

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER, LAND AND OCEAN RESOURCES**

Monday, February 2, 2009

9:00 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 325

**In consideration of
House Bill 366
RELATING TO MANTA RAYS**

House Bill 366 would prohibit the take of manta rays in State waters, and impose fines for violations. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of this measure, but believes it to be duplicative of efforts already underway via the administrative rule process, and therefore considers the measure unnecessary.

The Department is aware of both the role of manta rays as charismatic marine megafauna of value to the reef-based tourism industry, and of their potential vulnerability to unregulated harvest. The Department is therefore addressing the protection of manta rays and other marine species of special concern through promulgation of a rule that would contain a list of no-take marine species afforded protection from harvest except by permit under special circumstances. This effort, which involves the potential protection of all sharks and rays in Hawaiian waters (along with many other species of concern) is already discussed and endorsed by the West Hawaii Fisheries Council for the West Hawaii area.

In summary, Department supports the protection of manta rays, and intends to bring forth a proposed administrative rule to this effect in the immediate future.

COB
LAURA H. THIELEN
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
FIRST DEPUTY

KEN C. KAWAHARA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENFORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS



Legislative Testimony
HB 366 RELATING TO MANTA RAYS
House Committee on Water, Land, Ocean Resources

February 2, 2009
Room: 325

9:00 a.m.

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS, with amendments,** H.B. 366, which would amend Chapter 188, Hawaii Revised Statutes and prohibit persons from knowingly capturing or killing manta rays within State marine waters.

OHA believes that the intent of this bill is a proactive step toward protecting manta rays ahead of any potential threats posed by commercial fishing, poaching and wanton killing.

OHA's only recommendation is that the bill be amended to include a provision that would develop an appropriate process to allow for the use of manta rays for any identified traditional and customary purposes.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to PASS H.B. 366 with the above mentioned recommendation as an amendment. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

ANIMAL RIGHTS HAWAII
P.O.BOX 10845
HONOLULU, HI 96816
808.941.9476
ANIMALRIGHTSHAWAII.ORG
SELKIE@HAWAII.RR.COM

Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources

re: HB366

position: SUPPORT

Chair Ito and members of the Committee:

Animal Rights Hawai'i urges your support for HB366. The gentle beautiful Manta Rays deserve our respect and protection. We hope that you will vote in favor of this bill. We are an island, surrounded by the ocean and we should do all we can to protect the marine flora and fauna.

Mahalo,

Cathy Goeggel
Director



RESEARCH FOUNDATION
Research • Education • Conservation

P.O. Box 3227
Kailua-Kona, HI
96745-3227

info@mantapacific.org
www.mantapacific.org
808.325.1630

Testimony of Keller Laros, founder of the Manta Pacific Research Foundation
February 2, 2009

Aloha and thank you for allowing me to testify and endorse H.R.366.
I want to introduce myself, describe my experience and explain why I support manta ray protection in the State of Hawaii.

My name is Keller Laros. I live in Kailua-Kona, Hawaii. I made my first scuba dive in Hawaii in 1984. I made my first manta ray dive in 1985. Since 1985 I have been a PADI Scuba Instructor. In 1993 I authored and began teaching a PADI sanctioned class called Manta Ray Diver. To date I have 8,286 logged scuba dives. During my scuba career I have logged dives in Hawaii, California, Washington, Mexico, US Virgin Islands, British Virgin Islands, British West Indies, Republic of Palau, and Midway Atoll. I have been sited and or interviewed in books, magazine articles, television programs and internet broadcasts about diving and marine ecology. I have issued more than 750 scuba certifications to all levels as well as 196 Manta Ray Diver certifications. I am the founder of the Manta Pacific Research Foundation, a 501c3 non-profit dedicated to the conservation and study of manta rays. I am a husband and father of three children ages 5, 9 and 12 years.



January 29, 2009

Re: Hawaii Manta Ray Protection Bills

To Whom It May Concern:

Michael Hoff Protection in association with the National Geographic Channel write in support of House Bill 366, stating that “no person shall knowingly capture or kill a manta ray within Hawaii state marine waters.”

Manta Ray populations have already suffered globally from over-fishing and by-catch trapping. It is important to the conservation and study of these creatures that Hawaii protects the healthy population of manta rays that exist in its surrounding waters.

