

OFFICE OF CLIMATE CHANGE SUSTAINABILITY AND RESILIENCY

KE KE'ENA LOLI ANIAU MĀLAMA 'ĀINA A ME KE OLA LOA
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 11th FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
PHONE: (808) 768-2277 • EMAIL: resilientoahu@honolulu.gov • WEBSITE: resilientoahu.org



RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA

BENJAMIN SULLIVAN, LEED AP BD+C
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR &
CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER
PO'O HO'OKŌ & KAHU OLA LOA

KEALOHA FOX, Ph. D.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR &
DEPUTY CHIEF RESILIENCE OFFICER
HOPE PO'O & HOPE KAHU OLA LOA

September 2, 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: Resolution 25-204, CD1, FD1 Relating to the Transfer of
Climate Resiliency Fund Monies

The Office of Climate Change, Sustainability and Resiliency (CCSR) strongly supports Resolution 25-204, CD1, which transfers monies from the Climate Resiliency Fund (CRF) to various City and County of Honolulu ("City") departments and agencies to implement climate resilience projects in Fiscal Year 2026 (FY26). We additionally support Council Chair Waters' Proposed FD1 to Resolution 25-204, CD1.

The proposed FY26 projects are generally aligned with CRF purpose areas to mitigate and adapt to the impacts of climate change to safeguard communities, infrastructure and natural resources for today and future generations. These projects also generally align with community-driven strategies for climate action and adaptation as outlined in core City planning documents, including the O'ahu Resilience Strategy, Climate Action Plan, and Climate Ready O'ahu climate adaptation strategy.

However, one of the proposed projects is believed to be associated with a private development on Kulaaupuni Street in Wai'anae. The reference in the Resolution, CD1, FD1 is to "the drainage of manholes, box culverts, and drain extensions." This development was previously discussed with the administration and there were significant hurdles to the City making this drainage connection and the estimate of \$700,000 in the Resolution is believed to be inadequate to complete this project (which would need to go through multi-year planning, design, construction and inspection). The Department of Design and Construction will provide additional information on this specific project as requested by Council.

The Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair and Presiding Officer
and Members
September 2, 2025
Page 2

Timely approval of these transfers is essential, as the City's internal procurement deadlines are rapidly approaching, and any delay will significantly reduce our ability to expend these funds within the current fiscal year. Adoption of this resolution provides the necessary opportunity to advance these critical climate resilience projects without losing valuable implementation time.

We recognize the alignment between the CRF purpose areas and the new project allocations included in the Proposed FD1. However, we note that some of these newly added initiatives have not yet been scoped in detail by City departments, which may present barriers to implementation this fiscal year. For example, the allocation to contract with nonprofits for climate resilience activities challenges us to initiate new contracting mechanisms not previously explored or implemented. However, we are committed to making every effort to implement these projects in the current fiscal year. Where barriers arise, we will provide timely and transparent updates to the Council. Should there be any unspent funds, they will lapse back into the fund and we will provide more refined project design in future budget cycles.

Looking ahead, we are working to align future CRF requests with the City's annual budget cycle and to establish more robust internal procedures for project identification, scoping, and execution. We appreciate and support Council's additional allocation of CRF monies for administrative expenses in the Proposed FD1, which will enable us to hire staff necessary to strengthen the City's capacity to implement those internal procedures and support effective fund management and project execution.

Finally, we share the Council's interest in fostering innovation, community partnerships, and leveraging state, federal, and private dollars to maximize the impact of the Council's investment. We are already exploring partnership opportunities for projects, such as cesspool conversion grants, mangrove removal, and the Climate Champions Program, to increase the likelihood of success and anticipated benefits of CRF-funded projects.

The Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair and Presiding Officer
and Members
September 2, 2025
Page 3

Thank you for the opportunity to testify in support of the Proposed FD1 to Resolution 25-204. Should you have any questions, please contact us at (808) 768-2277 or b.sullivan@honolulu.gov.

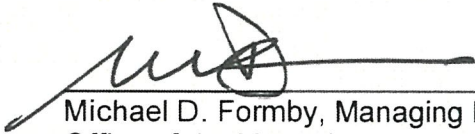
Sincerely,



Digitally signed by: Sullivan, Benjamin
DN: CN = Sullivan, Benjamin
Date: 2025.09.02 15:19:37 -10'00'

Benjamin Sullivan
Executive Director and
Chief Resilience Officer

APPROVED:



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