

STAND. COM. REP. NO.

992

Honolulu, Hawaii

MAR 27 2009

RE: H.B. No. 366
H.D. 2
S.D. 1

Honorable Colleen Hanabusa
President of the Senate
Twenty-Fifth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2009
State of Hawaii

Madam:

Your Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs, to which was referred H.B. No. 366, H.D. 2, entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO MANTA RAYS,"

begs leave to report as follows:

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

Testimony in support of this measure was submitted by one state agency, thirteen organizations, and seventy-eight public citizens. One state agency supported the intent of the measure. Written testimony presented to your Committee may be reviewed on the Legislature's website.

Your Committee finds that this measure will ensure the protection of Hawaii's manta ray populations. Manta ray populations reproduce slowly, a female manta ray will take close to ten years before she has her first pup, and will contribute a single new pup only every two to three years. Around the world manta ray populations have been decimated, they are targeted for shark fin soup and controversial medicines. Due to the slow reproduction process, any taking of manta rays can affect the population for many years. Currently, there are no state laws or rules to protect Hawaii's manta ray population.

Your Committee has amended this measure by:

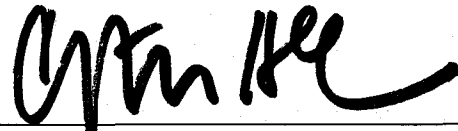
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- (1) Requiring that special activity permits not be issued for any take that would exceed the potential biological removal level;
- (2) Defining "potential biological removal level"; and
- (3) Amending the effective date to upon approval.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 366, H.D. 2, as amended herein, and recommends that it pass Second Reading in the form attached hereto as H.B. No. 366, H.D. 2, S.D. 1, and be referred to the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Water, Land,
Agriculture, and Hawaiian
Affairs,



CLAYTON HEE, Chair



