



STATE OF HAWAII | KA MOKU'ĀINA 'O HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION | KA 'OIHANA ALAKAU
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

February 18, 2026
2:00 P.M.
State Capitol, Room 325

**H.B. 1579 H.D. 1
RELATING TO LIGHT POLLUTION**

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

The Department of Transportation (DOT) supports the intent of this measure that establishes outdoor light fixture requirements throughout the State.

As an agency responsible for numerous outdoor lighting installations across the state's transportation infrastructure, including highways, airports, and ports, the DOT recognizes the impacts of necessary light pollution but must manage lighting needs for safety in transportation. Highways, airports, and ports facilities need to be always illuminated, so a lighting curfew is both impractical and unsafe. Further, the costs of retrofitting or replacing the thousands of DOT light fixtures to be compliant with these requirements are prohibitive. We estimate these retrofit and replacement costs for the Daniel K. Inouye International Airport alone will be at least \$100 million. The estimated costs to retrofit highway street lighting will cost at least \$15 million. If highway lighting does not meet the requirements of the American Association of State Highway and Transportation Officials' Roadway Lighting Design Guide DOT would be subject to litigation should crashes or fatalities occur. Finally, the provision in Section 2, paragraph (I), pertaining to DOT outdoor light fixtures creates ambiguity in interpretation and application of various lighting requirements and regulations.

In considering these points, DOT requests the committee to consider an important amendment that will exempt DOT outdoor lighting fixtures from these requirements. In Section 2, we request paragraph (I) be amended to read as follows:

(I) This section shall not apply to outdoor light fixtures installed and operated at department of transportation airports, highways, and harbors.

Without this amendment, highways will be less safe at night, airports operations will be severely and negatively impacted, and the State's supply chain and port operations will be less efficient and increase the cost of transport of goods.

Thank you for your consideration of this amendment and for the opportunity to provide testimony.



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

Date: 02/18/2026

Time: 02:00 PM

Location: 325 VIA VIDEOCONFERENCE

Committee: JHA

Department: Education

Person Testifying: Keith T. Hayashi, Superintendent of Education

Title of Bill: HB1579, HD1, RELATING TO LIGHT POLLUTION.

Purpose of Bill: Beginning 7/1/2027, establishes outdoor light fixture requirements throughout the State. Provides certain exemptions for Department of Education facilities. Effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

Department's Position:

The Hawaii State Department of Education (Department) appreciates the opportunity to offer testimony in support of HB 1579, HD 1, with comments.

The Department fully supports the intent of HB 1579, HD 1 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.

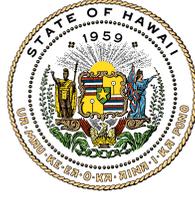
While we appreciate the committee's consideration of its request for a full exemption as provided on Page 9, Paragraph O, the Department respectfully asks that the exemption not be subject to the time constraints provided by the amendment, and instead be applied on an ongoing basis to outdoor lighting fixtures used for school and public safety, campus security, emergency response and other authorized activities as school campuses are often 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, HD 1, with comments.

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
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KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

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

**Before the House Committees on
JUDICIARY & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, February 18, 2026
2:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 1579 HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO LIGHT POLLUTION**

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

The Department recognizes the importance of dark skies for Hawaii's residents and wildlife. Artificial light pollution impacts wildlife, including seabirds and turtles, and disrupts astronomy, stargazing, and cultural traditions.

The Department recommends removing lines 17 to 18, page 8 (section (m)(2)):

~~[(2) This section shall not apply to counties with populations of less than one hundred thousand persons.]~~

This provision excludes the County of Kaua'i. 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 provide more comprehensive protection for sensitive species and ensure equitable benefits for all residents and ecosystems throughout Hawai'i.

