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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 a new law is needed  
2 due to the recent incidents in which aircraft have become  
3 targets of green laser lights while flying or landing at an  
4 airport. Hawaii's existing penal code does not adequately  
5 address situations in which an offender injures or causes delays  
6 in flight schedules. Although pointing a laser at an aircraft  
7 is not yet a pervasive problem in Hawaii, it is a problem across  
8 the country and its frequency in the State is increasing.  
9 Between 2006 and 2016, 21,500 incidents involving laser devices  
10 and aircraft were reported by pilots to the Federal Aviation  
11 Administration.

12           The purpose of this Act is to establish definitions for  
13 "aircraft", "laser", and "laser scope", as well as to make it an  
14 offense to intentionally project a laser at an aircraft or in  
15 the flight path of an aircraft that may cause bodily injury to  
16 the pilot or to the passengers on board.



1 SECTION 2. Chapter 136, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
2 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
3 and to read as follows:

4 "§136- Directing lasers at aircraft; prohibitions;  
5 penalties. (a) If a person intentionally or knowingly directs  
6 a beam of light from a laser or laser scope, which produces over  
7 five milliwatts of energy at an occupied aircraft, that person  
8 shall be guilty of a misdemeanor.

9 (b) If the act in subsection (a) renders the pilot unable  
10 to safely operate the aircraft or causes injury to the pilot,  
11 crew, or passengers on board the aircraft, that person shall be  
12 guilty of a class C felony.

13 (c) This section shall not apply to activities carried on  
14 for the Department of Defense, the Department of Homeland  
15 Security, or police officers acting in their official capacity  
16 for research governed by standards of accepted development,  
17 operations, testing, or training."

18 SECTION 3. Chapter 136, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
19 amended by amending its title to read as follows:

20 "LASER [POINTING] DEVICES"



1 SECTION 4. Section 136-1, 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 surfaces, including powered airplanes, gliders, and  
7 helicopters.

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

14 "Laser scope" means a portable battery-powered device  
15 capable of being attached to a firearm and capable of projecting  
16 a laser light on objects at a distance."

17 SECTION 5. This Act does not affect rights and duties that  
18 matured, penalties that were incurred, and proceedings that were  
19 begun before its effective date.

20 SECTION 6. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
21 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.



1 SECTION 7. This Act shall take effect on January 7, 2059.

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**Report Title:**

Laser Devices; Aircraft; Criminal Offense

**Description:**

Makes it a criminal offense to intentionally or knowingly direct the beam from a laser or laser scope at an occupied aircraft under certain circumstances. Takes effect on 1/7/2059. (SD1)

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

