
A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY.

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

PART I

1
2 SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the prevalence of
3 drivers violating Hawaii's traffic laws, especially on the
4 island of Oahu, has become intolerable, particularly drivers who
5 run red lights. These violations endanger the lives of
6 motorists and pedestrians and compound the already hazardous
7 conditions on Hawaii's roads and highways. It has become
8 increasingly common to hear reports of hit-and-run drivers who
9 have run over children or the elderly. Disregarding traffic
10 signals has also been the common denominator in many recent,
11 highly-publicized motor vehicle crashes that have claimed a
12 number of lives.

13 The legislature further finds that in other jurisdictions
14 in the United States, Canada, Europe, and other countries
15 throughout the world, photo red light imaging detector systems
16 have been proven reliable, efficient, and effective in
17 identifying and deterring those who run red lights.



1 Photo red light imaging detector systems are safe, quick,
2 cost-effective, and efficient. No traffic stop is involved, and
3 a police officer is not at risk from passing traffic or armed
4 violators. With photo red light imaging detector systems, a
5 camera is positioned at intersections where red light violations
6 are a major cause of collisions and serves as a twenty-four-hour
7 deterrent to running a red light. Sensors are buried under a
8 crosswalk and lead to a self-contained camera system mounted on
9 a nearby structure. When a vehicle enters the intersection
10 against a red light, the camera takes a telephoto color picture
11 of the rear of the car, capturing the license plate. A second
12 wide-angle photograph takes in the entire intersection,
13 including other traffic.

14 These systems provide numerous benefits. Not only are
15 streets safer, but police officers are also freed from the time-
16 consuming duties of traffic enforcement and have more time to
17 respond to priority calls. A violator is less likely to go to
18 court because the color photograph of the violation, imprinted
19 with the time, date, and location of the violation, and the
20 number of seconds the light had been red before the violator
21 entered the intersection, can be used as evidence in court. Few



1 cases are contested in other jurisdictions using this system,
2 and officers make fewer court appearances, saving court costs.

3 The system may also result in lower insurance costs for
4 safe drivers through an overall reduction in crashes and
5 injuries and by placing system costs on the violators who have
6 created the need for the program, not on law-abiding taxpayers.
7 Traffic laws are impartially enforced, and safety and efficiency
8 are increased by reducing the number of chases and personnel
9 required for traffic accident clean-up, investigation, and court
10 testimony.

11 The legislature finds that the photo speed imaging detector
12 system created by Act 234, Session Laws of Hawaii 1998, and
13 implemented in January 2002, generated intense public
14 opposition. As a result of this opposition, the legislature
15 repealed Act 234 in its entirety. However, the majority of the
16 opposition to this program resulted from the method by which it
17 was implemented. The public perceived that the program was
18 operated more to maximize revenue for the vendor running the
19 program than to improve traffic safety. In particular, vans in
20 which the cameras were mounted were often placed at locations
21 that did not necessarily have a history of speed-related
22 accidents and instead were used to monitor locations with heavy



1 traffic flow at lower speeds. This permitted the vendor to
2 issue the maximum number of citations in the shortest period of
3 time and at the least cost, thereby maximizing the potential
4 return to the vendor without improving traffic safety.

5 The purpose of this Act is to:

6 (1) Establish a photo red light imaging detector systems
7 program to improve enforcement of the traffic signal
8 laws;

9 (2) Allow counties to implement the photo red light
10 imaging detector systems program;

11 (3) Authorize fines collected under county programs to be
12 deposited into a general fund account; and

13 (4) Authorize funds from this general fund account to be
14 expended in the county in which the fine was collected
15 for the establishment, operation, management, and
16 maintenance of the photo red light imaging detector
17 systems program.

18 PART II

19 SECTION 2. **Definitions.** As used in this Act, unless the
20 context otherwise requires:

21 "County" means the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui, and
22 the city and county of Honolulu.



1 "County highway" has the same meaning as used in section
2 264-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

3 "Department" means the department of transportation.

4 "Motor vehicle" has the same meaning as defined in section
5 291C-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

6 "Photo red light imaging detector" means a device used for
7 traffic enforcement that includes a vehicle sensor that works in
8 conjunction with a traffic-control signal and a camera or
9 similar device to automatically produce a photographic, digital,
10 or other visual image of a vehicle that has disregarded a steady
11 red traffic-control signal in violation of section 291C-32,
12 Hawaii Revised Statutes, and a photographic, digital, or other
13 visual image of the driver of the motor vehicle.