In addition, these sea-creatures are a main attraction for tourists to Hawaii. By allowing the capture of manta rays the state would be injuring a source of its economic livelihood.

Sincerely,

Elizabeth Buckley

Associate Producer
Michael Hoff Productions, Inc.

Testimony

To: Rep. Ken Ito, Chair, Rep. Sharon E. Har, Vice-Chair,
COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

For: hearing Monday, February 02, 2009, 9:00 a.m.

Conference Room 325, State Capitol, 415 South Beretania Street

Please make 25 copies for distribution

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 366, relating to Manta Rays

In January 2009 Hawaii is known among ocean enthusiasts as the best place in the world to see the magnificent living "flying carpets" known as manta rays. The Kona population of manta rays alone brings millions of tourism dollars into our struggling state economy each year. Local residents consider the mantas as "ohana" and know each one by name and by individual color patterns and other characteristics. The loss of any single "family member" would be considered a tragedy to those who dive with these animals nightly and always look out for familiar individuals.

In the 1950's the most famous place for mantas was Bimini, Bahamas. Tourists flew to Bimini on scaplanes to hunt the "sea monsters" with harpoons. By the 1970's, and likely earlier, the giant mantas of the Bahamas had vanished. I made hundreds of dives in Bimini and never saw a manta, nor have I ever heard of anyone seeing a manta ray anywhere in the Bahamas in the last 35 years. With their low reproductive rate, they have never been able to recover from the slaughter.

In 2006, the island of Saipan was considered the best place in the world to see graceful eagle rays. There was a diver attraction known as "Eagle Ray City" where divers came from all over the world to see the rays, just as they come to Ho'ona Bay in Kona to see manta rays. But that year some residents began to spear eagle rays for food. Divers pressured the government and a bill was passed in 2007 to protect the eagle rays – but it was too late. The rays had already abandoned the site, and did not return in 2008. The goose that laid the golden eggs had been killed.

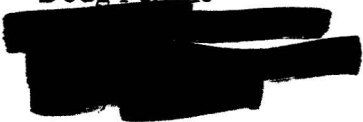
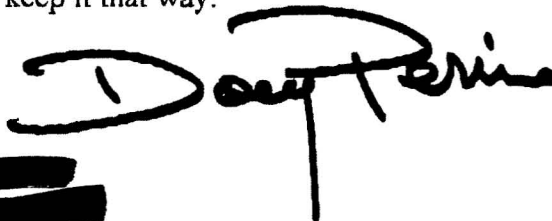
In 2008, we also had an incident of vandals spearing an eagle ray in Kona. There were inquiries from merchants wanting to buy manta ray parts from Hawaii for sale in Asia, and a contract was issued by a mainland aquarium for the capture of Hawaiian mantas to be transported out of state. This collecting will commence in 2009 if legislation is not passed during this session. For the divers who know these animals, this would be like having someone come into your home to snatch the beloved family dog. Except that you can always buy another dog, but a manta ray cannot be replaced.

We have a very clear choice. We can grant total protection to these lovely, harmless residents of our waters that give so much joy to visitors and residents alike, and provide so much benefit to our economy. Or we can do nothing and watch them go the way of Bimini's mantas and Saipan's eagle rays. We can do nothing and continue Hawaii's proud tradition as the extinction capital of the Western Hemisphere. We can do nothing and ignore the advice of biologists who tell us that mantas have very low reproductive rates and that Hawaiian mantas live in small localized colonies that are not replenished by immigration. We can do nothing and worry later about how to explain to the keiki why we let the Hawaiian manta go the way of the Hawaiian flightless duck. The Philippines, Mexico, and Yap have all recognized the value of mantas as living resources and the fragility of their populations and protected them.

In January 2009, collectors are building a pen to hold manta rays to be shipped out of state. In January 2009 Hawaii is still the most famous place in the world to see manta rays in the wild. Your vote in favor of HB366 can help keep it that way.

Mahalo,

Doug Perrine



Testimony from Dr. Kim Holland, Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology

Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources (WLO and JUD)

Hearing on Monday, Jan 2nd at 0900, Rm 325

Concerning HB 366 "Relating to Manta Rays"

Dear committee members,

I am on the faculty at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, University of Hawaii where I specialize in studying the movements and behavior of Hawaii's fishes and sharks. This is my own private testimony.

