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## A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO LASER DEVICES.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that the Hawaii penal  
2 code does not adequately address recent incidents in which  
3 aircraft have become targets of green laser lights while flying  
4 or landing safely at an airport. These dangerous incidents may  
5 cause bodily injury to the pilot and the passengers on board,  
6 and may also result in delays in flight schedules.

7           Although pointing a laser at an aircraft is not yet a  
8 pervasive problem in Hawaii, it is a problem across the country,  
9 and there has been an increase in such incidents in Hawaii.  
10 During the last ten years, 21,500 laser-related aircraft  
11 incidents were reported by pilots to the Federal Aviation  
12 Administration.

13           The purpose of this Act is to prohibit the intentional  
14 projection of a beam of light from a laser or laser scope at an  
15 aircraft or at the flight path of an aircraft.



1 SECTION 2. Section 134-1, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding three new definitions to be appropriately  
3 inserted and to read as follows:

4 "Aircraft" means any vehicle that is designed for flight  
5 in the air by buoyancy or by the dynamic action of air on the  
6 vehicle's surface, including powered airplanes, gliders, and  
7 helicopters.

8 "Laser" means any device that produces over five milliwatts  
9 of energy and is designed or used to amplify electromagnetic  
10 radiation by stimulated emission that emits a beam designed to  
11 be used by the operator as a pointer or highlighter to indicate,  
12 mark, or identify a specific position, place, item, or object,  
13 or any device that emits light that simulates the appearance of  
14 a laser.

15 "Laser scope" means a portable battery-powered device  
16 producing over five milliwatts of energy and capable of being  
17 attached to a firearm and capable of projecting a laser light on  
18 objects at a distance."

19 SECTION 3. Chapter 134, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
20 amended by adding a new section to part III to be appropriately  
21 designated and to read as follows:



1           "§134- Laser or laser scope; prohibitions; penalties.

2           (a) Whoever intentionally or knowingly directs a beam of light  
3           from a laser or laser scope at an occupied aircraft shall be  
4           guilty of a misdemeanor.

5           (b) Whoever intentionally or knowingly directs a beam of  
6           light from a laser or laser scope at the flight path of an  
7           aircraft and the act renders the pilot unable to safely operate  
8           the aircraft or causes injury to the pilot, the crew, or the  
9           passengers on board, shall be guilty of a class C felony.

10           (c) Subsections (a) and (b) shall not apply to activities  
11           carried on for the United States Department of Defense, United  
12           States Department of Homeland Security, or police officers  
13           acting in their official capacity for research governed by  
14           standards of accepted development, operations, testing, or  
15           training."

16           SECTION 4. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
17 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
18 begun before its effective date.

19           SECTION 5. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 6. This Act shall take effect upon its approval.

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# H.B. NO. 2189

**Report Title:**

Laser Devices; Offenses; Aircraft

**Description:**

Prohibits the intentional projection of a beam of light from a laser or laser scope at an aircraft or at the flight path of an aircraft.

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

