communities impacted by their work.
- Direct support for frontline communities, including low- and moderate-income residents and small businesses, with resilience and carbon reduction solutions focused explicitly on reduction of costs of living and exposure to climate impacts.

With the Council's adoption of *Climate Ready O'ahu*, the City's climate adaptation strategy, via Resolution 24-16 last February, the City has a comprehensive strategy to address climate impacts island-wide, including flooding, hurricanes, sea level rise, extreme heat, drought, and wildfire. Importantly, this strategy includes actions that are City-led, actions led by external partners, such as community groups or other key stakeholders, and actions that require direct action within households in order to achieve the strategy's vision for a climate-ready O'ahu. With the support of Council, we intend to allocate monies annually within the Climate Resiliency Fund as follows:

- **Project Type A – Implementation of critical City infrastructure solutions:**

The Administration intends to direct 60% of allocated fund monies to implementation of this project type. The Administration is developing a selection process for internal City projects to utilize the fund, which will be implemented beginning with the City's Fiscal Year (FY) 2027 budget process. This will result in the development of a six-year functional plan, which will be updated annually in accordance with this proposed ordinance. With the adoption of *Climate Ready O'ahu*, along with ongoing adaptation planning efforts including the *One Water Plan* and *Adapt Waikiki 2050*, the City is developing a robust set of priority projects that will bring increasing clarity to the sequence and cost of projects needed to adapt the City's infrastructure to current and accelerating climate impacts. In order to accelerate implementation for this work, we must also strategically accelerate the planning and design that necessarily precedes it.

- **Project Type B – Funding of community-based climate solutions:**

The Administration intends to direct 20% of allocated fund monies to implementation of this project type. The Resilience Office and the Department of Budget and Fiscal Services will further develop processes and criteria for funding to be directed to community-based organizations and projects during FY 2026. We expect the first round of community project selections to occur in the summer of 2026. Areas of focus include, but are not limited to, support for Indigenous climate solutions, community resilience hubs, watershed management, invasive species control, nature-based solutions, coastal restoration, and community-based clean energy and transportation solutions.

- **Project Type C – Direct support for frontline communities:**

The Administration intends to direct 20% of allocated fund monies to implementation of this project type. This portion of the fund will be allocated through programs for direct relief to frontline communities, low- and moderate-income residents, and small businesses. Future uses may include grants for cesspool conversions, home resilience retrofits, direct energy efficiency and clean energy investments, and water use reduction measures. Funding may be channeled through existing programs, or where feasible, may necessitate the creation of new programs in order to distribute monies. Support will be limited to households with a total household income under \$100,000, with similar qualifying limits to be established for small businesses.

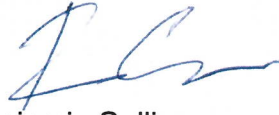
For use of Climate Resiliency Fund monies in FY 2026, the table below identifies projects that are ready for implementation, meet the above criteria, are not otherwise required per existing regulations, such as National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System (NPDES) projects, and have not historically been funded by the City.

Proposed Climate Resiliency Fund FY 2026 Projects		
Dept.	Project	Budget
1. DFM	Comprehensive Storm Water Master Planning Study	\$ 2,400,000
2. DFM	Ka'elepulu Green Storm Water Planning Study	\$ 150,000
3. DDC	CIP & Climate Change Design Guidelines	\$ 1,500,000
4. OER	The Global Mayors Challenge	\$ 500,000
5. CCSR	City Retrofits for Affordable Housing	\$ 400,000
6. CCSR	Climate Champions Program	\$ 350,000
7. DPR	2026 Summer Recreational Programming	\$ 60,000
Subtotal		\$ 5,360,000
FY 2026 Estimated Fund Revenues		\$ 8,871,465
Balance (rollover to FY 2027)		\$ 3,511,465

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Page 4

Thank you for the opportunity to provide this testimony in support of
Bill 15 (2025), CD1. Should you have any questions, please contact Resilience Office
Deputy Director Dr. Kealoha Fox at (808) 768-2276 or kealoha.fox@honolulu.gov.

Sincerely,



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Benjamin Sullivan
Executive Director and
Chief Resilience Officer

APPROVED:



Michael D. Formby, Managing Director
Office of the Managing Director