The Department recommends lines 4 to 5, page 6, be amended as follows:

(1) Designated as Turtle Lighting, ~~[Zero Uplight]~~ Zero Uplight fixtures on the DLC-LUNA list; or

The Department recommends lines 12 to 14, page 6, be amended as follows:

(B) Has a maximum ANSI/IES Uplight Rating of U0 and a maximum glare rating of [~~B4~~] G1 per ANSI/IES TM-15-20, unless otherwise stated;

The Department recommends lines 14 to 17, page 7, be amended as follows:

(j) Bollards shall have a maximum light output of 1,000 lumens and the ANSI/IES Glare Rating of [~~B0~~] G0. All bollards that face the shoreline shall be shielded so that the light source is:

The Department strongly supports efforts to reduce light pollution and preserve dark skies across the State as described in this measure.

Mahalo for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

‘ŌNAEHANA KULANUI O HAWAII

Legislative Testimony

Hō'ike Mana'o I Mua O Ka 'Aha'ōlelo

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, February 18, 2026 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Doug Simons

Director

Institute for Astronomy

and

Vassilis L. Syrmos, PhD

Interim Provost

University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 1579 HD1 – RELATING TO LIGHT POLLUTION

Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

The University of Hawai'i (UH) **strongly supports HB 1579 HD1**, 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 HB 1579 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 HB 1579 HD1 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. HB 1579 HD1 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.

A copy of Dark Skies Protection Advisory Report can be found at:

<https://research.hawaii.edu/uiconservation/wp-content/uploads/sites/25/2026/01/Dark-Skies-Protection-Advisory-Report-for-Hawaii-Adopted-12-19-2025.docx.pdf>

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

DEPARTMENT OF DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION
KA 'OIHANA HAKULAU A ME KE KĀPILI
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

650 SOUTH KING STREET, 11TH FLOOR • HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813
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RICK BLANGIARDI
MAYOR
MEIA



HAKU MILLES, P.E.
DIRECTOR
PO'O

MARK YONAMINE, P.E.
DEPUTY DIRECTOR
HOPE PO'O

February 17, 2026

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair
The Honorable Mahina Poepoe, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
The House of Representatives
State Capitol, Conference Room 325 & Videoconference
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawai'i 96813

Dear Chair Tarnas, Vice-Chair Poepoe, and Members:

SUBJECT: House Bill No. 1579, HD1
Relating to Light Pollution

The Department of Design and Construction (DDC) **opposes** House Bill No. 1579 in its current form, with the exception of the exemption for the Department of Education. The purpose of this bill is to implement the recommendations of the statewide dark skies protection strategy developed by the Dark Night Skies Protection Advisory Committee ("Committee") for all State agencies.

The Committee is made up of technical experts from the fields of wildlife biology, conservation, urban planning, astronomy, law, lighting science, and energy-efficient technology to provide a comprehensive strategy for mitigating light pollution in Hawai'i. The Committee met on December 19, 2025 for the sole purpose of adopting their recommendations and forwarding them to the Legislature. The City voted against the adoption of the strategies with reservations. The primary reason for this negative vote is that the committee of technical experts did not include representatives from the State and county agencies, to which this measure is aimed. In addition, the committee of technical experts did not include architects and engineers, whose function includes ensuring our buildings, highways and streets, playgrounds and parking lots are properly and appropriately illuminated for the good public health and safety of our community.

The bill specifies light fixtures that need to be qualified by the Design Lights Consortium (DLC). Although the DLC is a non-profit organization, lighting manufacturers need to pay the DLC to get their fixtures listed. A member of the DLC was one of the technical experts that formulated the recommendations. This appears to

be a conflict of interest. There are other organizations that also evaluate light fixtures, including the International Dark-Sky Association (IDA) and accredited testing laboratories that test light fixtures in accordance with the requirements of the Illuminating Engineering Society (IES).

We also note that the definition of “glare” in the bill is very subjective and is based on an individual’s perception. Glare should be something that is scientifically measurable. The bill mentions the IES Technical Memorandum TM-15, which specifies the backlight, upright, and glare (BUG) ratings of light fixtures. The City is recommending the IES rating system be used to determine glare rather than relying on one’s perception.

