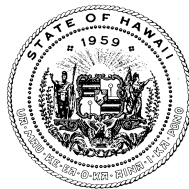


DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR



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:

February 6, 2017
3:00 p.m.
State Capitol, Room 225

S.B 420
RELATING TO LASER DEVICES

Senate Committees on Transportation and Energy &
Public Safety, Intergovernmental and Military Affairs &

The Department of Transportation (DOT) strongly **supports** that a new law is needed due to the 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 act 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
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KIRK CALDWELL
MAYOR

LOUIS M. KEALOHA
CHIEF

CARY OKIMOTO
JERRY INOUE
DEPUTY CHIEFS

OUR REFERENCE MT-MM

February 9, 2017

The Honorable Clarence K. Nishihara, Chair
and Members
Committee on Public Safety, Intergovernmental,
and Military Affairs
State Senate
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street
Honolulu, Hawaii 96813

Dear Chair Nishihara and Members:

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


I am Mark 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, 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, Relating to Laser Devices. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,


Mark Thompson, Captain
Specialized Services Division

APPROVED


Cary Okimoto
Acting Chief of Police