

NEIL ABERCROMBIE  
GOVERNOR

RICHARD C. LIM  
INTERIM 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](http://www.hawaii.gov/dbedt)

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

Statement of  
**RICHARD C. LIM**  
Interim Director

Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism  
before the

### HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION & BUSINESS

Tuesday, March 15, 2011

8:00 a.m.

State Capitol, Conference Room 312

in consideration of

**SB 81**

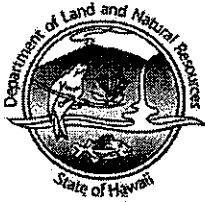
RELATING TO STARLIGHT RESERVE.

Chair McKelvey, Vice Chair Choy, and members of the Committee. The department supports the intent of SB 81 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

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  
ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION AND BUSINESS**

**Tuesday, March 15, 2011  
8:00 AM  
State Capitol, Conference 312**

**In consideration of  
SENATE BILL 81  
RELATING TO STARLIGHT RESERVE**

The Department of Land and Natural Resources supports Senate Bill 81 to extend the termination date of the Starlight Reserve Advisory Committee to June 30, 2013.

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.

The Department supports this measure to advance the work of the Starlight Reserve Advisory Committee.

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  
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION  
LAND  
STATE PARKS



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

---

Written Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Economic Revitalization & Business  
Tuesday, March 15, 2011 at 8:00 a.m.

by

Virginia S. Hinshaw, Chancellor

and

Richard J. Wainscoat, Astronomer

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

Chair, Light Pollution Working Group, International Astronomical Union

### SB 81 RELATING TO STARLIGHT RESERVE

Chair McKelvey and members of the Committee. My name is Richard Wainscoat and I am here today to submit this testimony in my capacity as an astronomer at the University of Hawai'i, and as Chair of the Light Pollution Working Group of Commission 50 of the International Astronomical Union. I strongly support 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 Haleakalā 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 Haleakalā. 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.

**Testimony Related to**

**Senate Bill 81**

**RELATING TO STARLIGHT RESERVE**

**Presented before the**

**House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business**

**The Twenty-Sixth Legislature**

**March 15, 2011**

**by**

**Richard J. Wainscoat**

**Chair**

**Starlight Reserve Committee**

Chair McElvey and members of the Committee. My name is Richard Wainscoat and I am here today to submit 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;

**Testimony Related to Senate Bill 81**  
**House Committee on Economic Revitalization and Business**  
**March 15, 2011**  
**Page 2**

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.

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Sunday, March 13, 2011 11:24 AM  
**To:** ERBtestimony  
**Cc:** swartzg001@hawaii.rr.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for SB81 on 3/15/2011 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for ERB 3/15/2011 8:00:00 AM SB81

Conference room: 312

Testifier position: oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: gregory swartz

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [swartzg001@hawaii.rr.com](mailto:swartzg001@hawaii.rr.com)

Submitted on: 3/13/2011

Comments:

Waste of taxpayer money.