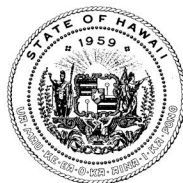


DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR



**Testimony by:**  
FORD N. FUCHIGAMI  
DIRECTOR

Deputy Directors  
JADE T. BUTAY  
ROSS M. HIGASHI  
EDWIN H. SNIFFEN  
DARRELL T. YOUNG

**STATE OF HAWAII**  
**DEPARTMENT OF TRANSPORTATION**  
869 PUNCHBOWL STREET  
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813-5097

IN REPLY REFER TO:

March 29, 2017  
2:00 p.m.  
State Capitol, Room 325

**S.B. 420, S.D. 1**  
**RELATING TO LASER DEVICES**

House Committee on Judiciary

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The Department of Transportation (DOT) strongly **supports** that a new law is needed due to recent incidents in which aircraft have become targets of green laser lights while flying or landing at an airport. Lasers present a significant aviation safety risk when directed at aircraft.

The purpose of this bill is to make it an offense to intentionally project a laser at an aircraft or in the flight path of an aircraft that may cause bodily injury to the pilot or to the passengers on board. The safety of our traveling public is of the highest priority of the DOT.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.

POLICE DEPARTMENT  
CITY AND COUNTY OF HONOLULU

801 SOUTH BERETANIA STREET · HONOLULU, HAWAII 96813  
TELEPHONE: (808) 529-3111 · INTERNET: www.honoluluupd.org



KIRK CALDWELL  
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA  
CHIEF

CARY OKIMOTO  
JERRY INOUE  
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE MT-MM

March 29, 2017

The Honorable Scott Y. Nishimoto, Chair  
and Members  
Committee on Judiciary  
House of Representatives  
Hawaii State Capitol  
415 South Beretania Street  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishimoto and Members:

SUBJECT: Senate Bill No. 420, S.D. 1, Relating to Laser Devices

I am Mark E.K. Thompson, Captain of the Specialized Services Division of the Honolulu Police Department (HPD), City and County of Honolulu.

The HPD supports Senate Bill No. 420, S.D. 1, Relating to Laser Devices.

This is a pervasive problem nationwide and we must be proactive in our efforts to protect the lives of those in the air as well as those on the ground. A laser light could definitely affect or injure the pilot of an aircraft and put their life and the lives of those onboard at risk. Establishing the offense of Directing Lasers at Aircraft a Class C Felony and/or misdemeanor promotes safety for the flight crew and the public, and serves as a deterrent.

The HPD urges you to support Senate Bill No. 420, S.D. 1, Relating to Laser Devices. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Mark Thompson".

Mark Thompson, Captain  
Specialized Services Division

APPROVED:

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "Cary Okimoto".

Cary Okimoto  
Acting Chief of Police