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BOARD OF WATER SUPPLY
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March 25, 2026

The Honorable Tommy Waters
Chair and Presiding Officer
and Members
Honolulu City Council
530 South King Street, Room 100
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Waters and Councilmembers:

SUBJECT: Bill 21 (2026): Relating to Transit-Oriented Development

The Board of Water Supply (BWS) strongly supports City Council Bill 21 relating to Transit-Oriented Development, which incorporates gray water reuse systems as a community benefit for a TOD special district permit. This will help to extend our precious wai, our freshwater resources for our community.

As part of BWS's strategic planning objectives, we continuously adapt and implement resilient and sustainable solutions to mitigate climate and environmental changes to protect and manage O'ahu's water resources and watersheds.

The Hawaii Department of Health (DOH) permits gray water reuse provided public health is not compromised.[1] Gray water includes wastewater from showers, bathtubs, bathroom sinks, and washing machines (not toilets or kitchen sinks). The use of gray water reduces the demand for potable water and can be used for landscape irrigation and more recently for Hawai'i's first on-site residential greywater reuse system, which will be installed at real estate development at Kuilei Place.[2]

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony in support of Bill 21.

Very truly yours,

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

DEPT. COM. 204(26)

[1] Hawaii State Department of Health Wastewater Branch, "Guidelines for the Reuse of Gray Water," June 22, 2009.
[2] Aquatech Global Events, "Hawaii Turns to Greywater Reuse as Groundwater Levels Decrease," February 16, 2026