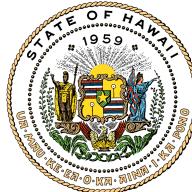


JOSH GREEN, M.D.
GOVERNOR | KE KIA'ĀINA

SYLVIA LUKE
LIEUTENANT GOVERNOR | KA HOPE KIA'ĀINA



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
KA 'OIHANA KUMUWAIWAI 'ĀINA
P.O. BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

DAWN N.S. CHANG
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
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FIRST DEPUTY

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DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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KAHOOLawe ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARK

**Testimony of
RYAN K.P. KANAKA'OLE
Acting Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

**Tuesday, February 3, 2026
9:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 411**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1579
RELATING TO LIGHT POLLUTION**

House Bill 1579 establishes outdoor light fixture requirements throughout the state, beginning July 1, 2027. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) offers comments on this measure and provides the following remarks.**

The Department recognizes the importance of dark skies for both the people and wildlife of Hawai'i. Artificial light pollution affects wildlife, including seabirds and turtles, and disrupts astronomy, stargazing, and cultural practices.

Regarding page 8, lines 18-19, regarding the exclusion for counties of less than 100,000 people, the Department recommends removing this section from the bill. Notably, the County of Kaua'i supports about 90 percent of the remaining 'A'o (Newell's shearwater) population, a species listed as threatened under both state and federal law. This species is highly vulnerable to collisions with structures due to disorientation caused by artificial lighting. Implementing these requirements statewide would offer more comprehensive protection for sensitive species and ensure fair benefits for all residents and ecosystems across Hawai'i.

Regarding page 6, line 6, the Department recommends replacing "Eero Uplight" with "Zero Uplight."

Regarding page 6, line 15, the Department recommends replacing the maximum glare rating of "B1" with "G1."

Regarding page 7, line 17, the Department recommends replacing the glare rating of "B0" with "G0."

The Department strongly supports efforts to reduce light pollution and protect dark skies throughout the State as outlined in this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
KA 'OIHANA HO'ONA'AUAO
P.O. BOX 2360
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96804

Date: 02/03/2026
Time: 09:00 AM
Location: 411 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE
Committee: WAL

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB1579, RELATING TO LIGHT POLLUTION.

Purpose of Bill: Beginning 7/1/2027, establishes outdoor light fixture requirements throughout the State.

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB 1579 with comments.

The Department fully supports the intent of HB 1579 to protect Hawaii's natural habitat, which includes seabirds, sea turtles, pollinators, bats, and coral reefs, and to respect and maintain native Hawaiian cultural practices and traditions. As stewards of 258 public school campuses facilities across the state, many of which are located near the state's most pristine coastline or in hilly terrain, the Department recognizes that its outdoor lighting can inadvertently cause unintended impacts on native wildlife and the environment.

The Department offers the following comments to ensure that the transition to safer lighting is sustainable, safer for our students, and financially responsible, while still supporting the intent of this bill:

The Department supports the requirement for downward-facing, shielded fixtures and the use of warm-colored LED lights. While reducing light pollution is crucial, school campuses must remain safe and secure for evening educational activities, and custodial services. The Department would support the use of motion sensors, which allow lights to remain off or dimmed during late-night hours, but provide directional, full illumination when necessary for safety.

The Department requests that the implementation timeline for its compliance with this bill be tied to appropriate funding for design and/or installation, to allow for the replacement of fixtures upon natural breakage, and for or during scheduled infrastructure upgrades. To avoid impacting existing school needs, please consider

appropriations that do not impact existing Department requests to avoid significant unfunded budgetary impacts on public school operations.

The Department requests an exemption for specific emergency or security lighting on its campuses to protect school property, similar to those outlined in the bill for airports, highways, and harbors as school campuses are many times used as civil defense shelters in times of natural disasters and emergencies.

The Department is committed to acting as a responsible environmental partner to protect Hawaii's unique biodiversity. With reasonable timeframes and resources to convert existing infrastructure, the Department believes this bill can protect Hawaii's natural habitat while maintaining safe, well-lit environments for our students and staff.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony in support of HB 1579 with comments.



‘ÖNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAI‘I

Legislative Testimony Hō‘ike Mana‘o I Mua O Ka ‘Aha‘olelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Water & Land
Tuesday, February 3, 2026 at 9:00 a.m.

By
Doug Simons
Director
Institute for Astronomy
and
Vassilis L. Syrmos, PhD
Interim Provost
University of Hawai‘i at Mānoa

HB1579 – RELATING TO LIGHT POLLUTION.

