



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Transportation
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By
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And
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HB 812 – RELATING TO LIGHTING

Chair Aquino, Vice Chair LoPresti, 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.

The University of Hawai'i supports the intent of House Bill 812. The University offers the following comments:

1. The language defining an energy efficient lighting fixture in this bill may be technically flawed. It would be better to define energy efficiency using widely understood units such as lumens per Watt, and to require use of solid state lighting (i.e., Light Emitting Diodes, or LEDs).
2. Of all forms of lighting presently available, low-pressure sodium lighting has the lowest impact on astronomy. It is also very energy efficient. For locations close to the observatories, such as Hale Pōhaku on the Island of Hawai'i where outside lighting is required, it is advisable to preserve the ability to continue to use low-pressure sodium lighting. The university recommends adding an exemption in section (b) to permit continued use of low-pressure sodium lighting within 15 km of Mauna Kea Observatory and Haleakalā Observatory.
3. Present state law requires the state to follow county lighting ordinances if the county requirements are stricter than specified in House Bill 812. It is important to preserve this requirement.