

JAN 21 2026

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# 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 **"[f]S201-8.5[ ] 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 and 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~~



1 horizontal plane running through the lowest point of the  
2 fixture.]

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

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

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

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

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

18 All outdoor lighting fixtures planned or approved by any county  
19 or existing and legally installed before July 1, 2026, shall be  
20 exempt from the installation and shielding requirements of this  
21 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) [+3+], 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) [+] ;
- (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:

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

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: 



# 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.

*The summary description of legislation appearing on this page is for informational purposes only and is not legislation or evidence of legislative intent.*

