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

12 The legislature further finds that in other jurisdictions
13 in the United States, Canada, Europe, and other countries
14 throughout the world, photo red light imaging detector systems
15 have been proven reliable, efficient, and effective in
16 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
16 time-consuming duties of traffic enforcement and have more time
17 to respond to priority calls. A violator is less likely to go
18 to court because the color photograph of the violation,
19 imprinted with the time, date, and location of the violation,
20 and the number of seconds the light had been red before the
21 violator entered the intersection, can be used as evidence in



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

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

12 The legislature further finds that the photo speed imaging
13 detector system created by Act 234, Session Laws of Hawaii 1998,
14 and implemented in January 2002, generated intense public
15 opposition. As a result of this opposition, the legislature
16 repealed Act 234 in its entirety. However, the majority of the
17 opposition to this program resulted from the method by which the
18 program was implemented. The public perceived that the program
19 was operated more to maximize revenue for the vendor running the
20 program than to improve traffic safety. In particular, vans in
21 which the cameras were mounted were often placed at locations



1 that did not necessarily have a history of speed-related
2 accidents and instead were used to monitor locations with heavy
3 traffic flow at lower speeds. This permitted the vendor to
4 issue the maximum number of citations in the shortest period of
5 time and at the least cost, thereby maximizing the potential
6 return to the vendor without improving traffic safety.

7 The purpose of this Act is to:

- 8 (1) Establish a photo red light imaging detector systems
9 program to improve enforcement of the traffic signal
10 laws;
- 11 (2) Allow counties to implement the photo red light
12 imaging detector systems program;
- 13 (3) Authorize the deposit of fines collected under county
14 programs into a special fund; and
- 15 (4) Authorize the expenditure of funds from this special
16 fund by the department of transportation in the county
17 in which the fine was collected for the establishment,
18 operation, management, and maintenance of the photo
19 red light imaging detector systems program.

20 PART II



1 SECTION 2. The Hawaii Revised Statutes is amended by
2 adding a new chapter to be appropriately designated and to read
3 as follows:

4 "CHAPTER

5 PHOTO RED LIGHT IMAGING DETECTOR SYSTEMS

6 § -1 Definitions. As used in this chapter, unless the
7 context otherwise requires:

8 "County" means the counties of Hawaii, Kauai, and Maui, and
9 the city and county of Honolulu.

10 "County highway" has the same meaning as used in
11 section 264-1.

12 "Department" means the department of transportation.

13 "Motor vehicle" has the same meaning as defined in
14 section 291C-1.

15 "Photo red light imaging detector" means a device used for
16 traffic enforcement that includes a vehicle sensor that works in
17 conjunction with a traffic-control signal and a camera
18 synchronized to automatically record one or more sequenced
19 photographs, microphotographs, or electronic images of the rear
20 and front of the motor vehicle, the motor vehicle license plate
21 and driver of the motor vehicle at the time the vehicles fails



1 to stop when facing a steady red traffic-control signal in
2 violation of section 291C-32.

3 "State highway" has the same meaning as used in
4 section 264-1.

5 "Traffic-control signal" has the same meaning as defined in
6 section 291C-1.

7 **§ -2 Photo red light imaging detector systems program;**
8 **established.** There is established the photo red light imaging
9 detector systems program, which may be implemented by any county
10 on state or county highways within the respective county, to
11 enforce the traffic-control signal laws of the State.

12 **§ -3 County powers and duties.** (a) Each county may
13 establish and implement, in accordance with this chapter, a
14 photo red light imaging detector system imposing monetary
15 liability on the registered owner or operator of a motor vehicle
16 for failure to comply with traffic-control signal laws. Each
17 county may provide for the procurement, location, installation,
18 operation, maintenance, and repair of the photo red light
19 imaging detector system. Where the photo red light imaging
20 detector system affects state property, the department shall
21 cooperate with and assist the county as needed to install,

1 maintain, and repair the photo red light imaging detector system
2 established pursuant to this chapter.

