



February 26, 2020

To: Committee Members on Zoning, Planning and Housing
The Honorable Ron Menor, Chair
The Honorable Tommy Waters, Vice Chair

Re: Strong Support of Bill 25

Hrg: February 27, 2020 at 9:00 AM at Committee Meeting Room

Aloha Chair Menor, Vice Chair Waters and members of the Committee,

The Hawaii Public Health Association is a group of over 400 community members, public health professionals and organizations statewide dedicated to improving public health. HPHA also serves as a voice for public health professionals and as a repository for information about public health in the Pacific.

The Hawaii Public Health Association strongly supports Bill 25, CD2 introduced by Councilmember Elefante. The updates to the building codes proposed in CD2 will help make new buildings more energy efficient and give Oahu residents access to the energy savings from using solar energy and electric vehicles.

The sensible, cost-effective changes proposed in Bill 25, CD2 will reduce the greenhouse gas emissions from our new homes and buildings and support Oahu's transition to clean energy and transportation. If we fail to take action now to reduce carbon impacts from new buildings, we miss a major health opportunity to support both climate health and to also reduce current and future health risks.

Climate change is the greatest threat to human health in the 21st century. Every individual will be affected by some combination of extreme weather, air pollution, sea level rise, infectious disease or a host of other challenges to daily living. We will experience changes in the severity and frequency of health problems that are already affected by climate and unprecedented or unanticipated health problems in places where they have not previously occurred.

Bill 25, CD2 is the most immediate action we can take now to limit the impacts of climate change on our environment and health. Please advance Bill 25, CD2.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony on critical issues affecting the health of the people of Hawaii.

Respectfully submitted,

Tenaya Jackman, MPH
Board Member
Climate Change Legislative Sub-Committee Chair
Hawaii Public Health Association