

JAN 21 2026

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LIGHT POLLUTION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

1 SECTION 1. Section 201-8.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
2 amended to read as follows:

3 "~~[§]201-8.5[§]~~ **Night sky protection strategy.** (a)
4 Beginning July 1, 2014, all state agencies shall comply with
5 shielded outdoor lighting fixture requirements under this
6 section~~[, whereby]~~, except as specified otherwise ~~[in~~
7 ~~subsections (e) through (f),]~~. Beginning July 1, 2026, every
8 new replacement outdoor ~~[lamp light]~~ lighting fixture
9 ~~[emitting more than three thousand lumens]~~ installed in the
10 State shall be required to be fully shielded and to have a
11 correlated color temperature of four thousand Kelvin or less;
12 provided that the impact of artificial light on shoreline and
13 ocean waters shall be subject to compliance with section
14 205A-71. ~~[A lighting fixture is considered to be fully shielded~~
15 ~~when the lighting fixture is shielded in such a manner that all~~
16 ~~light rays emitted by the fixture, either directly from the~~
17 ~~lamp, or indirectly from the fixture, are projected below a~~



~~horizontal plane running through the lowest point of the
fixture.]~~

(b) No new mercury vapor lamps shall be sold or installed
after July 1, 2014.

(c) ~~[As applicable, retrofit work or replacement of
existing lighting fixtures shall:~~

~~(1) Limit the rated correlated color temperature of
emitted light (lamp, fixture, and filter if used) to
less than or equal to four thousand Kelvin, except in
the case of outdoor athletic facilities as described
in subsection (d);~~

~~(2) Not be subject to the shielding requirement for lamp
by lamp replacement work; and~~

~~(3) Require one hundred per cent fully shielded lighting
fixtures be installed if more than fifty per cent of
existing nonconforming lighting fixtures need to be
replaced.]~~

All outdoor lighting fixtures planned or approved by any county
or existing and legally installed before July 1, 2026, shall be
exempt from the installation and shielding requirements of this
section; provided that, when existing outdoor lighting fixtures



1 become inoperable, the outdoor lighting fixtures that replace
2 them shall comply with the requirements of this section, unless
3 otherwise exempted by this section.

4 (d) For outdoor athletic facilities, fully shielded
5 outdoor lighting fixtures with correlated color temperatures
6 less than or equal to four thousand Kelvin are preferred, but
7 not required. Where fully shielded outdoor lighting fixtures
8 are not used, acceptable luminaries shall include light fixtures
9 that are:

10 (1) Equipped with internal, external, or internal and
11 external glare control louvers and are installed so as
12 to limit direct up-light to less than five per cent of
13 the total lumens exiting from the installed fixtures
14 and minimize offsite light trespass; and

15 (2) Installed and maintained with minimum aiming angles of
16 twenty-five degrees downward from the horizontal;
17 provided that the aiming angle shall be measured from
18 the axis of the luminaire maximum beam candlepower, as
19 certified by an independent testing agency.

20 (e) Fully shielded replacement outdoor lighting fixtures
21 for state managed roadways and highways shall be installed on a



1 case-by-case basis, subject to the availability of capital
2 improvement project funding and compliance with applicable
3 federal, state, or county design standards or guidelines. Where
4 fully shielded outdoor lighting fixtures are not used,
5 acceptable luminaires shall be partially shielded lights that
6 emit no more than five per cent of their light above the
7 horizontal plane, as certified by an independent testing agency.

8 (f) The use of existing nonconforming outdoor lighting
9 fixtures shall be allowed, subject to compliance with subsection

10 (c) [~~43~~], for:

11 (1) Lighting fixtures that are extinguished between the
12 hours of 11:00 p.m. and sunrise by an automatic
13 shutoff device; or

14 (2) Outdoor amphitheaters, ballparks, playfields, play
15 courts, or other similar recreational facilities,
16 whether public or private, that are used for
17 international, national, state, or county tournaments;
18 or as needed to conclude any recreational event,
19 sporting event, or other related clean up activity
20 that is in progress prior to 11:00 p.m. at the



1 amphitheater, ballpark, playfield, play court, or
2 similar recreational facility.

