

SB

536

EDT

LATE

FEB 25 2009



WINDWARD AHUPUA'A ALLIANCE

From the Peaks of *Na Ko'olau* to the Outer Reefs

*Community-Based Planning
Sustainable Economic Development
Restoration, Preservation, Protection & Public Access
Educational & Cultural Programs*

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT AND TECHNOLOGY

Sen. Carol Fukunaga, Chair

Sen. Rosalyn Baker, Vice Chair

SB 536 - RELATING TO STARLIGHT RESERVE

Strongly Support

PUBLIC HEARING

1:15 pm

Wednesday, February 25, 2009

Conference Room 325

My name is Shannon Wood speaking on behalf of the *Windward Ahupua'a Alliance* in support of **SB 536 - RELATING TO STARLIGHT RESERVE.**

From 1991 until mid-2005, my husband and I operated a small "boutique" visitor industry business called **A GUIDED TOUR OF THE GALAXY** in which we took people out under Hawai'i's night skies for an experience available nowhere else in the United States.

Unfortunately, the night lights on O'ahu made it more & more difficult to provide a high-quality stellar viewing experience so we reluctantly shut it down. However, as semi-serious amateur astronomers, we still go out ourselves to look at the night skies.

The concepts in this legislation are clearly articulated and well-drafted. I commend Senator Espero for drafting it. However, I do have some modest concerns about costs as nothing is mentioned. Can this advisory committee be tucked into *DBEDT's* current budget?

The legislation will have a huge impact on not just the visitor industry but also the entire field of astronomy everywhere across the state.

We urge that you pass **SB 536 - RELATING TO STARLIGHT RESERVE.** *Mahalo* for the opportunity to submit testimony.

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