3 (b) The State or a county that establishes a red light
4 imaging detector system under this chapter, the compensation
5 paid by the State or a county to a manufacturer or vendor of the
6 equipment used shall be based upon the value of the equipment
7 and services provided or rendered in support of the photo red
8 light imaging detector system, and shall not be based upon a
9 portion of the fine or civil penalty imposed or the revenue
10 generated by the equipment.

11 § -4 Photo red light imaging detector system

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

15 (b) Signs and other official traffic-control devices
16 indicating that traffic signal laws are enforced by a photo red
17 light imaging detector system shall be posted on all major
18 routes entering the area in question to provide, as far as
19 practicable, notice to drivers of the existence and operation of
20 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 chapter. 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 § -5 **Summons or citations.** (a) Notwithstanding any law
21 to the contrary, whenever any motor vehicle is determined, by



1 means of a photo red light imaging detector system, to have
2 disregarded a steady red signal in violation of section
3 291C-32(a)(3), the county shall cause a summons or citation, as
4 described in this section, to be sent by first class mail, which
5 is postmarked within ten calendar days of the date of the
6 incident, to the registered owner of the vehicle at the address
7 on record at the vehicle licensing division. If the end of the
8 ten calendar day period falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or state
9 holiday, then the ending period shall run until the end of the
10 next day 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 vehicle license plate and the driver of the motor vehicle, which
21 shall be used as evidence of the violation.



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

4 (d) Upon receipt of the summons or citation, the
5 registered owner shall respond as provided for in chapter 291D.
6 A record of the mailing of the summons or citations prepared in
7 the ordinary course of business is prima facie evidence of
8 notification. The registered owner shall be determined by the
9 identification of 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 **§ -6 Registered owner's responsibility for a summons or**
14 **citation.** In any proceeding for a violation of this chapter,
15 the information contained in the summons or citation mailed in
16 accordance with section -5 shall be deemed prima facie
17 evidence that the registered vehicle violated section
18 291C-32(a)(3).

19 **§ -7 Prima facie evidence.** (a) Whenever the photo red
20 light imaging detector system determines a motor vehicle to be
21 in violation of section 291C-32(a)(3), evidence that the motor



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

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

- 10 (1) Submitting a written statement as provided in section
11 291D-6(b)(2) and a photocopy of the registered owner's
12 driver's license;
- 13 (2) Testifying in open court under oath that the person
14 was not the operator of the vehicle at the time of the
15 alleged violation;
- 16 (3) Calling witnesses to testify in open court under oath
17 that the person was not the operator of the vehicle at
18 the time of the alleged violation;
- 19 (4) Submitting evidence the driver passed through the
20 intersection when the traffic light was red in order
21 to yield the right-of-way to an emergency vehicle;



- 1 (5) Submitting evidence that the motor vehicle was part of
- 2 a funeral procession escorted by the police;
- 3 (6) Presenting, prior to the return date established on
- 4 the citation or summons issued pursuant to this
- 5 chapter, a letter of verification of loss from the
- 6 police department indicating that the vehicle or the
- 7 vehicle license plates had been reported stolen, to
- 8 the court adjudicating the alleged violation;
- 9 (7) Identifying the actual driver of the vehicle at the
- 10 time of the alleged violation; or
- 11 (8) At the direction of a law enforcement officer.

12 § -8 Failure to comply with summons or citation. If the

13 registered owner of the vehicle does not return an answer in

14 response to a summons or citation within a period of thirty days

15 from the date of the mailing of the summons or citation, the

16 district court shall issue, pursuant to section 291D-7(e), a

17 notice of entry of judgment of default to the registered owner

18 of the vehicle.

19 § -9 Liability for rental or U-drive vehicle.

20 Notwithstanding any law to the contrary, if the registered owner

21 of record is the lessor of a rental or U-drive motor vehicle, as



1 defined in section 286-2, pursuant to a written lease agreement,
2 the lessee at the time of the violation shall be responsible for
3 the summons or citation; provided that the lessor shall be
4 responsible for the summons or citation if the lessor does not
5 provide the court having jurisdiction over the summons or
6 citation with the name and address of the lessee within thirty
7 days after a notice containing the date, time, and location of
8 the alleged violation and the license number of the vehicle is
9 sent to the lessor.