14 "State highway" has the same meaning as used in section
15 264-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

16 "Traffic-control signal" has the same meaning as defined in
17 section 291C-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

18 **SECTION 3. Photo red light imaging detector systems**
19 **program; established.** There is established the photo red light
20 imaging detector systems program, which may be implemented by
21 any county on state or county highways within the respective
22 county, to enforce the traffic-control signal laws of the State.



1 SECTION 4. **County powers and duties.** Each county may
2 establish and implement, in accordance with this Act, a photo
3 red light imaging detector system imposing monetary liability on
4 the operator of a motor vehicle for failure to comply with
5 traffic-control signal laws. Each county may provide for the
6 procurement, location, installation, operation, maintenance, and
7 repair of the photo red light imaging detector system. Where
8 the photo red light imaging detector system affects state
9 property, the department shall cooperate with and assist the
10 county as needed to install, maintain, and repair the photo red
11 light imaging detector system established pursuant to this Act.

12 SECTION 5. **Photo red light imaging detector system**
13 **requirements.** (a) Photo red light imaging detector equipment
14 shall be operated from a fixed pole, post, or other fixed
15 structure on a state or county highway.

16 (b) Signs and other official traffic-control devices
17 indicating that traffic signal laws are enforced by a photo red
18 light imaging detector system shall be posted on all major
19 routes entering the area in question to provide, as far as
20 practicable, notice to drivers of the existence and operation of
21 the system.



1 (c) Proof of a traffic-control signal violation shall be
2 as evidenced by information obtained from the photo red light
3 imaging detector system authorized pursuant to this Act. A
4 certificate, sworn to or affirmed by the county's agent or
5 employee, or a facsimile thereof, based upon inspection of
6 photographs, microphotographs, videotape, or other recorded
7 images produced by the system, shall be prima facie evidence of
8 the facts contained therein. Any photographs, microphotographs,
9 videotape, or other recorded images evidencing a violation shall
10 be available for inspection in any proceeding to adjudicate the
11 liability for that violation.

12 (d) No summons or citation pursuant to the photo red light
13 imaging detector systems program shall be issued unless it
14 contains a clear and unobstructed photographic, digital, or
15 other visual image of the driver of the motor vehicle.

16 (e) The conditions specified in this section shall not
17 apply when the information gathered is used for highway safety
18 research or to issue warning citations not involving a fine,
19 court appearance, or a person's driving record.

20 SECTION 6. **Summons or citations.** (a) Notwithstanding any
21 law to the contrary, whenever any motor vehicle is determined,
22 by means of a photo red light imaging detector system, to have



1 disregarded a steady red signal in violation of section
2 291C-32(a)(3), Hawaii Revised Statutes, the county shall cause a
3 summons or citation, as described in this section, to be sent by
4 certified or registered mail with a return receipt, which is
5 postmarked within seventy-two hours of the time of the incident,
6 to the registered owner of the vehicle at the address on record
7 at the vehicle licensing division. If the end of the seventy-
8 two-hour period falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday,
9 then the ending period shall run until the end of the next day
10 that is not a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday.

11 (b) The form and content of the summons or citation shall
12 be as adopted or prescribed by the administrative judge of the
13 district courts and shall be printed on a form commensurate with
14 the form of other summonses or citations used in modern methods
15 of arrest, so designed to include all necessary information to
16 make the summons or citation valid within the laws of the State;
17 provided that any summons or citation pursuant to the photo red
18 light imaging detector systems program shall contain a clear and
19 unobstructed photographic, digital, or other visual image of the
20 driver of the motor vehicle that is to be used as evidence of
21 the violation.



1 (c) Every citation shall be consecutively numbered and
2 each copy thereof shall bear the number of its respective
3 original.

4 (d) Upon receipt of the summons or citation, the
5 registered owner shall respond as provided for in chapter 291D,
6 Hawaii Revised Statutes. A mail receipt signed by the
7 registered owner is prima facie evidence of notification. The
8 registered owner shall be determined by the identification of
9 the vehicle's registration plates.

10 (e) The county, or the county's agent or employee, shall
11 be available to testify as to the authenticity of the
12 information provided pursuant to this section.

13 **SECTION 7. Registered owner's responsibility for a summons**
14 **or citation.** In any proceeding for a violation of this Act, the
15 information contained in the summons or citation mailed in
16 accordance with section 6 shall be deemed evidence that the
17 registered vehicle violated section 291C-32(a)(3), Hawaii
18 Revised Statutes.