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai‘i (UH) **strongly supports HB1579**, which establishes statewide outdoor lighting requirements to protect Hawai‘i’s dark night skies, safeguard native wildlife, reduce energy waste, and preserve the cultural and scientific value of natural darkness across the islands.

Hawai‘i’s night sky is a globally unique resource. It is essential to astronomy and other scientific research, native wildlife, Native Hawaiian cultural practices, public health, and education. The University’s Dark Skies Protection Advisory Committee—established under Act 185 (2017)—has studied these issues in depth and HB1579 implements the committee’s recommendations including CCT limits, uplight limits, shielding, dimming, turtle-safe lighting, and alignment with the DLC-LUNA Qualified Products List. This product list also emphasizes energy efficiency and energy savings.

The University of Hawai‘i Institute for Astronomy (IfA) conducts research in astronomy using telescopes located on Haleakalā, Maunakea and Mauna Loa that are operated by IfA and partner institutions. These sites are among the best in the world for astronomical research because of their elevation, clear skies, favorable atmospheric conditions, and low levels of light pollution. Hawai‘i-based observatories have played major roles in the advancement of astronomy and astrophysics for over 50 years and are well positioned to remain at the forefront of astronomical research for decades to come.

In summary HB1579 strengthens Hawai‘i’s leadership in science, conservation, and cultural stewardship, protects UH astronomical research, supports wildlife researchers, enhances education, promotes sustainable tourism, and reduces energy consumption. HB1579 represents a balanced, science-based, and culturally grounded approach to protecting one of Hawai‘i’s most irreplaceable resources. The University of Hawai‘i urges the Legislature to pass this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

COMMITTEE ON WATER & LAND, Tuesday, February 3, 2026

HB 1579 - RELATING TO LIGHT POLLUTION

Aloha e Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and members of the committee, I am Jay Penniman, I live in Ulumalu, Hamakualoa, on the north shore of Maui. I have worked with the Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project for the past twenty years and I ask that you support and forward HB 1579 along in the process for enactment in to law. Light pollution is increasingly destroying the dark night skies that we all need for many reasons. All life evolved with circadian rhythms of dark nights and sun lit days. Our artificial light at night has compromised those cycles and ongoing research continues to document how detrimental it is for all species to include so much light when our bodies and minds need regular periods of darkness. As a seabird biologist, I have first-hand knowledge of the detrimental impacts of artificial light at night. Na manu o ke kai (seabirds), use the light of the moon and the stars to navigate at night. The photons of short wavelength light (blue end of the spectrum) cause a cascade of impacts through their eyes to their brains resulting in their ability to navigate using the magnetic field of our planet. This ability is not fully formed in young birds leaving their burrow nests for the first time and they get distracted by our lights, circle them and become exhausted, dropping to the ground where they are subject to collisions with cars, predation by cats or mongoose or just find a hiding spot where they may not have the where with all to reorient and head out to sea. This phenomenon is known as “fallout” and it happens where ever seabirds encounter our lights, Kaua'i, Oahu, and Maui have serious fallout that we have been working for years to minimize. I ask that you add to the bill the language I have inserted in red below as the same light requirements that minimize turtle distraction, will also help seabirds be less distracted.

"S201- Statewide dark night skies protection strategy; establishment of outdoor light fixture requirements throughout the State.

(g) Outdoor light fixtures affecting turtle nesting habitats and coastal areas where seabirds fly over the water near to shore shall be exempt from subsections (c), (d), and (e); provided that outdoor light fixtures affecting turtle nesting habitats and coastal areas where seabirds fly over the water near to shore shall comply with section 205A-71 and this section when:

(h) Pole-mounted outdoor light fixtures shall have a maximum light output of 10,000 lumens. All pole-mounted outdoor light fixtures shall face away from the shoreline

and have a house side shield to ensure that the light source is:

(1) Not visible from sea turtle nests or the waterline and not visible to seabirds flying above the sea; and

Mahalo for your service in government and on this committee! If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me.

Jay F. Penniman

808-280-4114

forestjay@gmail.com



Testimony to the Committee on Water & Land on
House Bill 1579
Relating to Light Pollution
Tuesday, February 3, 2026, 9:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee on Water & Land,

The undersigned leaders of the Maunakea Observatories appreciate the opportunity to share our **strong support** of House Bill 1579 to protect Hawai'i's dark night skies.