Although the bill does cite TM-15, it is being misapplied. Respectfully, the BUG rating of light fixtures is independent of the correlated color temperature (CCT), dimming capability, and shielding options. Although shielding will affect the BUG rating. Another example of misapplication is where the bill cites a “Glare Rating of B0.” This is not correct. “B” is the designation for backlight, not glare.

The bill is also mandating dimming requirements for outdoor light fixtures at specific times of the evening. This is very troubling for the City, as our roadways are open 24 hours a day and vehicle accidents can occur at any time. The purpose of street lights is to supplement the headlights from vehicles for the safety of both motorists and pedestrians.

The bill also specifies a certain type of outdoor light fixtures. The City does not have practical experience with these types of fixtures and does not know if these fixtures will meet the IES recommended illumination levels for our lighting applications. More research on this specific product is indicated and necessary.

Based on the technical issues set forth above, the DDC **opposes** House Bill No. 1579 HD1.

However, the DDC supports the exemption of the Department of Education from the requirements of this bill for outdoor lighting fixtures used for school and public safety, campus security, emergency response, or other school-authorized activities. The DDC seeks a similar exemption for City facilities.

The primary drivers of this bill are good public health and safety. The City’s overarching goals are to serve the general welfare, safety and aspirations of the people of the City in a sustainable manner. Ensuring that all City facilities, such as our streets and parking lots, parks and playgrounds, police and fire/ambulance stations, public housing, entertainment and recreation venues, wastewater and refuse collection facilities, and other infrastructure are properly illuminated is paramount to these goals.

The Honorable David A. Tarnas, Chair and The Honorable Mahina Poepoe, Vice-Chair
and Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
February 17, 2026
Page 3

In closing, the City follows the recommended practices of the IES in designing and maintaining the lighting systems of its infrastructure and facilities. The IES recommends designing lighting systems to meet the minimum lighting levels required for the applications and in the most energy-efficient manner. The technical components of this bill make the designing of our lighting systems challenging, if not impractical. As such, should this bill move forward, the DDC is requesting an exemption for the City from the requirements of this bill.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'H. Milles', written over a horizontal line.

Haku Milles, P.E., LEED AP
Director



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Executive Director

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Myles Ritchie, PhD
Programs Director

Keeping Hawai'i clean,
green and beautiful
since 1912

February 13, 2026

RE: CONDITIONAL SUPPORT OF HB1579 HD1--Relating to Light Pollution—with necessary amendments to be addressed in HD2.

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 **conditional support** of **HB1579 HD1**, Relating to Light Pollution with amendments as suggested below.

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 HD1 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.

One clarification is necessary to preserve the integrity of this measure:

We must also respectfully object to any provision that authorizes or exempts upward-directed search lights, sky-tracking beams, or similar high-intensity advertising lighting. These devices are designed to project concentrated light directly into the night sky and are visible for miles. Their very function is inconsistent with the goal of reducing glare, skyglow, and unnecessary nighttime illumination. Hawai'i has long recognized that intrusive outdoor lighting —

particularly for advertising purposes — imposes environmental and visual costs that impose environmental and visual costs disproportionate to their limited and temporary purpose.

Creating exemptions for search lights within a light pollution control bill would undermine the integrity of the measure and invite enforcement challenges. If the Legislature's intent is to meaningfully reduce light pollution statewide, these devices should be clearly prohibited rather than accommodated.

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 HD1 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 support HB1579 HD1 with suggested amendments to be made in an HD2 draft.**

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

Respectfully,



Winston Welch
Executive Director
The Outdoor Circle

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 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 respectfully request that your Committee amend this measure to exclude commercial harbors from the light fixture requirements similar to the amendments adopted by the Senate Committees on Economic Development and Tourism and Energy and Intergovernmental Affairs. The Senate Committees amended page 8, lines 7-10 to state: "Outdoor lighting fixtures for airports, highways, and harbors shall be exempt from complying with this section." (emphasis added). Such amendments will provide the flexibility to ensure that our operations may continue uninterrupted and in the safest manner possible.

