



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII  
SYSTEM

David Lassner  
President

**DEPT. COMM. NO. 254**

December 30, 2019

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,  
President and Members of the Senate  
Thirtieth State Legislature  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Scott Saiki, Speaker  
and Members of the House of Representatives  
Thirtieth State Legislature  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Saiki, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, the University of Hawai'i is transmitting one copy of the Report on the Statewide Dark Skies Protection Advisory Committee (Act 185, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2017) as requested by the Legislature.

In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, this report may be viewed electronically at: <https://www.hawaii.edu/offices/government-relations/2020-legislative-reports/>.

Should you have any questions about this report, please do not hesitate to contact Stephanie Kim at 956-4250, or via e-mail at [scskim@hawaii.edu](mailto:scskim@hawaii.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "David".

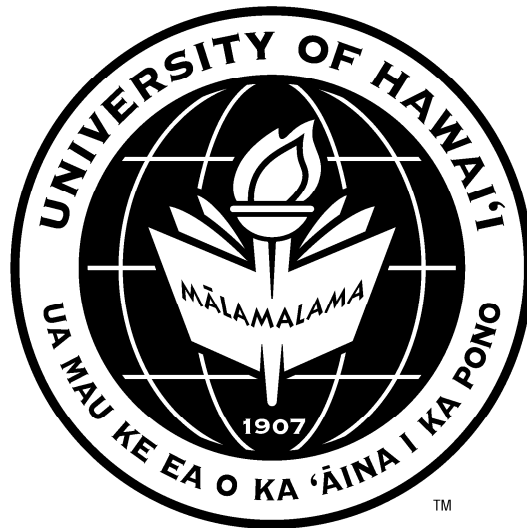
David Lassner  
President

Enclosure

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# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM REPORT



REPORT TO THE 2020 LEGISLATURE

Report on the Statewide Dark Skies  
Protection Advisory Committee

Act 185, SLH 2017

December 2019

## **Legislative Report on the Statewide Dark Skies Protection Advisory Committee Pursuant to Act 185, SLH 2017**

Act 185, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2017, established a Dark Skies Protection Advisory Committee to assist the University of Hawai'i in developing a statewide dark night skies protection strategy. The advisory committee is placed within the University of Hawai'i for administrative purposes. In addition, the University of Hawai'i and the advisory committee were charged with submitting reports to the Hawai'i State Legislature on its initial findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than twenty days prior to the convening of the regular session of 2018, and thereafter report updated findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the legislature no later than 20 days prior to the convening of each of the regular sessions of 2019, 2020, and 2021.

The advisory committee consists of the following persons, or their authorized representatives: the president of the University of Hawai'i; the comptroller; the director of business, economic development, and tourism; the director of health; the director of transportation; the chairperson of the board of land and natural resources; the mayor of each county; the administrator of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; the director of the University of Hawai'i institute for astronomy; and a representative of the University of Hawai'i at Hilo. The president of the University of Hawai'i is empowered to designate the chairperson of the committee and has designated Dr. Vassilis Syrmos, University of Hawai'i Vice President for Research and Innovation, as the president's representative and chairperson.

The advisory committee has met and identified a number of issues requiring further technical review and discussion. The committee has identified a number of current lighting projects, key parties involved (e.g. suppliers and contractors), and project sponsor priorities and constraints. The committee has also identified potential sources of additional information and expertise that are not currently represented on the committee but may be approached to provide input.

The current issues include replacement of streetlights with LED fixtures on Maui, which has been stalled due to legal action related to wildlife protection. Like other LED light replacements, no environmental assessment was performed, and an environmental assessment will now be performed. The environmental impact of changes to LED lighting requires further discussion by this committee.

Lower color temperature LED lighting has become much more energy efficient in the last year, and this is another item that the committee must evaluate. Lower blue content lighting is desirable for many environmental reasons including protection of endangered species, protection of astronomy, protection of human health, visibility and aesthetics.

Poor lighting, including light trespass is a growing problem in Hawai'i. An example is high luminance sources shining onto public roadways and creating glare and loss of visibility. This is another topic that the committee needs to address.

The advisory committee does not yet have substantive findings and recommendations to report to the 2020 Hawai'i Legislature. The advisory committee will continue to meet and work toward such findings and recommendations for future reports.