

JAN 31 2025

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

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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

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

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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

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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

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

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

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

31



S.C.R. NO. 12

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

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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

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

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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

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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

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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,

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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, shall be recognized as International Dark Sky
33 Week in Hawaii; and

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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



S.C.R. NO. 12

1 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
2 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor and
3 Lieutenant Governor.

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5
6

OFFERED BY:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be "J. G. ...", is written over a horizontal line.