As noted in Section 1 of the measure, dark night skies are among the factors that make Maunakea the best place in the world from which to study the universe and humanity's place in it. It is equally important to manage light pollution to minimize human impact on native wildlife and protect Hawai'i's cultural practices and traditions tied to the night sky. The specific regulations proposed in this measure achieve those aims.

Light pollution is a recognized issue in areas of the globe where significant astronomical research takes place, and many of those areas have regulations to protect those regions as windows through which we can study the universe. We would like to recognize the County of Hawai'i for being a leader in regulation of light pollution since the 1980s, with many of the principles of this measure included in the Hawai'i County Code.

This measure provides updated guidance with the evolution of new lighting technology (such as ultra-white LEDs) and standardizes light pollution control measures across multiple counties. This measure will establish Hawai'i as a global leader in protecting dark night skies.

We would also like to recognize the advocates and experts who contributed their time and energy to dark sky efforts over the years, as well as the introducers of this measure.

Mahalo.

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Jean-Gabriel Cuby, Director
Canada-France-Hawai'i Telescope

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Rich Matsuda, Director
W. M. Keck Observatory

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Doug Simons, Director
UH Institute for Astronomy

A handwritten signature in black ink.

Watson P. Varricattu, Head of Science Operations
UKIRT Observatory



To: The Honorable Representative Mark Hashem, Chair, the Honorable Dee Morikawa, Vice Chair, and Members of the Water and Land Committee.

From: Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)

Re: Hearing HB1579 RELATING TO Light Pollution

Hearing: Tuesday February 3, 2026 9:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Water and Land Committee!

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (HIROC) is a group of scientists, educators, filmmakers and environmental advocates who have been working since 2017 to protect Hawaii's coral reefs and ocean.

The Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition **SUPPORTS HB1579!**

Outdoor light pollution endangers wildlife and deprives us of dark skies. The problem has been studied over many years. It is time to implement the solutions.

Please pass this bill!

Mahalo!

Hawai'i Reef and Ocean Coalition (by Ted Bohlen)



February 2 2026

To: Committee on Water and Land

Re: HB 1579 Support

Aloha Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa and committee members,

I am submitting this letter of support for HB 1579 on behalf of Hawai'i Wildlife Fund, a 501(c)3 nonprooift organization based on Maui and Hawai'i Islands, dedicated to the conservation of Hawai'i's native wildlife. We are grateful for this effort to further protect sea turtles from light pollution.

As a 30 year-old marine conservation organization, we have worked for more than 20 of those years to endeavor to protect our night sky from light pollution and all wildlife from the deleterious effects of artificial light. Our artificial light at night has compromised the circadian rhythms of day and night cycles on all life forms, and ongoing research continues to document how detrimental so much light is for wildlife, having evolved and adapted to regular periods of darkness. As a marine biologist, I have first-hand knowledge of the detrimental impacts of artificial light at night especially on sea turtles, having witnessed firsthand the misorientation of nesting females and even deaths of hatchlings due to artificial light. Over the course of millions of years, these ancient creatures have adapted to finding nesting habitat and returning to the ocean under cover of darkness, using the reflection of starlight and moonlight on the ocean.

Seabirds also use the light of the moon and the stars to navigate at night. The photons of short wavelength light (blue end of the spectrum) cause a cascade of impacts through their eyes to their brains resulting in their ability to navigate using the magnetic field of our planet. This ability is not fully formed in young birds leaving their burrow nests for the first time and they get distracted by our lights, circle them and become exhausted, dropping to the ground where they are subject to collisions with cars, predation by cats or mongoose or just find a hiding spot where they may not have the where with all to reorient and head out to sea. This phenomenon is known as "fallout" and it happens wherever seabirds encounter our lights, Kaua'i, Oahu, and Maui have serious fallout that we and our seabird biologist colleagues have been working for years to minimize.

I ask that you add to the bill the language I have inserted in red below as the same light requirements that minimize turtle distraction, will also help seabirds be less distracted.

"§201- Statewide dark night skies protection strategy; establishment of outdoor light fixture requirements throughout the State.

(g) Outdoor light fixtures affecting turtle nesting habitats and coastal areas where seabirds fly over the water near to shore shall be exempt from subsections (c), (d), and (e); provided that outdoor light fixtures affecting turtle nesting habitats and coastal areas where seabirds fly over the water near to shore shall comply with section 205A-71 and this section when:

(h) Pole-mounted outdoor light fixtures shall have a maximum light output of 10,000 lumens. All pole-mounted outdoor light fixtures shall face away from the shoreline and have a house side shield to ensure that the light source is:

- (1) Not visible from sea turtle nests or the waterline and not visible to seabirds flying above the sea; and

Mahalo for your work to better protect our environment, and on this committee! If you have any further questions please feel free to contact me.



