

Testimony Related to
Senate Bill 81 HD1
RELATING TO STARLIGHT RESERVE

Presented before the
House Committee on Finance
The Twenty-Sixth Legislature

March 31, 2011

by

Richard J. Wainscoat
Chair
Starlight Reserve Committee

Chair Oshiro and members of the Committee. My name is Richard Wainscoat and I am submitting this testimony in my capacity as Chair of the Hawaii Starlight Reserve Committee. I strongly support the extension of the termination date of the Starlight Reserve Committee by 2 years to June 30, 2013.

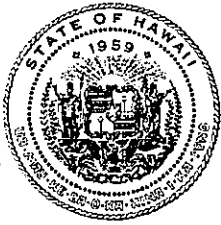
The Starlight Reserve Committee was established by the 2009 legislature. The previous administration delayed the formation of the committee by approximately one year due to budgetary concerns. The committee held its first meeting in July 2010, and has met on four occasions. The committee received extensive input from many stakeholders, and has already concluded that full shielding of bright outdoor light sources is an important first step in saving energy and protecting Hawaii's environment, including endangered species, the dark night sky, and astronomy. The committee has also recognized that education of both the public and of professionals regarding the benefits of intelligent lighting is essential, and is exploring ways to achieve this.

Act 161 asked the Starlight Reserve Committee to assist DBEDT to develop legislation to implement a statewide intelligent lighting and light pollution law that takes into consideration the following:

1. Develop rules regulating the requirements of outdoor lighting to guarantee the protection of night sky quality;
2. Incorporate measures to conserve energy and promote responsible outdoor night lighting;
3. Develop standards for intelligent lighting design in architecture, urban planning, engineering, and infrastructure development;

4. Strengthen statewide commitment to preserving the night sky by adopting intelligent lighting in the public sector;
5. Promote labeling to recognize intelligent lighting fixtures and products;
6. Develop alliances with both public and private entities primarily responsible for outdoor night lighting;
7. Develop measures to avoid obtrusive light and improve the quality of life of local populations; and
8. Educate local residents about existing solutions, as well as the environmental, personal, and energy-savings benefits that intelligent lighting entails.

It is clear that the Starlight Reserve Committee still has much work to do. The committee discussed the amount of time that it felt was needed to accomplish these tasks, and believes that an extension by 2 years to June 30, 2013 is appropriate.



NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR

RICHARD C. LIM
DIRECTOR

DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS, ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM

No. 1 Capitol District Building, 250 South Hotel Street, 5th Floor, Honolulu, Hawaii 96813
Mailing Address: P.O. Box 2359, Honolulu, Hawaii 96804
Web site: www.hawaii.gov/dbedt

Telephone: (808) 586-2355
Fax: (808) 586-2377

Statement of

RICHARD C. LIM
Director

Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism

before the

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

Thursday, March 31, 2011

5:00 p.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 308

in consideration of

SB 81, HD1

RELATING TO STARLIGHT RESERVE.

Chair Oshiro, Vice Chair Lee, and members of the Committee. The department supports the intent of SB 81, HD1 to extend the sunset date of our department's Starlight Reserve Committee (SRC) to June 30, 2013.

The SRC was originally created through Act 161, Session Laws of Hawaii 2009, to assist our department with the development of a comprehensive strategy to help reduce nighttime sky pollution and preserve the quality of Hawaii's night sky and its associated cultural, scientific, natural, and landscape-related values.

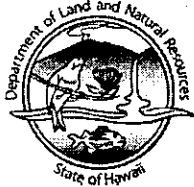
This committee was originally scheduled to convene in July of 2009; but in light of revenue shortfalls during the preceding fiscal year, the previous administration suspended implementation of new State boards, commissions and committees until the summer of the

following year. As such, the SRC did not convene until July of 2010, and therefore has not had adequate time to undertake the complex task of reviewing the current status of county, state and federal lighting policies and ordinances, or (based upon this analysis) to develop an effective and sustainable starlight reserve strategy for our State.

