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April 29, 2025

The Honorable Tommy Waters
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 202
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Waters:

SUBJECT: City-owned Properties

I am responding to your letter to Ms. Catherine Taschner dated April 8, 2025 requesting an updated list of city-owned properties from the Department of Land Management (DLM) pursuant to Section 6-1803 of the Revised Charter of the City and County of Honolulu. The responsibility for properties was decentralized in 1998 following the disbandment of the former Department of Housing and Community Development. One of our goals in reorganizing the Office of Housing and DLM into the Department of Housing and Land Management (DHLM), including combining resource assets from both the Department of Community Services (DCS) and the Department of Planning and Permitting (DPP), is to aggregate all housing programs and properties, particularly affordable housing programs and properties, into DHLM for centralized reporting consistent with the Charter.

Currently, the inventory of City-owned properties is maintained on the City's C2HERPS platform. Unfortunately, that platform lacks a user-friendly interface for sortable data review and reporting. Since Council funded and assisted in creating the Chief Data Officer (CDO) position in the City and County of Honolulu, CDO Kira Chuchom has been working with DLM, DCS and DPP, in concert with the Department of Information Technology (DIT) and Budget and Fiscal Services (BFS), through a working group to aggregate and develop a meaningful database of all City-owned properties. To that end, the Office of Housing (HOU) contracted with UHERO to develop a Subsidized Housing Explorer, an interactive database of housing programs and units on O'ahu, which was introduced in January 2025 (here.)

CDO Chuchom and DIT Director Brian McKee have been working together to aggregate and update data from various departments, which is distinctive and incomplete in its existing format, to create a comprehensive database as required by Charter. With the assistance of CDO Chuchom, this requested database will be maintained in DHLM.

In closing, I apologize that we are not presently able to deliver the requested update, but we are working in good faith on what we agree is a necessary database for both Council and the administration and we will update Council as we make improvements.

Sincerely,

Michael D. Formby
Managing Director

cc: Office of Housing
Department of Land Management
Department of Planning and Permitting
Department of Information Technology
Department of Community Services
Department of Budget and Fiscal Services
Kira Chuchom, Chief Data Officer, Office of the Managing Director