I am strongly opposed to HB 366 because it is not necessary for the protection of Hawaii's manta rays and it would have the negative effect of prohibiting legitimate research and educational activities. Further, this piecemeal approach to resource management is bad public policy.

There is no imminent or plausible threat to Hawaii's manta ray populations and, if such an unlikely scenario were to develop, the are existing ways of shutting those activities down. On the other hand, Hawaii's manta ray population can certainly withstand the very low numbers of removals that would be needed to support legitimate research and educational goals. These could include collecting some animals for display in aquariums. It is widely recognized that aquariums serve an important role in raising the public's awareness of the importance of wise husbandry of marine ecosystems and therefore the harvest of very low numbers of animals for this purpose could have a net overall benefit for manta populations. Similarly, legitimate research activities also play a crucial role in ensuring the future wellbeing of our marine creatures. Thus Bill would prohibit those activities.

It is commendable that people are concerned about the well being of marine species but this Bill is unnecessary, is poor government policy and could have deleterious impacts on legitimate uses of our marine resources.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 12:09 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Attachments: DeakosMantaBillTestimony.pdf (172 KB)

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Mark Deakos
Organization: The Hawaii Association for Marine Research and Education, Inc.
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 2/1/2009

Comments:

The Hawaii Association for Marine Education and Research, Inc.



4993 L. Honoapiilani Rd
Lahaina, HI, 96761, USA
Phone: 808-280-6448
Fax: 808-669-8998
Email: deakos@hawaii.edu
www.hamerinhawaii.org

Testimony – Mark Deakos

February 2, 2009

Attn: Hawaii State Legislature
Water, Land, and Oceans Resources Committee

Subject: Support for HB366 to Protect Manta Rays in Hawaii

Dear members of the Water, Land, and Ocean Resources Committee,

I would like to start by sharing some true facts about manta rays...

The IUCN, the world's main authority on the risk of extinction to a species, classifies manta rays as near threatened for the following reasons:

- 1) Females don't reach sexual maturity until about ten years of age
- 2) Adult females only have a single pup on maybe every 2-3 years

These two facts mean that manta ray populations grow very slowly.

- 3) Manta ray gill rakers are worth a lot of money causing populations to be decimated in places like South China, Philippines, Indonesia, and Mexico.
- 4) They are easy to capture because they are slow moving and aggregate in large numbers in very specific locations
- 5) Populations can be small and non-migratory (no mixing between populations)

Standard, reliable techniques have long been used to determine the size of animal populations. One method known as "mark-recapture", which uses the natural, distinctive markings of an animal, work especially well with manta rays.

The population off Kona is estimated around 140 individual mantas. As part of my Ph.D. research with the University of Hawaii, I've spent the past five years studying the Maui

County population estimated at 350 individuals. Of those individual mantas identified in Maui, none have matched those identified in Kona, providing strong evidence that these populations don't move between the main islands. This makes Hawaii's small, island-resident manta ray populations extremely vulnerable to the removal of even just a few individuals.

Often, during times of economic hardship, conservation goes by the wayside. Under our current laws, you and I, or anyone outside of Hawaii motivated by financial gain, could visit one of our manta ray aggregation areas and easily eliminate a quarter of the population in a matter of days, and the rest of the population in a matter of weeks. This is the reality of the current threat facing Hawaii's mantas.

The implementation of a "no kill, no extraction" law will enable the people of Hawaii to benefit from the long-term, sustainable, economic value of Hawaii's manta rays as visitors continue to flock to one of the few places in the world where they can reliably see manta rays in the wild. To view these magnificent giants in their natural environment is an experience beyond description, one that I hope is available to all our children and grandchildren. The two million dollar a year manta ray dive industry in Kona is a testament to this valuable resource.

Ask yourself - knowing that manta rays are listed as near threatened by the IUCN, knowing that Hawaii's manta ray populations are small and island-specific, knowing that these populations could be decimated in a matter of weeks, and knowing the huge economic benefits mantas bring to Hawaii, why would anyone oppose the protection of this extremely vulnerable and valuable resource?