19 **SECTION 8. Prima facie evidence.** (a) Whenever the photo
20 red light imaging detector system determines a motor vehicle to
21 be in violation of section 291C-32(a)(3), Hawaii Revised
22 Statutes, evidence that the motor vehicle described in the



1 citations or summons issued pursuant to this Act was operated in
2 violation of that section, together with proof that the person
3 to whom the summons or citation was sent was the registered
4 owner of the motor vehicle at the time of the violation, shall
5 constitute prima facie evidence that the registered owner of the
6 motor vehicle was the person who committed the violation.

7 (b) The registered owner of the vehicle may rebut the
8 evidence in subsection (a) by any one of the following,
9 including:

- 10 (1) Submitting a written statement as provided in section
11 291D-6(b)(2), Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- 12 (2) Testifying in open court under oath that the person
13 was not the operator of the vehicle at the time of the
14 alleged violation;
- 15 (3) Calling witnesses to testify in open court under oath
16 that the person was not the operator of the vehicle at
17 the time of the alleged violation;
- 18 (4) Extrinsic evidence that the person was not the
19 operator of the vehicle at the time of the alleged
20 violation;
- 21 (5) Presenting, prior to the return date established on
22 the citation or summons issued pursuant to this Act, a



1 letter of verification of loss from the police
2 department indicating that the vehicle had been
3 reported stolen, to the court adjudicating the alleged
4 violation; or

5 (6) Identifying the driver of the vehicle at the time of
6 the offense.

7 SECTION 9. **Failure to comply with summons or citation.** If
8 the registered owner of the vehicle does not return an answer in
9 response to a summons or citation within a period of twenty-one
10 days upon receipt of the summons or citation, the district court
11 shall issue, pursuant to section 291D-7(e), Hawaii Revised
12 Statutes, a notice of entry of judgment of default to the
13 registered owner of the vehicle.

14 SECTION 10. **Liability for rental or U-drive vehicle.**
15 Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, if the registered owner
16 of record is the lessor of a rental or U-drive motor vehicle, as
17 defined in section 286-2, Hawaii Revised Statutes, pursuant to a
18 written lease agreement, the lessee at the time of the violation
19 shall be responsible for the summons or citation; provided that:

20 (1) The lessor shall be responsible for the summons or
21 citation if the lessor does not provide the court
22 having jurisdiction over the summons or citation with



1 the name and address of the lessee within thirty days
2 after a notice containing the date, time, and location
3 of the violation and the license number of the vehicle
4 is sent to the lessor; and

5 (2) The administrative judge of the court having
6 jurisdiction over the summons or citation may waive
7 the requirement of providing the name and address of
8 the lessee and impose on the lessor an administrative
9 fee of \$ per citation.

10 SECTION 11. **Penalty.** The penalties for all consequences
11 of a violation for disregarding a steady red signal initiated by
12 the use of a photo red light imaging detector system shall be as
13 provided in section 291C-161, Hawaii Revised Statutes.

14 SECTION 12. **Fines for unauthorized disclosure.** All
15 personal and confidential information made available by any
16 government agency to an agent of any county for the photo red
17 light imaging detector system program shall be kept confidential
18 and shall be used only for the purposes for which the
19 information was furnished. Any officer, employee, or agent of a
20 county who intentionally discloses or provides a copy of
21 personal and confidential information obtained from a photo red
22 light imaging detector system to any person or agency without



1 authorization shall be fined not more than \$; provided
2 that the fine shall not preclude the application of penalties or
3 fines otherwise provided for by law.

4 SECTION 13. **Photo red light imaging detector systems**
5 **program account established.** (a) There is established, as a
6 special account within the general fund, a photo red light
7 imaging detector systems program account, into which shall be
8 paid revenues collected pursuant to this Act.

9 (b) All fines collected under this Act shall be deposited
10 into the photo red light imaging detector program account.
11 Moneys in the account shall be expended in the county in which
12 the fine was imposed, for purposes that include the
13 establishment, operation, management, and maintenance of a photo
14 red light imaging detector system.

15 SECTION 14. **Rules.** The department shall adopt rules
16 pursuant to chapter 91, Hawaii Revised Statutes, as may be
17 necessary to implement this Act.

18 PART III

19 SECTION 15. Section 291C-161, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
20 amended to read as follows:

21 "§291C-161 Penalties[-]; photo red light imaging detector
22 system fines. (a) It is a violation for any person to violate



1 any of the provisions of this chapter, except as otherwise
2 specified in subsections (c) and (d) and unless the violation is
3 by other law of this State declared to be a felony, misdemeanor,
4 or petty misdemeanor.

