

Honolulu, Hawaii

APR - 3 2006

RE: S.R. No. 27

Honorable Robert Bunda
President of the Senate
Twenty-Third State Legislature
Regular Session of 2006
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Transportation and Government Operations,
to which was referred S.R. No. 27 entitled:

"SENATE RESOLUTION REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF
TRANSPORTATION TO COMPLY WITH COUNTY ORDINANCES AND STANDARDS
RELATING TO OUTSIDE LIGHTING AT AIRPORTS AND HARBORS, AND TO
PROVIDE CUT-OFF OR FULLY SHIELDED LENS FIXTURES TO DIRECT
ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING DOWNWARD TO PREVENT DIFFUSION THE LIGHT
INTO THE ATMOSPHERE, ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII AND THE ISLAND
OF MAUI,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this measure is to request the Department of
Transportation to comply with county ordinances and standards
relating to outside lighting at airports and harbors, and to
provide cut-off or fully shielded lens fixtures to direct
artificial lighting downward to prevent diffusion the light into
the atmosphere, on the island of Hawaii and the island of Maui.

Your Committee received testimony in support of this measure
from the Department of Transportation; State Department of
Defense; three Maui County Council Members; the University of
Hawaii Institute for Astronomy; and one individual. Comments were
received from the National Electrical Manufacturers Association.

Hawaii is home to two of the world's premier astronomy
observatories, Haleakala on Maui and Mauna Kea on Hawaii. One of
the most critical needs for preserving the value of these sites is
to reduce bright sources of light that illuminate the dark night
sky. Recent nighttime images from the international space station



revealed that some of the brightest sources of light on Maui and Hawaii are the airports and harbors on both islands. Astronomers on Mauna Kea are now detecting artificial light sources from urban areas that diminish the telescopes' ability to do research.

Your Committee finds that it is essential that the Department of Transportation take immediate steps to diminish the adverse effects on astronomy of bright night lights at airports and harbors on the island of Hawaii and the island of Maui.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Transportation and Government Operations that is attached to this report, your Committee concurs with the intent and purpose of S.R. No. 27 and recommends its adoption.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Transportation and
Government Operations,


LORRAINE R. INOUE, Chair



