
SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

RECOGNIZING INTERNATIONAL DARK SKY WEEK.

1 WHEREAS, the aesthetic beauty and wonder of a natural night
2 sky is a shared heritage of all humankind; and
3

4 WHEREAS, the experience of standing beneath a starry night
5 sky inspires feelings of wonder and awe and encourages a growing
6 interest in science and nature, especially among young people
7 and out-of-area visitors within local communities; and
8

9 WHEREAS, light pollution has significant negative economic
10 and environmental consequences for the ecology and human health
11 of all communities; and
12

13 WHEREAS, eighty percent of the world's population,
14 including many Hawaii residents, live under a dome of light
15 pollution, excessive artificial lighting at night that disrupts
16 natural darkness, and may never experience the visual wonder or
17 ecological and health benefits of living under a dark sky; and
18

19 WHEREAS, every resident has the right to enjoy darkness and
20 an unpolluted view of the stars, just as they have the right to
21 unpolluted water; and
22

23 WHEREAS, Hawaii's unique cultural heritage is linked to
24 star stories and our ancestors' navigational history; and
25

26 WHEREAS, Hawaii's endemic birds rely on their view of the
27 moon and stars to find their way; and
28

29 WHEREAS, Hawaii's unique marine life has existed under dark
30 skies for thousands of years; and
31



1 WHEREAS, tourism is a significant industry in Hawaii, and
2 tourists seek experiences that reflect Hawaiian values,
3 including preserving Hawaii's natural beauty and dark
4 star-filled skies; and

5
6 WHEREAS, Hawaii hosts many of the world's largest
7 telescopes and respected observatories, including the Subaru
8 Telescope, W. M. Keck Observatory, Gemini North Telescope, NASA
9 Infrared Telescope Facility, James Clerk Maxwell Telescope, and
10 others; and

11
12 WHEREAS, visitors' interest in the State's telescopes and
13 dark sky experience demonstrate the economic value of
14 cultivating astrotourism; and

15
16 WHEREAS, Hawaii is home to dozens of nocturnal endemic
17 wildlife species that rely on undisturbed night environments to
18 hunt, mate, and thrive; and

19
20 WHEREAS, DarkSky International is the globally recognized
21 authority on light pollution and has established International
22 Dark Sky Week to raise awareness about light pollution; and

23
24 WHEREAS, International Dark Sky Week aims to provide free
25 education, resources, and solutions to the public to promote the
26 protection and enjoyment of dark skies and encourage responsible
27 outdoor lighting; now, therefore,

28
29 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
30 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the
31 House of Representatives concurring, that April 21 through
32 April 28, 2025, is requested to be recognized as International
33 Dark Sky Week in Hawaii; and

34
35 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each resident is asked to join
36 the Legislature in raising awareness and support for protecting
37 Hawaii's precious dark sky resources; and

38
39 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Land and Natural
40 Resources is requested to convene a task force to study light
41 pollution and dark skies to ensure the preservation of dark
42 skies throughout the State; and



1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
2 include the following individuals:

- 3
- 4 (1) The Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
5 Resources, or the Chairperson's designee, who is
6 requested to serve as chair of the task force;
7
- 8 (2) The Director of the Department of Business, Economic
9 Development, and Tourism, or the Director's designee;
10
- 11 (3) The Director of Transportation, or the Director's
12 designee;
13
- 14 (4) The President of the University of Hawaii, or the
15 President's designee;
16
- 17 (5) The Director of the Institute for Astronomy, or the
18 Director's designee;
19
- 20 (6) The Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian
21 Affairs, or the Chief Executive Officer's designee;
22
- 23 (7) The mayor of each county, or each mayor's designee;
24 and
25
- 26 (8) A representative from the University of Hawaii at
27 Hilo; and
28

29 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the chair of the task force is
30 requested to invite the following individuals to participate as
31 members of the task force:
32

- 33 (1) A representative of the United States Fish and
34 Wildlife Service;
35
- 36 (2) A representative of the National Oceanic and
37 Atmospheric Administration;
38
- 39 (3) A representative of the United States Military;
40
- 41 (4) A representative of the Federal Aviation
42 Administration;



(5) A representative of the United States Coast Guard;

(6) A representative of the Federal Highways
Administration;

(7) A member of the Hawaiian Astronomical Society; and

(8) A representative from the DesignLight Consortium; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in developing the dark night
skies protection strategies and recommendations, the task force
is requested to consider and evaluate issues that include:

(1) Reduction of light pollution throughout the State;

(2) Methods to conserve energy;

(3) Cultural, scientific, astronomical, natural, tourism,
and landscape related impacts and values associated
with dark skies and light pollution;

(4) Protection of federally and state protected species
that may be affected by artificial light;

(5) Impacts of light pollution on astronomical
observations;

(6) Educational uses of the dark night sky by grades
kindergarten through twelve and higher education
students;

(7) Establishment of dark night sky parks, which are
designated locations where residents and visitors can
view the night sky and milky way with minimal
interference from artificial light;

(8) Statewide monitoring of light pollution levels and
long term trends in light pollution;



1 (9) Public safety issues related to the reduction in
2 artificial light, as well as over-lighting resulting
3 in glare and light trespass; and
4

5 (10) Any additional considerations the task force believes
6 will help protect dark night skies in the State; and
7

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
9 submit a report of its findings and recommendations, including
10 any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than
11 December 1, of each year of 2025 and 2026; and
12

13 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
14 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Lieutenant
15 Governor; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
16 Resources; Director of the Department of Business, Economic
17 Development, and Tourism; Director of Transportation; President
18 of the University of Hawaii; Director of the Institute for
19 Astronomy; Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian
20 Affairs; and Mayor of each county.

