
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, or excessive artificial lighting at night that
16 disrupts natural darkness, and may never experience the visual
17 wonder or ecological and health benefits of living under a dark
18 sky; and

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20 WHEREAS, every resident has the right to enjoy dark skies
21 and an unpolluted view of the stars; 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

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1 WHEREAS, tourism is a significant industry in Hawaii, and
2 tourists often 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, and James Clerk Maxwell Telescope;
10 and
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12 WHEREAS, visitors' interest in the State's telescopes and
13 dark sky experience demonstrates 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 a globally recognized
21 organization on light pollution and has established
22 International Dark Sky Week to raise awareness about light
23 pollution; and
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25 WHEREAS, International Dark Sky Week aims to provide free
26 education, resources, and solutions to the public to promote the
27 protection and enjoyment of dark skies and encourage responsible
28 outdoor lighting; now, therefore,
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30 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Thirty-third
31 Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2025, the
32 House of Representatives concurring, that April 21 through
33 April 28, 2025, is recognized as International Dark Sky Week in
34 Hawaii; and
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36 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that each Hawaii resident is asked
37 to join the Legislature in raising awareness and support for
38 protecting Hawaii's precious dark sky resources; and
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40 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the University of Hawaii is
41 requested to convene a task force to study light pollution and



1 dark skies to ensure the preservation of dark skies throughout
2 the State; and

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4 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
5 include the following individuals:

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

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

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36 (1) A representative of the United States Fish and
37 Wildlife Service;
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39 (2) A representative of the National Oceanic and
40 Atmospheric Administration;
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42 (3) A representative of the United States Military;



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- 2 (4) A representative of the Federal Aviation
- 3 Administration;
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- 5 (5) A representative of the United States Coast Guard;
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- 7 (6) A representative of the Federal Highways
- 8 Administration;
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- 10 (7) A member of the Hawaiian Astronomical Society; and
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- 12 (8) A representative from the DesignLight Consortium; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in developing dark night skies
15 protection strategies and recommendations, the task force is
16 requested to consider and evaluate issues that include:

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- 18 (1) Reduction of light pollution throughout the State;
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- 20 (2) Conservation of energy;
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- 22 (3) The impact that dark skies and light pollution has on
- 23 cultural, scientific, astronomical, environmental, and
- 24 economic values;
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- 26 (4) Preservation of federally and state protected species
- 27 that may be affected by artificial light;
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- 29 (5) Impacts of light pollution on astronomical
- 30 observations;
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- 32 (6) Educational uses of the dark night sky by primary,
- 33 secondary, and higher education students;
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- 35 (7) Establishment of dark night sky parks, which are
- 36 designated locations where residents and visitors can
- 37 view the night sky and Milky Way with minimal
- 38 interference from artificial light;
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- 40 (8) Statewide monitoring of light pollution levels and
- 41 long-term trends in light pollution;
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- 1 (9) Public safety issues related to the reduction in
2 artificial light, as well as over-lighting that
3 produces glare and light trespass; and
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- 5 (10) Additional considerations the task force believes will
6 help protect dark night skies in the State; and
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8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the task force is requested to
9 submit an interim report of its progress to the Legislature no
10 later than December 1, 2025, and a final report of its findings
11 and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the
12 Legislature no later than December 1, 2026; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
15 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Governor; Lieutenant
16 Governor; Chairperson of the Board of Land and Natural
17 Resources; Director of Business, Economic Development, and
18 Tourism; Director of Transportation; President of the University
19 of Hawaii; Director of the Institute for Astronomy; Chief
20 Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs; and Mayor
21 of each county.