Hannah Bernard
Executive Director
Hawai'i Wildlife Fund

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

Testimony of Matson Navigation Company, Inc.
Comments on HB1579
Before the Committee on Water and Land
February 3, 2026

Dear Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and Members of the Committee:

Matson Navigation Company, Inc. (Matson) appreciates the opportunity to provide comments on HB1579, which establishes outdoor light fixture requirements throughout the State, and including at our commercial harbors.

As an island state, Hawaii is very dependent upon our commercial harbors to ensure the continued and unimpeded flow of cargo in and out of our State. It is estimated that over 90 percent Hawaii's imported goods pass through our commercial harbors, including consumer goods, motor vehicles, construction materials, and fuel. Given the critical role of our commercial harbors, it is imperative that the State support safe, dependable, and efficient cargo transportation and handling to serve our residents and businesses.

Matson's operations run twenty-four hours a day, seven days a week to ensure that goods are available to the public as quickly as possible. We are also expanding and upgrading our Sand Island Container Terminal, including installing and replacing existing light fixtures. Matson is committed to providing a safe environment for both employees and the public. While we appreciate the measure's intent, we believe that it should be amended to exclude commercial harbors from the light fixture requirements to provide the flexibility to ensure that our operations may continue uninterrupted and in the safest manner possible.

Thank you for considering our comments.

HB-1579

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 11:27:49 AM
Testimony for WAL on 2/3/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Michelle Hester	Oikonos-Ecosystem Knowledge	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Oikonos Ecosystem Knowledge, a non-profit conservation science organization in Hawai‘i, approves of HB1579 to create outdoor lighting guidance to protect Hawai‘i's turtles, seabirds, and reduce our urban impact while maintaining human safety standards and energy efficiency.

Michelle Hester

Co-Executive Director

Kailua, HI

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.



**HAWAII STATE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND**
Conference Room 411
State Capitol
9:00 AM

February 3, 2026

Subject: HB 1579 - RELATING TO LIGHT POLLUTION

Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and members of the Committee:

My name is Roseann Freitas, CEO of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii). Chartered in 1955, the Building Industry Association of Hawaii is a professional trade organization affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders, representing the building industry and its associates. BIA-Hawaii takes a leadership role in unifying and promoting the interests of the industry to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii. Our members build the communities we all call home.

BIA-Hawaii offers the following testimony in opposition to HB 1579, Relating to Light Pollution. This bill establishes outdoor light fixture requirements throughout the State.

We understand that the intent of this bill may be to protect the natural resources and wildlife, and the building industry supports reasonable, clearly defined standards that reduce unnecessary light pollution while still allowing homes, businesses, and public facilities to be safely constructed and occupied. However, as currently written, HB 1579 is overly broad and creates significant uncertainty for property owners, builders, designers, and permitting agencies. The bill does not provide a sufficiently narrow or technical definition of "outdoor lighting." Without clear limitations, the term could be interpreted to include ordinary residential fixtures such as porch lights, entryway lighting, garage lights, and security/safety lighting.

We appreciate the opportunity to provide our comments on this matter.

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Programs Director

Keeping Hawai'i clean,
green and beautiful
since 1912



February 2, 2026

RE: TESTIMONY IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB1579--Relating to Light Pollution

Dear Chair, Vice Chair, and Members of the Committee:

My name is **Winston Welch**, and I submit testimony on behalf of **The Outdoor Circle** in strong support of **HB1579**, Relating to Light Pollution.

The Outdoor Circle's adopted public policies support efforts and legislation to protect and enhance the natural environment and quality of life for Hawai'i residents — including **minimizing the spread of nighttime lighting from adjacent buildings** and other sources.

Poorly designed outdoor lighting — unshielded fixtures, excessive brightness, and uncontrolled light spill — produces glare, wastes energy, disrupts sensitive wildlife behavior, and degrades the nighttime environment without improving safety. The problems and solutions here are well documented: directing light only where it is needed, shielding fixtures, and limiting unnecessary illumination are standard practices used elsewhere to improve outcomes.

HB1579 reflects these recognized practices. It establishes clear, performance-based lighting standards that reduce glare and light spill statewide, while allowing reasonable exemptions for emergency and limited-use fixtures. This approach improves predictability for property owners and public agencies while addressing the real harms associated with light pollution.

