

**DEPARTMENT OF BUSINESS,
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT & TOURISM**

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR

LUIS P. SALAVERIA
DIRECTOR

MARY ALICE EVANS
DEPUTY DIRECTOR

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
LUIS P. SALAVERIA
Director
Department of Business, Economic Development & Tourism
before the
**SENATE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT,
ENVIRONMENT AND TECHNOLOGY**
Wednesday, February 3, 2016
1:15 p.m.
State Capitol, Conference Room 414
in consideration of
SB 2302
RELATING TO DARK SKIES PROTECTION.

Chair Wakai, Vice Chair Slom, and Members of the Committee. The Department of Business, Economic Development and Tourism supports the intent of this bill to establish an advisory committee to assist DBEDT in developing and implementing a statewide dark skies protection strategy.

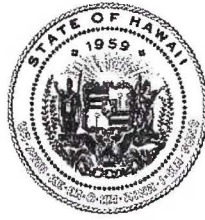
A Starlight Reserve Committee was originally established (through Act 161, SLH 2009) to develop and help implement a statewide strategy to reduce nighttime light pollution which, in turn, will help preserve Hawaii's dark skies for astronomy, protect endangered species, improve human health, and reduce nighttime energy consumption.

Although this Committee (which terminated on June 30, 2015) was successful in developing and promoting legislation (Act 287, SLH 2012) that addresses appropriate temperature and shielding for State light fixtures, a more comprehensive strategy coordinating State laws with county, federal, military, and private sector lighting practices and regulations is needed to help preserve Hawaii's dark nighttime skies. We believe the proposed Dark Skies Advisory Committee could play a strategic role in achieving this goal.

We support this bill provided that its passage does not replace or adversely impact priorities indicated in our Executive Budget. DBEDT has requested that the Legislature authorize and fund the Office of Aerospace Development director position in the Governor's Supplemental FY17 Budget Request to provide adequate staffing to do economic development for the aerospace industry.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF
HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committee on
ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT, ENVIRONMENT, AND TECHNOLOGY

Wednesday, February 3, 2016
1:15 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 414

In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2302
RELATING TO DARK SKIES PROTECTION

Senate Bill 2302 proposes to establish a dark skies protection advisory committee to assist the Department of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism in developing a dark skies protection strategy. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this bill.**

Artificial lighting reduces dark skies and directly impacts biological resources of the islands by altering wildlife behavior. Marine birds and sea turtles in Hawaii, some of which are endangered or threatened, are particularly sensitive to artificial light, attracting fledglings and newly hatched turtles, which then become disoriented and lost, impacting their populations. There are many documented cases of night lighting in Hawaii attracting and killing coastal and pelagic birds and turtles every year.

Additionally, dark night skies hold important cultural, astronomical, and tourism-related values, which are all negatively impacted as a result of artificial lighting. Not to mention energy consumption associated with excessive use of artificial lights, which contributes to wasted resources and exacerbates global climate change

The committee would, among other things, examine issues related to artificial lighting and recommend workable solutions to reduce the negative impacts of lighting on natural and cultural resources and related activities.

The Department appreciates the opportunity to provide these comments.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

KEKOA KALUHIWA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON, P.E.
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
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HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

wakai1 - Lilinoe

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2016 1:10 PM
To: EET Testimony
Cc: rjw@ifa.hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2302 on Feb 3, 2016 13:15PM
Attachments: SB2302-EET-RW.pdf

SB2302

Submitted on: 1/31/2016

Testimony for EET on Feb 3, 2016 13:15PM in Conference Room 414

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Wainscoat	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Testimony Related to

Senate Bill 2302

RELATING TO DARK SKIES PROTECTION

Presented before the

Senate Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Technology

The Twenty-Eighth Legislature

February 3, 2016

by

Richard J. Wainscoat

Chair Wakai, Vice-Chair Slom and members of the Committee. My name is Richard Wainscoat and I am submitting this testimony in strong support of the establishment of a dark skies advisory committee.

Dark night skies are a tremendously important natural, cultural, scientific, educational and economic resource for Hawaii. But the dark night sky is under increased threat from urban lighting.

Dark skies are vitally important for Hawaii's two major astronomical observatories – Maunakea on the Island of Hawaii, and Haleakala on Maui. These are among the best astronomical sites on the planet. If the sky is allowed to become bright over these observatories, the telescopes will lose their ability to see faint objects.

The advisory committee described in this bill will bring together representatives from the state, the counties and the public, and is a valuable forum for exchanging information regarding nighttime lighting.

A similar committee (for which I was the Chair), called the Starlight Reserve Committee, operated until 2015. The committee dealt with issues such as energy preservation, endangered species, astronomy, public safety and quality of life. All of these are long-term issues.

Lighting is presently undergoing a major transformation. There is a widespread change from traditional forms of lighting, such as incandescent, fluorescent, and high intensity discharge lamps to solid state lighting (light emitting diodes, or LEDs). LEDs offer lower maintenance costs and energy savings. It is particularly important that the dark skies committee enabled by this bill meets and provides advice during this transition period. LED lights have higher amounts

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Senate Committee on Economic Development, Environment and Technology
February 3, 2016
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of blue light, and this blue light is very harmful to astronomy, endangered species, and may also be harmful to human health. Therefore, careful limits on the amount of blue light from LEDs should be put in place.

Light travels tremendous distances at night. For example, Haleakala observatory is affected by lighting in Honolulu. Light does not obey county boundaries — it is important to form a state level committee to address lighting issues and preservation of dark skies across all of Hawaii.