Thank you for considering our comments.



**TESTIMONY OF TINA YAMAKI, MANAGING DIRECTOR
HAWAII TRANSPORTATION ASSOCIATION
FEBRUARY 18, 2026
HB 1579 HD1 RELATING TO LIGHT POLLUTION.**

Aloha Chair Tarnas and members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs. I am Tina Yamaki, Managing Director of the Hawaii Transportation Association and I appreciate this opportunity to testify.

The Hawaii Transportation Association (HTA) was founded in 1938 and incorporated in 1963, and is a private, non-profit trade organization dedicated to the service and assistance to the commercial ground transportation industry in the State of Hawaii. Our members include family owned small and medium sized businesses, independent owner operators, and national motor carriers range from delivery services to passenger carriers - as well as allied industry partners.

We understand the rationalization of this measure that requires beginning 7/1/2027, establishes outdoor light fixture requirements throughout the State; provides certain exemptions for Department of Education facilities and is effective 7/1/3000. (HD1)

While we are in support of our environment and native wildlife, we do not support HB 1579 HD1 as we have concerns regarding this measure.

There must be a balance between the safety of the environment and our businesses. Many of our members are ports and freight yards, warehouses, and logistics. We depend on good lighting to be in compliance with OSHA rules and regulations, to operate at night as well as to deter theft and other illegal activities. These retrofits will conflict with workplace safety and productivity.

We also have concern as to how this will be enforced as it is our understanding that some expertise is needed to measure things like lumens, kelvin ratings and shielding angles.

To change our or to retrofit outdoor light fixtures will place a financial burden on many of our small mom & pop businesses, which are our members. Full cut-off shielding, spectrum LEDs, lower Kelvin ratings ($\leq 2200-2700K$) often mean full fixture replacement, not just changing a bulb. This would also include hundreds of pole mounted luminaires, yard and perimeter security lighting at warehouses and logistic yards. Should these businesses compensate by installing more fixtures at lower intensity, this would offset any expected energy savings and increase capital outlay.

The cost will be passed on to our customers – wholesalers, retailers... who will eventually pass that cost to the consumer who will now be paying more for their groceries, building supplies, clothing, and other goods.

Mahalo for this opportunity to comment.



WRITTEN TESTIMONY ONLY

February 18, 2026

Rep. David A. Tarnas, Chair
Rep. Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs

RE: HB 1579, HD1 – RELATING TO LIGHT POLLUTION
Hearing date: February 18, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony on behalf of Young Brothers, LLC (“YB”) offering **COMMENTS** on **HB 1579**, which would establish new outdoor light fixture requirements throughout the State – including at YB’s facilities at commercial ports.

YB is a water carrier that transports cargo by tug and barge between the islands of O’ahu, Hawai’i, Kaua’i, Maui, Moloka’i, and Lāna’i. Since 1900, customers across the state have relied on YB’s frequent, regular, and universal sailings to serve as the bridge that connects all communities in this island-state. YB’s operations span seven commercial ports across the state, and we often work around the clock to support the cargo movement that is critical to local commerce – including during evening hours and other periods when natural light might be limited.

It is important that YB continue to have access to adequate and reliable lighting during all hours to protect the safety of our employees to minimize any disruptions to YB’s port operations. While YB appreciates the importance of mitigating light pollution to protect the environment and surrounding communities, YB respectfully requests an amendment¹ to exclude commercial ports from these proposed requirements to secure the continuity of our operations in the safest manner possible.

Thank you for your service to the State of Hawaii, and for the opportunity to testify offering comments on this measure.

Sincerely,

Kris Nakagawa
Vice President, External and Legal Affairs

¹ For example, the Senate Committees amended page 8, lines 7-10 to state: “Outdoor lighting fixtures for airports, highways, and harbors shall be exempt from complying with this section.”



Testimony to the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs on
House Bill 1579 HD1
Relating to Light Pollution
Wednesday, February 18, 2026, 2:00 p.m.

