

WAI Committee

From: County Clerk
Sent: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 12:15 PM
To: WAI Committee
Subject: FW: Testimony - Against Amending Chapter 20.35 - Maui County Outdoor Lighting Ordinance

From: Joy Tamayose <joytamayose@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, September 2, 2025 3:27 AM
To: County Clerk <County.Clerk@mauicounty.us>
Subject: Testimony - Against Amending Chapter 20.35 - Maui County Outdoor Lighting Ordinance

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Aloha County Council Members,

As a concerned local resident and wildlife biologist who has worked with endangered native seabirds for over 30 years, I do not support the proposed amendment which weakens the original intent of Maui County's outdoor lighting ordinance to protect our native wildlife.

Streetlights along our highways and roadways are responsible for injury and death of native wildlife including 'ua'u kani (Wedge-tailed shearwater) and endangered 'ua'u (Hawaiian petrel). Exempting streetlights from the general requirements of the outdoor lighting ordinance basically eliminates the needed changes to reduce the harmful impacts of light attraction.

Regarding Section 20.35.060 – General requirements for the outdoor lighting ordinance, I emphasize the following:

- **Low blue light content should be a requirement for all lights—including streetlights. All lights should be less than 2% content between 400 and 500 nanometers.**
- All lights need to be fully shielded.
- All mercury vapor lights need to be removed (as stated by January 25, 2017) if not done so already.
- Keep specific language for wall-mounted fixture requirements—opaque shields and non-reflective walls/surfaces.
- Lights **must not** shine over the ocean.

I urge you to look to our neighboring county, Hawai'i Island, for guidance since they have proactively and successfully implemented the same outdoor lighting ordinance as Maui County's without the need to add color rendering requirements.

There are state and federal laws to protect our threatened and endangered wildlife. It is Maui County's kuleana to protect our native wildlife. The existing ordinance should be enforced—not weakened. Please set compliance deadlines and ensure that the Department of Public Works complies with the law.

Mahalo,

Joy Tamayose