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# A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATING TO MANTA RAYS.

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

1           SECTION 1. The legislature finds that manta rays are a  
2 threatened species because of poaching and commercial fishing.  
3 In 2005, a bill to prohibit the killing of manta rays was  
4 introduced but not heard by the legislature. In 2006, the state  
5 house of representatives adopted H.R. No. 30, H.D. 1, which  
6 established a working group to protect the *batoidea* order  
7 including manta rays. Despite these earlier efforts,  
8 legislation is needed to effectively protect manta rays.

9           The purpose of this Act is to establish fines and penalties  
10 for knowingly killing or capturing manta rays within state  
11 waters.

12           SECTION 2. Chapter 188, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
13 amended by adding a new section to be appropriately designated  
14 and to read as follows:

15           "§188-     Manta rays, prohibitions; penalties and fines.

16           (a) No person shall knowingly capture or kill a manta ray  
17 within state marine waters.



1        (b) Any person violating this section or any rule adopted  
2 thereunder shall be guilty of a misdemeanor and shall be fined:

3        (1) \$500 for a first offense;

4        (2) \$2,000 for a second offense; and

5        (3) \$10,000 for a third or subsequent offense.

6        (c) In addition to any other penalty imposed under this  
7 section, a person violating this section shall be subject to:

8        (1) An administrative fine of not more than \$10,000 for  
9 each manta ray captured or killed in violation of this  
10 section;

11        (2) Seizure and forfeiture of manta rays, commercial  
12 marine license, vessel, and fishing equipment; and

13        (3) Assessment of administrative fees and costs, and  
14 attorney's fees and costs.

15        (d) The criminal penalties and administrative fines and  
16 costs shall be assessed per manta ray captured or killed in  
17 violation of this section.

18        (e) This section shall not prohibit special activity  
19 permits allowed under section 187A-6."

20        SECTION 3. Section 188-70, Hawaii Revised Statutes, is  
21 amended by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:



1           "(a) Any person violating any provision of this chapter,  
2 ~~[excepting section 188-23,]~~ except sections 188-23 and 188- ,  
3 or any rule adopted pursuant thereto, is guilty of a petty  
4 misdemeanor and, in addition to any other penalties, shall be  
5 fined not less than:

- 6           (1) \$100 for a first offense;  
7           (2) \$200 for a second offense; and  
8           (3) \$500 for a third or subsequent offense."

9           SECTION 4. Statutory material to be repealed is bracketed  
10 and stricken. New statutory material is underscored.

11           SECTION 5. This Act shall take effect on July 1, 2020.



**Report Title:**

Manta Rays; Poaching and Commercial Fishing Prohibited

**Description:**

Establishes fines and penalties for any person who knowingly captures or kills a manta ray within state marine waters. Provides an exception for special permits granted for scientific, education, management, or propagation purposes.  
(HB366 HD2)