5 (b) Except as provided in subsections (c) and (d), every
6 person who is determined to have violated any provision of this
7 chapter for which another penalty is not provided shall be
8 fined:

9 (1) Not more than \$200 for a first violation thereof;

10 (2) Not more than \$300 for a second violation committed
11 within one year after the date of the first violation;
12 and

13 (3) Not more than \$500 for a third or subsequent violation
14 committed within one year after the date of the first
15 violation.

16 (c) Every person convicted under or found in violation of
17 section 291C-12, 291C-12.5, 291C-12.6, 291C-13, 291C-14, 291C-
18 15, 291C-16, 291C-72, 291C-73, 291C-95, 291C-102, 291C-103,
19 291C-104, or 291C-105 shall be sentenced or fined in accordance
20 with those sections.

21 (d) Every person who violates section 291C-13 or 291C-18
22 shall:



1 (1) Be fined not more than \$200 or imprisoned not more
2 than ten days for a first conviction thereof;

3 (2) Be fined not more than \$300 or imprisoned not more
4 than twenty days or both for conviction of a second
5 offense committed within one year after the date of
6 the first offense; and

7 (3) Be fined not more than \$500 or imprisoned not more
8 than six months or both for conviction of a third or
9 subsequent offense committed within one year after the
10 date of the first offense.

11 (e) The court may assess a sum not to exceed \$50 for the
12 cost of issuing a penal summons upon any person who fails to
13 appear at the place within the time specified in the citation
14 issued to the person for any traffic violation.

15 (f) Fines collected for a violation of section 291C-32
16 pursuant to the photo red light imaging detector system
17 established pursuant to Act , Session Laws of Hawaii 2012,
18 shall be deposited into the photo red light imaging detector
19 systems program account and shall be expended in the county in
20 which the fine was imposed, for purposes that include the
21 establishment, operation, management, and maintenance of a photo
22 red light imaging detector system.



1 [~~(f)~~] (g) The court may require a person who violates any
2 of the provisions of this chapter to attend a course of
3 instruction in driver retraining as deemed appropriate by the
4 court, in addition to any other penalties imposed."

5 SECTION 16. Section 291C-163, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
6 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

7 "(a) This chapter shall not be deemed to prevent counties
8 with respect to streets and highways under their jurisdiction
9 from:

- 10 (1) Regulating or prohibiting stopping, standing, or
11 parking except as provided in section 291C-111;
- 12 (2) Regulating traffic by means of police officers or
13 official traffic-control devices;
- 14 (3) Regulating or prohibiting processions or assemblages
15 on the highways;
- 16 (4) Designating particular highways or roadways for use by
17 traffic moving in one direction;
- 18 (5) Establishing speed limits for vehicles in public
19 parks;
- 20 (6) Designating any highway as a through highway or
21 designating any intersection as a stop or yield
22 intersection;



- 1 (7) Restricting the use of highways;
- 2 (8) Regulating the operation and equipment of and
- 3 requiring the registration and inspection of bicycles,
- 4 including the requirement of a registration fee;
- 5 (9) Regulating or prohibiting the turning of vehicles or
- 6 specified types of vehicles;
- 7 (10) Altering or establishing speed limits;
- 8 (11) Requiring written accident reports;
- 9 (12) Designating no-passing zones;
- 10 (13) Prohibiting or regulating the use of controlled-access
- 11 roadways by any class or kind of traffic;
- 12 (14) Prohibiting or regulating the use of heavily traveled
- 13 streets by any class or kind of traffic found to be
- 14 incompatible with the normal and safe movement of
- 15 traffic;
- 16 (15) Establishing minimum speed limits;
- 17 (16) Designating hazardous railroad grade crossing;
- 18 (17) Designating and regulating traffic on play streets;
- 19 (18) Prohibiting pedestrians from crossing a roadway in a
- 20 business district or any designated highway except in
- 21 a crosswalk;



- 1 (19) Restricting pedestrian crossing at unmarked
- 2 crosswalks;
- 3 (20) Regulating persons propelling push carts;
- 4 (21) Regulating persons upon skates, coasters, sleds, and
- 5 other toy vehicles;
- 6 (22) Adopting and enforcing such temporary or experimental
- 7 regulations as may be necessary to cover emergencies
- 8 or special conditions;
- 9 (23) Adopting maximum and minimum speed limits on streets
- 10 and highways within their respective jurisdictions;
- 11 (24) Adopting requirements on stopping, standing, and
- 12 parking on streets and highways within their
- 13 respective jurisdictions except as provided in section
- 14 291C-111;
- 15 (25) Prohibiting or regulating electric personal assistive
- 16 mobility devices on sidewalks and bicycle paths; [and]
- 17 (26) Implementing a photo red light imaging detector system
- 18 pursuant to Act _____, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012; and
- 19 ~~[(26)]~~ (27) Adopting such other traffic regulations as are
- 20 specifically authorized by this chapter."

