



# Better Buildings Benchmarking (BBB) Program

## *Frequently Asked Questions*

### Q. What is the Better Buildings Benchmarking (BBB) program?

The City and County of Honolulu (City) established the Better Buildings Benchmarking Program to advance Honolulu’s affordability goals and goal of carbon neutrality by 2045. This program is in accordance with Ordinance 22-17, which Mayor Blangiardi signed into law July 20, 2022.

The ordinance establishes a system for large commercial and multifamily buildings to measure and report their electricity, water, and gas use annually to the City. The building sector is a significant contributor to the island’s total greenhouse gas emissions. Implementing an island-wide benchmarking program on Oahu is expected to lower energy use, reduce operating expenses for local building owners and tenants, and decrease greenhouse gas emissions.

### Q. What is being benchmarked?

A building’s utility data (i.e., energy, water, and gas consumption) will be aggregated and measured to understand its performance over time. This data enables building owners and managers to compare their building’s performance with other similar buildings, identify opportunities to invest in energy efficiency improvements, reduce waste, and save money.

### Q. Who must participate in the BBB Program?

The program is being rolled out in a phased approach from 2023 – 2025 (see below). By 2025, all commercial and multifamily buildings larger than 25,000 square feet will be required to track and report annual utility data to the City.

- ◆ 2023 - all commercial and multifamily building ≥ 100,000 square feet
- ◆ 2024 - all commercial and multifamily building ≥ 50,000 square feet
- ◆ 2025 - all commercial and multifamily building ≥ 25,000 square feet

Building Sector	Building Size (sq ft.)	Benchmarking Timeline			
		Spring 2022	June 30, 2023	June 30, 2024	June 30, 2025
City Buildings	≥ 10,000	Benchmark & Report			
Commercial & Multifamily Buildings	≥ 100,000		Benchmark & Report		
	≥ 50,000			Benchmark & Report	
	≥ 25,000				Benchmark & Report



**Q. How are buildings identified?**

The City is working closely with the utility service providers Hawaiian Electric, Board of Water Supply, and Hawaii Gas to come up with a way to link each building with corresponding utility data. For Hawaiian Electric accounts, the City provided a unique building ID, which we are mapping to individual metered accounts that fall within that building/TMK property (it may technically include a number of buildings).

**Q. Who is responsible for submitting benchmarked data for a given building?**

Building owners are responsible for ensuring that they or someone on their management team benchmarks the building per the City requirements.

- ◆ For commercial buildings with  $\geq$  four metered accounts (and  $\geq$  6 metered accounts for multifamily buildings), authorization or consent from the metered accountholder is not required.
- ◆ For buildings with  $<$  four or  $<$  six metered accounts (for commercial and multifamily buildings respectively), each metered-accountholder must submit an authorization/consent form for Hawaiian Electric to include their energy-use data in the aggregate whole-building data.

**Q. Will less efficient buildings be penalized when compared to other more efficient buildings?**

As the ordinance does not require buildings to implement efficiency improvements, audits, or retrofits, buildings will not be penalized based on their energy efficiency or for performing below other efficient buildings island-wide. And while the City encourages voluntary action among buildings to realize greater energy savings, this program would only require benchmarking and reporting data annually. For more information on the Better Buildings Benchmarking program, please visit: [resilientoahu.org/benchmarking](https://resilientoahu.org/benchmarking).

**Q. If a building contains both commercial and residential individually-metered units, how will they be categorized under the BBB program?**

Per the PUC's data aggregation and anonymity protocol, the Company will categorize such mixed-use buildings as multi-family residential and would therefore require consent of individually-metered account holders if there were fewer than 6 metered accounts in the building. If there 6 or more individually-metered accounts, then consent from the account holders would not be required.

**Q. Who can I contact for questions about HECO's role in this process?**

Questions regarding Hawaiian Electric's role in this process should be sent to: [bbb@hawaiianelectric.com](mailto:bbb@hawaiianelectric.com)