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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO HIGHWAY SAFETY.

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

1 **PART I**

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 the  
17 program was implemented. The public perceived that the program  
18 was 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 prima facie evidence  
17 that the registered vehicle violated section 291C-32(a)(3),  
18 Hawaii 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 citation 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 (1) Submitting a written statement as provided in section  
10 291D-6(b)(2), Hawaii Revised Statutes;
- 11 (2) Testifying in open court under oath that the person  
12 was not the operator of the vehicle at the time of the  
13 alleged violation;
- 14 (3) Calling witnesses to testify in open court under oath  
15 that the person was not the operator of the vehicle at  
16 the time of the alleged violation;
- 17 (4) Extrinsic evidence that the person was not the  
18 operator of the vehicle at the time of the alleged  
19 violation;
- 20 (5) Presenting, prior to the return date established on  
21 the citation or summons issued pursuant to this Act, a  
22 letter of verification of loss from the police



1 department indicating that the vehicle had been  
2 reported stolen, to the court adjudicating the alleged  
3 violation; or

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

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

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

19 (1) The lessor shall be responsible for the summons or  
20 citation if the lessor does not provide the court  
21 having jurisdiction over the summons or citation with  
22 the name and address of the lessee within thirty days



1 after a notice containing the date, time, and location  
2 of the violation and the license number of the vehicle  
3 is sent to the lessor; and

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

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

13 SECTION 12. **Fines for unauthorized disclosure.** All  
14 personal and confidential information made available by any  
15 government agency to an agent of any county for the photo red  
16 light imaging detector system program shall be kept confidential  
17 and shall be used only for the purposes for which the  
18 information was furnished. Any officer, employee, or agent of a  
19 county who intentionally discloses or provides a copy of  
20 personal and confidential information obtained from a photo red  
21 light imaging detector system to any person or agency without  
22 authorization shall be fined not more than \$ ; provided



1 that the fine shall not preclude the application of penalties or  
2 fines otherwise provided for by law.

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

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

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

17 PART III

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

20 "§291C-161 Penalties[-]; photo red light imaging detector  
21 system fines. (a) It is a violation for any person to violate  
22 any of the provisions of this chapter, except as otherwise



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

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

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

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

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

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

20 (d) Every person who violates section 291C-13 or 291C-18  
21 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 2017,  
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 2017;
- 19 and
- 20 [~~26~~] (27) Adopting such other traffic regulations as are
- 21 specifically authorized by this chapter."



1 SECTION 17. Section 291C-165, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by amending subsection (b) to read as follows:

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

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

8 (2) In the case of:

9 (A) A vehicle utilizing the high occupancy vehicle  
10 lane illegally; [~~or~~]

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

14 (C) A motor vehicle determined by means of a photo  
15 red light imaging detector system established  
16 pursuant to Act \_\_\_\_\_, Session Laws of Hawaii  
17 2017, to have disregarded a steady red signal in  
18 violation of section 291C-32(a)(3),

19 the original of the citation shall be sent by  
20 certified or registered mail, with a return receipt  
21 that is postmarked within forty-eight hours of the  
22 time of the incident, as provided in section 291C-223



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

20 SECTION 18. Section 291C-194, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
21 amended by amending subsection (c) to read as follows:



1 (c) Any person who is convicted of violating this section  
2 shall be subject to penalties as provided under section 291C-  
3 161(b) and [~~(f)~~] (g)."

4 PART IV

5 SECTION 19. There is appropriated out of the general  
6 revenues of the State of Hawaii the sum of \$ or so  
7 much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal year 2017-2018 and  
8 the same sum or so much thereof as may be necessary for fiscal  
9 year 2018-2019 for the purposes of establishing the photo red  
10 light imaging detector systems program to be allocated as  
11 follows:

- 12 \$ to the city and county of Honolulu;
- 13 \$ to the county of Maui;
- 14 \$ to the county of Hawaii; and
- 15 \$ to the county of Kauai.

16 The sums appropriated shall be expended by the appropriate  
17 counties for the purposes of this Act.

18 SECTION 20. It is the intent of this Act not to jeopardize  
19 the receipt of any federal aid nor to impair the obligation of  
20 the State or any agency thereof to the holders of any bond  
21 issued by the State or by any such agency, and to the extent,  
22 and only to the extent, necessary to effectuate this intent, the



1 governor may modify the strict provisions of this Act, but shall  
2 promptly report any such modification with reasons therefor to  
3 the legislature at its next session thereafter for review by the  
4 legislature.

5 SECTION 21. If any provision of this Act, or the  
6 application thereof to any person or circumstance is held  
7 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or  
8 applications of the Act which can be given effect without the  
9 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions  
10 of this Act are severable.

11 SECTION 22. This Act does not affect rights and duties  
12 that matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that  
13 were begun, before its effective date.

14 SECTION 23. Upon enactment, the revisor of statutes shall  
15 insert the number of this Act into sections 291C-161, 291C-163,  
16 and 291C-165, Hawaii Revised Statutes, where indicated in  
17 sections 15, 16, and 17 of this Act, respectively.

18 SECTION 24. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
19 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

20 SECTION 25. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2018;  
21 provided that section 19 shall take effect on July 1, 2017.

22



**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. (SD1)

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

