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# 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  
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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, is requested to be recognized as International  
33 Dark Sky 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

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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:

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- 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;  
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- 8 (2) The Director of the Department of Business, Economic  
9 Development, and Tourism, or the Director's designee;  
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- 11 (3) The Director of Transportation, or the Director's  
12 designee;  
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- 14 (4) The President of the University of Hawaii, or the  
15 President's designee;  
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- 17 (5) The Director of the Institute for Astronomy, or the  
18 Director's designee;  
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- 20 (6) The Chief Executive Officer of the Office of Hawaiian  
21 Affairs, or the Chief Executive Officer's designee;  
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- 23 (7) The mayor of each county, or each mayor's designee;  
24 and  
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- 26 (8) A representative from the University of Hawaii at  
27 Hilo; and  
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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:

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



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(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  
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5           (10) Any additional considerations the task force believes  
6           will 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 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  
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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.