21 SECTION 17. Section 291C-165, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is

22 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:



1 "(b) In every case when a citation is issued, the original
2 of the citation shall be given to the violator; provided that:

3 (1) In the case of an unattended vehicle, the original of
4 the citation shall be affixed to the vehicle as
5 provided for in section 291C-167; [~~or~~]

6 (2) In the case of:

7 (A) A vehicle utilizing the high occupancy vehicle
8 lane illegally; or

9 (B) A vehicle illegally utilizing a parking space
10 reserved for persons with disabilities, where the
11 violator refuses the citation; or

12 (3) In the case of a motor vehicle determined by means of
13 a photo red light imaging detector system established
14 pursuant to Act _____, Session Laws of Hawaii 2012, to
15 have disregarded a steady red signal in violation of
16 section 291C-32(a)(3),

17 the original of the citation shall be sent by certified or
18 registered mail, with a return receipt that is postmarked within
19 forty-eight hours of the time of the incident, as provided in
20 section 291C-223 for vehicles illegally utilizing the high
21 occupancy vehicle lane, or within seventy-two hours of the time
22 of the incident for vehicles illegally utilizing a parking space



1 reserved for persons with disabilities, or for vehicles
 2 disregarding a steady red signal in violation of section 291C-
 3 32(a)(3), as determined by means of a photo red light imaging
 4 detector system, to the registered owner of the vehicle at the
 5 address on record at the vehicle licensing division. If the end
 6 of the applicable forty-eight or seventy-two hour period falls
 7 on a Saturday, Sunday, or state holiday, then the ending period
 8 shall run until the end of the next day which is not a Saturday,
 9 Sunday, or state holiday; provided that the administrative judge
 10 of the district courts may allow a carbon copy of the citation
 11 to be given to the violator or affixed to the vehicle and
 12 provide for the disposition of the original and any other copies
 13 of the citation."

PART IV

15 SECTION 18. There is appropriated out of the general
 16 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so much
 17 thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2012-2013 for the
 18 purposes of establishing the photo red light imaging detector
 19 system program to be allocated as follows:

- 20 \$ to the city and county of Honolulu;
- 21 \$ to the county of Maui;
- 22 \$ to the county of Hawaii; and



1 § to the county of Kauai.

2 The sum appropriated shall be expended by the counties for
3 the purposes of this Act.

4 SECTION 19. It is the intent of this Act not to jeopardize
5 the receipt of any federal aid nor to impair the obligation of
6 the State or any agency thereof to the holders of any bond
7 issued by the State or by any such agency, and to the extent,
8 and only to the extent, necessary to effectuate this intent, the
9 governor may modify the strict provisions of this Act, but shall
10 promptly report any such modification with reasons therefor to
11 the legislature at its next session thereafter for review by the
12 legislature.

13 SECTION 20. If any provision of this Act, or the
14 application thereof to any person or circumstance is held
15 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or
16 applications of the Act which can be given effect without the
17 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions
18 of this Act are severable.

19 SECTION 21. This Act does not affect rights and duties
20 that matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that
21 were begun, before its effective date.



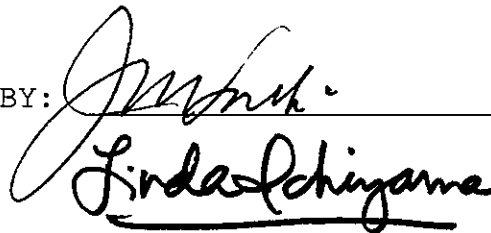
1 SECTION 22. Upon enactment, the revisor of statutes shall
2 insert the number of this Act into sections 291C-161, 291C-163,
3 and 291C-165, Hawaii Revised Statutes, where indicated in
4 sections 15, 16, and 17 of this Act, respectively.

5 SECTION 23. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
6 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

7 SECTION 24. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2013;
8 provided that section 18 shall take effect on July 1, 2012.

9

INTRODUCED BY:


Linda Ichigama

JAN 25 2012



H.B. NO. 2790

Report Title:

Highway Safety; Photo Red Light Imaging; Appropriation

Description:

Establishes the photo red light imaging detector systems program. Authorizes counties to administer the program. Requires proceeds of fines to be expended in the county from which they were collected for operation of the program. Makes an appropriation.

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