10 § -10 **Reissuance of summons or citation.** A summons or
11 citation will be reissued to the person who the registered owner
12 identifies as the driver of the vehicle or the lessor identifies
13 as the lessee of the vehicle at the time of the infraction.

14 § -11 **Penalty.** (a) The penalties for all consequences
15 of a violation for disregarding a steady red signal initiated by
16 the use of a photo red light imaging detector system shall be as
17 provided in section 291C-161.

18 (b) Any summons or citations issues, or convictions
19 resulting from this chapter, shall not be recorded on a person's
20 traffic abstract.



1 § -12 **Fines for unauthorized disclosure.** All personal
2 and confidential information made available by any government
3 agency to an agent of any county for the photo red light imaging
4 detector systems program shall be kept confidential and shall be
5 used only for the purposes for which the information was
6 furnished. Any officer, employee, or agent of a county who
7 intentionally discloses or provides a copy of personal and
8 confidential information obtained from a photo red light imaging
9 detector system to any person or agency without authorization
10 shall be fined not more than \$; provided that the fine
11 shall not preclude the application of penalties or fines
12 otherwise provided for by law.

13 § -13 **Photo red light imaging detector systems program**
14 **special fund established.** (a) There is established a photo red
15 light imaging detector systems special fund to be administered
16 by the department, into which shall be paid revenues collected
17 pursuant to this chapter.

18 (b) All fines collected under this chapter shall be
19 deposited into the photo red light imaging detector systems
20 program special fund. Moneys in the fund shall be expended by
21 the department in the county in which the fine was imposed, for



1 purposes that include the establishment, operation, management,
2 and maintenance of a photo red light imaging detector system.

3 § -14 Rules. The department shall adopt rules pursuant
4 to chapter 91, as may be necessary to implement this chapter."

5 PART III

6 SECTION 3. Section 291C-161, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
7 amended to read as follows:

8 "§291C-161 Penalties [-]; photo red light imaging detector
9 system fines. (a) It is a violation for any person to violate

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

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

- 18 (1) Not more than \$200 for a first violation thereof;
- 19 (2) Not more than \$300 for a second violation committed
- 20 within one year after the date of the first violation;
- 21 and



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

4 (c) Every person convicted under or found in violation of
5 section 291C-12, 291C-12.5, 291C-12.6, 291C-13, 291C-14,
6 291C-15, 291C-16, 291C-72, 291C-73, 291C-95, 291C-102, 291C-103,
7 291C-104, or 291C-105 shall be sentenced or fined in accordance
8 with those sections.

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

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

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

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



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

5 (f) Fines collected for a violation of section 291C-32
6 pursuant to the photo red light imaging detector system
7 established pursuant to chapter shall be deposited into
8 the photo red light imaging detector systems program special
9 fund established under section -13 and shall be expended in
10 the county in which the fine was imposed, for purposes that
11 include the establishment, operation, management, and
12 maintenance of a photo red light imaging detector system.

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

17 SECTION 4. Section 291C-163, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is
18 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

19 "(a) This chapter shall not be deemed to prevent counties
20 with respect to streets and highways under their jurisdiction
21 from:



- 1 (1) Regulating or prohibiting stopping, standing, or
- 2 parking except as provided in section 291C-111;
- 3 (2) Regulating traffic by means of police officers or
- 4 official traffic-control devices;
- 5 (3) Regulating or prohibiting processions or assemblages
- 6 on the highways;
- 7 (4) Designating particular highways or roadways for use by
- 8 traffic moving in one direction;
- 9 (5) Establishing speed limits for vehicles in public
- 10 parks;
- 11 (6) Designating any highway as a through highway or
- 12 designating any intersection as a stop or yield
- 13 intersection;
- 14 (7) Restricting the use of highways;
- 15 (8) Regulating the operation and equipment of and
- 16 requiring the registration and inspection of bicycles,
- 17 including the requirement of a registration fee;
- 18 (9) Regulating or prohibiting the turning of vehicles or
- 19 specified types of vehicles;
- 20 (10) Altering or establishing speed limits;
- 21 (11) Requiring written accident reports;