While light pollution is an issue in many places, **its effects are especially significant in Hawai'i**. Our islands' unique ecosystems — including native seabirds, sea turtles, and other wildlife — rely on natural darkness for navigation and reproductive behavior. Uncontrolled artificial lighting interferes with these fundamental processes.

In addition, lighting that spills into neighborhoods and public spaces affects quality of life. As part of TOC's policy positions, we support measures that enhance livability by minimizing adverse visual and environmental impacts, including from excessive nighttime lighting.

HB1579 advances uniform statewide standards, avoids a patchwork of inconsistent local rules, and aligns Hawai'i with contemporary lighting practices that deliver real, measurable benefits without unnecessary burdens.

For these reasons — consistent with The Outdoor Circle's mission to keep Hawai'i clean, green, and beautiful while enhancing environmental quality and livability — **we strongly support HB1579.**

Thank you for your service and for your consideration of my testimony.

Respectfully,



Winston Welch

Executive Director
The Outdoor Circle

HB-1579

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 11:55:52 AM
Testimony for WAL on 2/3/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Jennifer Urmston	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB1579

Relating to Light Pollution

Aloha,

My name is Jennifer Urmston, and I respectfully submit this testimony **in strong support of HB1579**. I am a seabird researcher who has studied the impacts of artificial lighting on native seabirds in Hawai‘i, including long-term research on **wedge-tailed shearwater** (‘ua‘u kani) **fallout events on O‘ahu**.

Through my field research, I have documented how artificial nighttime lighting disrupts the natural orientation and movement of seabirds, particularly during the fledging season. Young wedge-tailed shearwaters rely on natural celestial cues to navigate from their burrows to the ocean at night. Bright, unshielded, or improperly directed lights interfere with this process, causing birds to become disoriented and grounded in developed areas.

On O‘ahu, fallout events regularly result in fledglings landing in streets, parking lots, athletic fields, and residential neighborhoods. Once grounded, these birds are highly vulnerable to vehicle strikes, predation, dehydration, and exhaustion. While community rescue efforts help save some individuals, many birds are injured or perish before they can be recovered. From a scientific and conservation standpoint, these losses are both significant and largely preventable.

HB1579 addresses one of the primary drivers of seabird fallout by promoting responsible outdoor lighting practices that reduce glare, light trespass, and unnecessary nighttime illumination. Research has shown that measures such as shielding lights, directing illumination downward, and limiting brightness and operating hours can significantly reduce seabird disorientation without compromising human safety or security.

As a researcher, I value that HB1579 reflects well-established ecological science and aligns with proven mitigation strategies used in seabird conservation both in Hawai‘i and globally. As someone who has personally handled grounded wedge-tailed shearwaters during fallout events, I also recognize the real-world consequences of inaction. Each grounded bird represents not just an individual loss, but a setback for species already facing numerous threats at sea and on land.

Passing HB1579 would be a meaningful step toward reducing human-caused seabird mortality, protecting Hawai‘i’s native wildlife, and demonstrating the State’s commitment to science-based environmental stewardship. I respectfully urge the Committee to **pass HB1579** and help ensure that Hawai‘i’s nighttime environment no longer poses an unnecessary risk to wedge-tailed shearwaters and other native seabirds.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify and for your consideration.

Respectfully,
Jennifer Urmston

LATE *Testimony submitted late may not be considered by the Committee for decision making purposes.

Aloha e Chair Hashem, Vice Chair Morikawa, and members of the committee,

I live in Kihei on the south side of Maui and I have volunteered with the Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project for many years. I strongly support HB 1579 and ask you to vote YES on this bill. Seabirds use the light of the moon and the stars to navigate at night. The photons of short wavelength light (blue light) enables them to navigate using the magnetic field of our planet. This ability is not fully formed in young seabird birds leaving their burrow nests for the first time and they get distracted by our lights, circle them and become exhausted, dropping to the ground (called fallout) where they are subject to injury and predation. Kaua'i, Oahu and Maui have serious fallout that the Maui Nui Seabird Recovery Project has been working for years to minimize. I ask that you add to the bill the language I have inserted (in red) below as the same light requirements that minimize turtle distraction, will also help seabirds be less distracted.

"§201- Statewide dark night skies protection strategy; establishment of outdoor light fixture requirements throughout the State.

