

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM REPORT



REPORT TO THE 2019 LEGISLATURE

Report on the  
Statewide Dark Skies Protection Advisory Committee

Act 185, SLH 2017

December 2018

## **Legislative Report on the Statewide Dark Skies Protection Advisory Committee**

Act 185, Session Laws of Hawai'i 2017, establishes 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 regular session 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. As such, the advisory committee does not yet have substantive findings and recommendations to report to the 2019 Hawai'i Legislature. The advisory committee will continue to meet and work toward such findings and recommendations for future reports.