
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION TO COMPLY WITH COUNTY ORDINANCES AND STANDARDS RELATING TO OUTSIDE LIGHTING AT AIRPORTS AND HARBORS, AND TO PROVIDE CUT-OFF OR FULLY SHIELDED LENS FIXTURES TO DIRECT ARTIFICIAL LIGHTING DOWNWARD TO PREVENT DIFFUSION THE LIGHT INTO THE ATMOSPHERE, ON THE ISLAND OF HAWAII AND THE ISLAND OF MAUI.

1 WHEREAS, Hawaii is home to two of the world's premier
2 astronomy observatories, Haleakala on Maui and Mauna Kea on
3 Hawaii; and

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5 WHEREAS, Mauna Kea is considered to be the finest site for
6 astronomy observation in the world; and

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8 WHEREAS, one of the most critical needs for preserving the
9 value of these sites is to reduce bright sources of light that
10 illuminate the dark night sky; and

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12 WHEREAS, recent nighttime images from the international
13 space station revealed that some of the brightest sources of
14 light on Maui and Hawaii are the airports and harbors on both
15 islands; and

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17 WHEREAS, astronomers on Mauna Kea are now detecting
18 artificial light sources from urban areas that diminish the
19 telescopes' ability to do research; and

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21 WHEREAS, over the last decade, artificial lighting on the
22 island of Hawaii has slowly increased, and is now threatening
23 the ability of the telescopes on Mauna Kea to study faint
24 objects in the night sky; and

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26 WHEREAS, the spectral signatures of high-pressure sodium
27 lamps and mercury lamps are now seen, despite Hawaii County
28 attempts to regulate those sources by ordinance; and

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1 WHEREAS, a dark night sky is essential to the continued
2 success of the Mauna Kea observatories; and

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4 WHEREAS, every one percent of artificial brightening of the
5 night sky results in an effective loss of telescope aperture by
6 one percent; and

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8 WHEREAS, according to scientists at Mauna Kea observatory,
9 much of the lighting at the airports and harbors on the Island
10 of Hawaii does not conform to the county lighting ordinance that
11 was intended to protect the dark sky over Mauna Kea; and

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13 WHEREAS, the ramp lighting at Kahului Airport points
14 directly at the summit of Haleakala and is not properly
15 shielded; and

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17 WHEREAS, the lighting along the approach road to Kona
18 Airport, along the roads where the rental car companies are
19 located at Kona Airport, and in the Hilo Airport parking lot
20 should be changed to low-pressure sodium lighting so that
21 astronomers would be better able to filter out light emitted
22 from them; and

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24 WHEREAS, the Department of Transportation has jurisdiction
25 over commercial harbor pursuant to chapter 266, Hawaii Revised
26 Statutes, and over airports pursuant to chapter 261; and

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28 WHEREAS, it is essential that the Department of
29 Transportation take immediate steps to diminish the adverse
30 effects on astronomy of bright night lights at airports and
31 harbors on the island of Hawaii and the island of Maui; now,
32 therefore,

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34 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-third
35 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2006, the
36 House of Representatives concurring, that the Department of
37 Transportation is requested to comply with county ordinances and
38 standards relating to outside lighting to the extent practicable
39 and not in conflict with any safety regulation or federal law,
40 regulation, or mandate, and to provide cut-off or fully shielded
41 lens fixtures to direct artificial lighting downward to prevent
42 diffusion the light into the atmosphere, at airports and harbors
43 in the County of Hawaii and the County of Maui; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of
2 Transportation work collaboratively to resolve or otherwise
3 ameliorate the bright night light problem with the appropriate
4 county agencies of Hawaii and Maui; and

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6 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
7 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Director of
8 Transportation, Governor of Hawaii, the Mayor of Hawaii County,
9 and the Mayor of Maui County.

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OFFERED BY: *Maui County*