(g) Outdoor light fixtures affecting turtle nesting habitats and coastal areas where seabirds fly over the water near to shore shall be exempt from subsections (c), (d), and (e); provided that outdoor light fixtures affecting turtle nesting habitats and coastal areas where seabirds fly over the water near to shore shall comply with section 205A-71 and this section when:

(h) Pole-mounted outdoor light fixtures shall have a maximum light output of 10,000 lumens. All pole-mounted outdoor light fixtures shall face away from the shoreline and have a house side shield to ensure that the light source is:

(1) Not visible from sea turtle nests or the waterline and not visible to seabirds flying above the sea; and

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Janet Mercer

HB-1579

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 9:34:08 PM
Testimony for WAL on 2/3/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Emmylou Anne Kidder	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha,

I'm a constituent from Kailua on O'ahu and I would like to express my complete support for HB1579. Dark skies are necessary to preserve Hawaii's natural beauty and protect our endangered wildlife. I believe that it is our responsibility to lower light pollution on our islands by minimizing unnecessary night-time light use. In the case of necessary night-time light use, we must refit these fixtures to mitigate the distance this light can travel. In November and December of 2025, over 1,000 'ua'u kani (wedge-tailed shearwater) fledglings were recovered on O'ahu after being attracted to artificial lights & "falling out" of the sky, setting an all-time record. The impact of excess night-time lights on island wildlife is immense and heavily contributes to Hawaii's superlative as the extinction capital of the world. With the innovation outlined in HB1579, it is possible to implement solutions that both protect dark skies and uphold community safety.

Mahalo

HB-1579

Submitted on: 2/2/2026 10:30:18 PM
Testimony for WAL on 2/3/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Alondra Reyes	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I am a constituent very concerned with the issue this bill would help address, and I am writing to express my strong support for HB1579.

I have witnessed firsthand the critical importance of protecting our native wildlife. Dark sky initiatives are essential not only for preserving Hawai'i's natural beauty but also for safeguarding our endangered species. Light pollution poses a severe threat to both marine and terrestrial wildlife, particularly sea turtle hatchlings and seabird fledglings that rely on natural light cues for survival.

The recent record of over 1,000 'ua'u kani fledglings recovered on O'ahu in late 2025 is a stark reminder of the immediate and measurable impact of artificial lighting on our island ecosystems. Sea turtle hatchlings face similar disorientation from coastal light pollution, which disrupts their instinct to follow moonlight to the ocean. These losses are preventable with proper light fixture mitigation. I believe this legislation represents a critical step toward reducing Hawai'i's devastating extinction rates while maintaining the quality of life for our communities.

Mahalo for your consideration and leadership on this important issue.

HB-1579

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 12:11:53 AM
Testimony for WAL on 2/3/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Tani-Lei N	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

The concept of this bill has my utmost support. As a citizen of Hawai‘i who enjoys both stargazing and is passionate about endangered wildlife, I believe that implementing this policy would benefit Hawai‘i in more ways than one. I am thrilled that there are people who wish to address a problem that not many are aware of. But this bill can certainly be polished before becoming part of our way of life. I am aware that implementing these regulations may receive pushback from individuals, due to the possibility of rising costs to change light fixtures to meet these standards.

I do also notice within this bill that many of these changes are slow and have many exceptions where light fixtures are exempt from key regulations. I am unable to see any clear consequences for noncompliance within the bill itself, which may dull the feeling of urgency amongst the general public to make these changes. Even with this uncertainty, I wholeheartedly believe that what has been proposed can certainly be done. With proper funding and support from the State, I believe that this will be an important step in mitigating the damage our way of life has done. I hope that if this regulation comes to pass, it leads to more bills and laws that further regulate unnecessary light pollution around the state of Hawai‘i.

HB-1579

Submitted on: 2/3/2026 7:44:52 AM
Testimony for WAL on 2/3/2026 9:00:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Kinsey Martinez	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Aloha! I am a constituent from Kailua on the island of Oahu. I am writing to express my full support for HB1579. Dark skies are integral to preserving Hawaii's natural beauty and protecting our endangered wildlife. It is our responsibility to reduce light pollution on our islands by minimizing unnecessary nighttime light use. In regard to necessary nighttime lighting, these fixtures must be refitted to limit the distance that light can travel. In November and December of 2025, over 1,000 'ua'u kani (wedge-tailed shearwater) fledglings were recovered on O'ahu after being attracted to artificial lights & "falling out" of the sky, setting a record count of recovered individuals. The impact of excess night-time lights on island wildlife is immense and greatly contributes to Hawaii's superlative as the extinction capital of the world. With the innovation outlined in HB1579, it is possible to implement solutions that both protect dark skies and protect our wildlife, as well as uphold community safety. Mahalo!