- 1 (12) Designating no-passing zones;
- 2 (13) Prohibiting or regulating the use of controlled-access
- 3 roadways by any class or kind of traffic;
- 4 (14) Prohibiting or regulating the use of heavily traveled
- 5 streets by any class or kind of traffic found to be
- 6 incompatible with the normal and safe movement of
- 7 traffic;
- 8 (15) Establishing minimum speed limits;
- 9 (16) Designating hazardous railroad grade crossing;
- 10 (17) Designating and regulating traffic on play streets;
- 11 (18) Prohibiting pedestrians from crossing a roadway in a
- 12 business district or any designated highway except in
- 13 a crosswalk;
- 14 (19) Restricting pedestrian crossing at unmarked
- 15 crosswalks;
- 16 (20) Regulating persons propelling push carts;
- 17 (21) Regulating persons upon skates, coasters, sleds, and
- 18 other toy vehicles;
- 19 (22) Adopting and enforcing such temporary or experimental
- 20 regulations as may be necessary to cover emergencies
- 21 or special conditions;



- 1 (23) Adopting maximum and minimum speed limits on streets
- 2 and highways within their respective jurisdictions;
- 3 (24) Adopting requirements on stopping, standing, and
- 4 parking on streets and highways within their
- 5 respective jurisdictions except as provided in section
- 6 291C-111;
- 7 (25) Prohibiting or regulating electric personal assistive
- 8 mobility devices on sidewalks and bicycle paths; [~~and~~]
- 9 (26) Implementing a photo red light imaging detector system
- 10 pursuant to chapter _____ ; and
- 11 ~~[(26)]~~ (27) Adopting such other traffic regulations as are
- 12 specifically authorized by this chapter."

13 SECTION 5. Section 291C-165, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is

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

15 "(b) In every case when a citation is issued, the original

16 of the citation shall be given to the violator; provided that:

17 (1) In the case of an unattended vehicle, the original of

18 the citation shall be affixed to the vehicle as

19 provided for in section 291C-167; or

20 (2) In the case of:



1 (A) A vehicle utilizing the high occupancy vehicle
2 lane illegally; [e#]

3 (B) A vehicle illegally utilizing a parking space
4 reserved for persons with disabilities, where the
5 violator refuses the citation;

6 the original of the citation shall be sent by certified or
7 registered mail, with a return receipt that is postmarked within
8 forty-eight hours of the time of the incident, as provided in
9 section 291C-223 for vehicles illegally utilizing the high
10 occupancy vehicle lane, or within seventy-two hours of the time
11 of the incident for vehicles illegally utilizing a parking space
12 reserved for persons with disabilities to the registered owner
13 of the vehicle at the address on record at the vehicle licensing
14 division. If the end of the applicable forty-eight or seventy-
15 two hour period falls on a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday, then
16 the ending period shall run until the end of the next day which
17 is not a Saturday, Sunday, or holiday; provided that the
18 administrative judge of the district courts may allow a carbon
19 copy of the citation to be given to the violator or affixed to
20 the vehicle and provide for the disposition of the original and
21 any other copies of the citation.



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

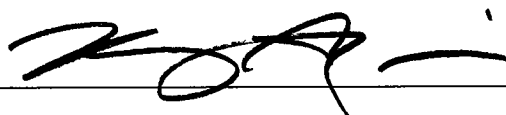
10 SECTION 8. If any provision of this Act, or the
 11 application thereof to any person or circumstance is held
 12 invalid, the invalidity does not affect other provisions or
 13 applications of the Act which can be given effect without the
 14 invalid provision or application, and to this end the provisions
 15 of this Act are severable.

16 SECTION 9. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed
 17 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

18 SECTION 10. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2021.

19

INTRODUCED BY:



JAN 17 2020



H.B. NO. 2008

Report Title:

Highway Safety; Photo Red Light Imaging

Description:

Establishes the Photo Red Light Imaging Detector Systems Program (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.

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