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe, and Members of the Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs,

The undersigned leaders of the Maunakea Observatories appreciate the opportunity to share our **strong support** of House Bill 1579 HD1 to protect Hawai'i's dark night skies.

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.

Handwritten signature of Jean-Gabriel Cuby in black ink.

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

Handwritten signature of Rich Matsuda in black ink.

Rich Matsuda, Director
W. M. Keck Observatory

Handwritten signature of Doug Simons in black ink.

Doug Simons, Director
UH Institute for Astronomy

Handwritten signature of Warren Skidmore in black ink.

Warren Skidmore, Deputy Director
NASA Infrared Telescope Facility

Handwritten signature of Watson P. Varricattu in black ink.

Watson P. Varricattu, Head of Science Operations
UKIRT Observatory

HB-1579-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 4:38:13 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Linda Elliott	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony in Strong Support of HB1579. Dark skies are important for both the people and wildlife of Hawai'i. Artificial light pollution affects wildlife, including seabirds and turtles, and disrupts astronomy, stargazing, human health and cultural practices.

HB-1579-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/13/2026 8:56:35 PM

Testimony for JHA on 2/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Johnnie-Mae L. Perry	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I, Johnnie-Mae L. Perry, Support

1579 HB RELATING TO LIGHT POLLUTION.

HB-1579-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/15/2026 6:01:58 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Rodrigo Romo	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

Strongly support this bill

To: Representative David A. Tarnas, Chair
Representative Mahina Poepoe, Vice Chair
Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

From: Veronica Moore, Individual Citizen

Date: February 17, 2026

RE: House Bill 1579 HD1
Measure Title: RELATING TO LIGHT POLLUTION.
Report Title: Light Pollution; Outdoor Light Fixtures

To All Concerned,

My name is Veronica Moore and I support House Bill 1579 HD1. Thank you for introducing this bill.

Sincerely,

Veronica M. Moore

HB-1579-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/17/2026 9:47:42 AM

Testimony for JHA on 2/18/2026 2:00:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Testify
Juan Carlos Guerra	Individual	Support	Written Testimony Only

Comments:

I support this bill. Light pollution at night has been worsening and this measure helps by introducing reasonable standards. Excessive artificial light at night, especially on the blue side of the light spectrum, affects wildlife, human health, astronomy, and cultural practices and connections with the night sky. This bill helps preserve these and is quite reasonable as far as a state wide measure goes. A lower kelvin temperature of 2200K to 2500K would be better, especially for sensitive areas (eg. seabird areas), but this is a good start and I support HB 1579 with the original effective date of 2027.

Mary Alice Evans
Waimanalo

Written Testimony

HB 1579, HD1 Relating to Light Pollution

House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs

Wednesday, February 18, 2026,
2:00pm, Room 325

Aloha Chair Tarnas, Vice Chair Poepoe and Members of the House Committee on Judiciary & Hawaiian Affairs.

Please **support** HB 1579, HD1, which amends HRS Ch. 201-8.5 which requires outdoor replacement light fixtures to be fully-shielded and have a color-temperature of 4000 Kelvin or less; provided that artificial light on shoreline and ocean waters shall comply with Ch. 205A-71.

HRS Ch.201-8.5 already provides exemptions for emergency lighting, temporary lighting, navigation lighting, lighting of historic buildings, and others. All non-conforming fixtures are “grand-fathered” and do not have to be changed until a replacement is needed.

County lighting ordinances will not be superceded provided the county ordinance is not less restrictive. Most counties already protect sea birds and turtle-hatchlings from harmful light trespass with fully-shielded fixtures.

HB 1579, HD1, allows for a continued gradual phase-in of energy efficient lighting that does not trespass upwards into the night sky and reduces the glare of blue-rich hot color temperatures. Hawaii has made progress towards protecting the night sky and the health of all life that evolved for dark nights. Cooler color temperatures enable better public safety and public health.

I urge you to move this measure forward because it will minimize adverse impacts of artificial light on marine and coastal resources, protect coastal ecosystems, and promote environmentally responsible development.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this measure.