3 (g) The following light sources shall be exempt from this
4 section:

5 (1) Lighting sources emitting three thousand lumens or
6 less, which is comparable to a lighting fixture with
7 an incandescent lamp rated at one hundred fifty watts
8 or less, and temporary ornamental holiday lights;

9 (2) Emergency lighting used by military, national guard,
10 police, firefighters, correctional, medical, or
11 hazardous material mitigation personnel, or other
12 emergency responders for the duration of the
13 emergency;

14 (3) Temporary outdoor lighting used for construction or
15 major renovation of buildings or for highway
16 improvements or construction;

17 (4) Temporary outdoor lighting used for film production
18 and other permitted activities such as carnivals and
19 concerts;

20 (5) Temporary outdoor lighting used for agricultural
21 operations;



- (6) Navigational lights that are required for waterway,
open ocean, and aircraft safety;
- (7) Existing outdoor lighting fixtures that were legally
installed prior to July 1, 2014, subject to compliance
with subsection (c) ~~(+3)~~;
- (8) Outdoor lighting fixtures that are necessary for
compliance with applicable federal, state, or county
design standards or guidelines that are related to
health and safety for the general public;
- (9) Upwards facing lighting fixtures used to illuminate
buildings, monuments, statues, memorial structures,
national or state flags, and other selected facilities
or features that were legally installed prior to
July 1, 2014, or that will result in the generation of
three thousand lumens or less, as certified by an
independent testing agency; ~~and~~
- (10) Refurbishment, repair, or replacement-in-kind of
lighting fixtures that are character-defining features
of a historic property, as determined by the
department of land and natural resources historic
preservation division~~(-)~~; and



1 (11) Private residential incandescent light fixtures that
2 are fully shielded or have a lumen output of less than
3 eight thousand one hundred lumens for each acre of
4 property that is intended to be illuminated.

5 (h) This section shall be considered to be supplemental to
6 any adopted county lighting ordinances and shall not be
7 construed to supersede or modify county lighting ordinances or
8 rules; provided that the county ordinance is not less
9 restrictive than this section~~[, and provided further that this~~
10 ~~section shall not apply to counties with populations of less~~
11 ~~than one hundred thousand persons]~~.

12 (i) As used in this section:

13 "Fully shielded" means that the outdoor lighting fixture is
14 constructed so that all of the light emitted by the fixture is
15 projected below the horizontal plane of the lowest point of the
16 fixture.

17 "Outdoor lighting fixture" means any outdoor artificial
18 lighting device, fixture, lamp, or other similar device,
19 permanently installed or portable, which is intended to provide
20 illumination for either visibility or decorative effects.



1 Outdoor lighting fixtures include but are not limited to search,
 2 spot, and flood lighting used for:

- 3 (1) Buildings and structures;
- 4 (2) Recreational facilities;
- 5 (3) Parking lots;
- 6 (4) Landscape lighting;
- 7 (5) Business and advertising signs;
- 8 (6) Roadways; and
- 9 (7) Walkways."

10 SECTION 2. There is appropriated out of the general
 11 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so
 12 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2026-2027 to
 13 enforce and replace or retrofit outdoor lighting fixtures in
 14 accordance with section 201-8.5, Hawaii Revised Statutes. The
 15 moneys shall be allocated as follows:

- 16 (1) \$ to the county of Hawaii;
- 17 (2) \$ to the city and county of Honolulu;
- 18 (3) \$ to the county of Kauai; and
- 19 (4) \$ to the county of Maui.

20 The sum appropriated shall be expended by each county for
 21 the purposes of this Act.



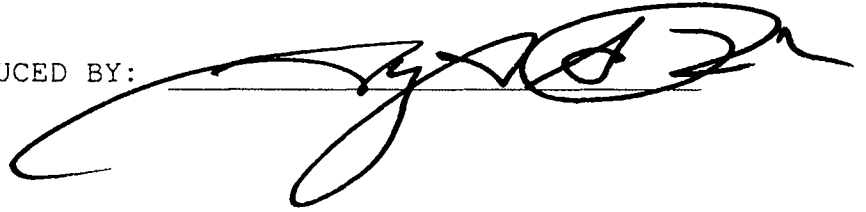
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1 SECTION 3. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
2 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

3 SECTION 4. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2026.

4

INTRODUCED BY:

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S.B. NO. 2278

Report Title:

Counties; Outdoor Lighting; Light Pollution Protection Strategy;
Appropriation

Description:

Requires all outdoor light fixtures to be fully shielded.
Creates exemptions for certain outdoor lighting. Repeals the
Night Sky Protection Strategy. Appropriates funds.

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