In addition, after discussing the multiple implications the proposed strategy may have for astronomy, tourism, public health, education, biological diversity, land management, and economic development statewide, as well as in consideration of the substantial breath of stakeholders concerned with this issue, the SRC believes a starlight reserve strategy could most effectively be implemented through a phased approach over the next two legislative sessions (2012 and 2013). As such, our department concurs that a two-year extension of the sunset date for the SRC is both desirable and appropriate.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
FINANCE**

**Thursday, March 31, 2011
5:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 308**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 81, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO STARLIGHT RESERVE**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports the intent of Senate Bill 81, House Draft 1 to extend the termination date of the Starlight Reserve Advisory Committee to June 30, 2013. The Department notes a preference to the original version of this measure with its effective date of June 29, 2011.

The use of artificial lighting serves the essential purpose of providing safety and security, and facilitates many of the routine activities of society. However, artificial lighting also affects biological and cultural resources by impacting wildlife populations and interfering with night sky viewing. The excessive use of artificial lights also contributes to wasted consumption of energy resources and impacts global climate change.

The purpose of the Starlight Reserve Advisory Committee (Committee) is to examine issues related to artificial lighting and recommend workable solutions to reduce the negative impacts of lighting on natural resources and related activities.

Although the Committee was established by Act 161 of the 2009 Legislature, it was not able to convene and begin its work until mid-2010, a delay of more than one year. Extension of the sunset date for the Committee will provide the additional time needed to complete the essential tasks to evaluate issues related to lighting and recommend solutions to the Legislature.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

GUY H. KAULUKUKUI
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAIHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR



GLENN M. OKIMOTO
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI
JAN S. GOUVEIA
RANDY GRUNE
JADINE URASAKI

STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 31, 2011

TESTIMONY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION

SENATE BILL NO. 81, H.D. 1

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Department of Transportation supports Senate Bill 81, HD1 which would extend the termination date of temporary advisory committee relating to the statewide starlight reserve strategy from 6/30/2011 to 6/30/2013.

As a member of this temporary advisory committee which was established by Act 161 of the 2009 Legislature, we feel that the advisory committee did not complete all of its work as only three or four meetings were held. The advisory committee presents an ideal forum for all affected parties to participate in an open and collaborative manner.

Extension of the sunset date to June 30, 2013 will provide the additional time needed to complete the essential tasks to evaluate, coordinate and discuss amongst affected parties and agencies a Starlight Strategy.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Finance
Thursday, March 31, 2011 at 5:00 p.m.
by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor
and
Robert McLaren, Astronomer
Institute for Astronomy
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

SB 81 HD 1 RELATING TO STARLIGHT RESERVE

Chair Oshiro and members of the Committee. My name is Robert McLaren and I am here today to submit this testimony on behalf of the University of Hawai'i. The University of Hawai'i strongly supports the extension of the termination date of the Starlight Reserve Committee by 2 years to June 30, 2013.

Mauna Kea on the island of Hawai'i, and Haleakala on the island of Maui, are two of the best astronomy sites in the world. Dark night skies are essential for these observatories to continue to operate. However, increasing urban lighting is threatening the dark night skies over these observatories. Light pollution extends well beyond county boundaries; lights from O'ahu have a major and growing impact on Haleakala. Statewide legislation is needed to protect the observatories. The economic impact of astronomy in Hawai'i is between \$150 and \$200 million per year.

The Starlight Reserve Committee was established by the 2009 legislature to address light pollution issues at a statewide level. Astronomers are not the only people affected by light pollution. Light pollution affects many endangered species across Hawai'i, including birds and turtles. It produces enormous energy waste. Poorly designed lighting compromises safety.

Act 161 asked the Starlight Reserve Committee to assist DBEDT to develop legislation to implement a statewide intelligent lighting and light pollution law that takes into consideration the following:

1. Develop rules regulating the requirements of outdoor lighting to guarantee the protection of night sky quality;
2. Incorporate measures to conserve energy and promote responsible outdoor night lighting;
3. Develop standards for intelligent lighting design in architecture, urban planning, engineering, and infrastructure development;
4. Strengthen statewide commitment to preserving the night sky by adopting intelligent

lighting in the public sector;

5. Promote labeling to recognize intelligent lighting fixtures and products;
6. Develop alliances with both public and private entities primarily responsible for outdoor night lighting;
7. Develop measures to avoid obtrusive light and improve the quality of life of local populations; and
8. Educate local residents about existing solutions, as well as the environmental, personal, and energy-savings benefits that intelligent lighting entails.

It is clear that the Starlight Reserve Committee still has much work to do. The work that the committee is doing is very important for the future of astronomy in Hawai'i and at the University of Hawai'i.