



UNIVERSITY  
of HAWAII®

Ke Kulanui o Hawai'i

Wendy F. Hensel  
President

## DEPT. COMM. NO. 85

December 9, 2025

The Honorable Ronald D. Kouchi,  
President and Members of the Senate  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

The Honorable Nadine K. Nakamura, Speaker  
and Members of the House of Representatives  
Thirty-Third State Legislature  
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear President Kouchi, Speaker Nakamura, and Members of the Legislature:

For your information and consideration, the University of Hawai'i is transmitting a copy of the Interim Report on the Task Force to Study Light Pollution and Dark Skies to Ensure the Preservation of Dark Skies Throughout the State (Senate Concurrent Resolution 12 SD1 HD1, 2025) as requested by the Legislature.

In accordance with Section 93-16, Hawai'i Revised Statutes, this report may be viewed electronically at:

[https://www.hawaii.edu/govrel/docs/reports/2026/scr12sd1hd1\(2025\)\\_2026\\_dark-skies\\_report\\_508.pdf](https://www.hawaii.edu/govrel/docs/reports/2026/scr12sd1hd1(2025)_2026_dark-skies_report_508.pdf).

Should you have any questions about this report, please do not hesitate to contact Stephanie Kim at (808) 956-4250, or via e-mail at [scskim@hawaii.edu](mailto:scskim@hawaii.edu).

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'Wendy Hensel'.

Wendy F. Hensel  
President

Enclosure

# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAI‘I SYSTEM REPORT



## REPORT TO THE 2026 LEGISLATURE

Interim Report on the Task Force to Study Light Pollution and Dark Skies  
to Ensure the Preservation of Dark Skies Throughout the State

SCR 12 SD1 HD1 (2025)

December 2025

**Interim Report on the Task Force to Study Light Pollution and Dark Skies  
to Ensure the Preservation of Dark Skies Throughout the State  
Pursuant to SCR 12 SD1 HD1 (2025)**

SCR 12 SD1 HD1 (2025), requested the University of Hawai'i to convene a task force to study light pollution and dark skies to ensure the preservation of dark skies throughout the state. The President of the University of Hawai'i, or the President's designee, was requested to serve as chair of the task force.

The task force is requested to submit an interim report of its progress to the Legislature no later than December 1, 2025, and a final report of its findings and recommendations, including any proposed legislation, to the Legislature no later than December 1, 2026.

The University of Hawai'i notes that Act 185, SLH 2017, which established a Dark Skies Protection Advisory Committee to assist the University of Hawai'i in developing a statewide dark night skies protection strategy, remains in effect until its dissolution on June 30, 2027, per Act 185. The advisory committee is placed within and chaired by the University of Hawai'i for administrative purposes. Reports to the legislature under Act 185 were requested through 2021.

There is considerable overlap between Act 185, SLH 2017, and SCR 12 SD1 HD1 (2025), on the purpose, membership and suggested interested party advisors.

The University of Hawai'i has met over the past two years with technical experts to review light pollution impacts on cultural, scientific, astronomical, environmental, and economic values, and has studied national guidance on public health and safety considerations including circadian rhythm disruption, health issues, road and highway safety, and crime and lighting. It has reviewed domestic and international case studies on dark sky initiatives. It has reviewed technical light engineering, impact, and feasibility guidance on color temperature limits, PC, DE and Filtered Amber LEDs, adaptive lighting systems, light trespass limits, directional light fixtures, lighting levels (lumens), and energy efficiency.

A draft report of the technical experts has been prepared for consideration by the Hawai'i Dark Skies Protection Advisory Committee, including a Hawai'i light pollution assessment by island, an impact assessment, a review of the legal framework in Hawai'i on artificial light at night, lighting solutions, and recommendations. A draft state statute has been prepared for review.

The University of Hawai'i intends to hold a public meeting of the Hawai'i Dark Skies Protection Advisory Committee in December 2025 to consider the draft report. To the extent feasible, the provisions of the SCR 12 SD1 HD1 (2025) task force resolution will be folded into this meeting, and invitations will be extended to those parties requested to be members, advisors or invitees.