Sincerely,

Mark H. Deakos

Director of The Hawaii Association for Marine Education and Research, Inc.
Member of the Maui Nui Marine Resource Council
Ph.D. Student at University of Hawaii at Manoa
Marine Biologist

Jan 29, 2009

Comments on HB 366 – Manta Ray Protection

I strongly support this bill. The manta rays are at serious risk according to detailed, multi-year research.

HB 729 is not a suitable alternative to this bill.

Please vote yes on HB 366

Jerry Kane

[REDACTED]

Jan 29, 2009

Comments on HB 366 – Manta Ray Protection

I strongly support this bill. The manta rays are at serious risk according to detailed, multi-year research.

HB 729 is not a suitable alternative to this bill.

Please vote yes on HB 366

Velora Kane

[REDACTED]

WLO

Traci Erin Cox


Jan. 29, 2008

To the Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources

I am writing in support of HB 366 and SB394 to legally protect Manta Rays in the state of Hawaii. Hawaii has a healthy population of manta rays, but information on the life history and movement rate show that they would be highly susceptible to over fishing. Hawaii has now been targeted by aquarium as a location where they can capture manta rays for husbandry experiments and display in tanks. Without legislative protection, these aquariums will be able to take as many individuals from the population as they want without having to report on the fate of the individuals they take.

As a researcher and PhD candidate at the University of Hawaii, Manoa I fully support this House and Senate Bill. I hope that your committee will support HB 366 and SB 394.

Sincerely,
Traci Erin Cox

*Friends of Pebble Beach
87-3208 Carissa Road
Captain Cook, HI 96704*

January 29, 2009

House Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Recreation

Dear Sirs:

We strongly support House Bill 366.

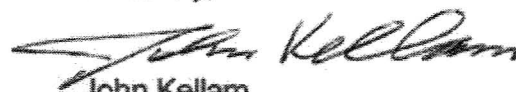
Manta rays are a special feature of the Hawai'i coast. Those of us who dive and snorkel, particularly at night, are in awe of the spectacle of these huge rays swooping close to lights to gather plankton. The joy that they spread to those of us in the water should be enough to protect them. Add to that a considerable boost to the diving industry here, and there are compelling reasons to ensure the current population if not increase their numbers. (I should point out that I do not work in the dive industry, nor do I represent it, but I value its contribution to our local economy.)

Legislative efforts in the recent past (2005 and 2006) have been sidetracked partially by D.L.N.R. asking that they be allowed to protect the manta rays. Doing so has obviously not been a high priority in that agency. Meanwhile, particularly here on the Big Island, we are seeing an influx of immigrants from areas of the South Pacific where manta rays are eaten. We have received letters of inquiry from Hong Kong asking whether efforts to harvest manta ray gill rakers for sale on the Chinese medicinal market would be welcome here. And there have been efforts by West Coast aquariums to arrange for the capture of Hawaiian manta rays to display on the mainland.

These dangers to the manta ray population are real and immediate. They will not wait for the normal delay by state bureaucrats, like those at D.L.N.R. Manta rays are slow to reproduce. A considerable amount of research has shown that Hawaiian mantas remain in the same area year to year and reproduce slowly. Other research in Indonesia and the Philippines has shown that manta numbers drop drastically when harvested for the Chinese market, let alone the local meat market.

I urge you to take care in listening to professed academic authorities who belittle this research. The Monterey Bay Aquarium has contacted several people interested in supplying them with manta rays. It appears that these people, despite their learning, are loath to admit a conflict of interest in discussing this issue in public.

Sincerely,



John Kellam
Friends of Pebble Beach

TESTIMONY OF CAROL BREEN, PRIVATE CITIZEN, STATE OF OREGON, UNITED STATES OF AMERICA

As a frequent visitor to Hawaii and a scuba diver, this testimony is written in support of HB366. Here are several excellent reasons why these magnificent creatures should be protected under the law:

- There is currently no protection for manta rays from any type of fishing, collection, or capture in Hawaii.
- Kona is one of the best locations around the world to see manta rays in the wild. Manta rays are observed on 80% of the dives at Garden Eel Cove each year.
- Manta ray ecotourism generated over 2.5 million dollars per year in revenue for the state of Hawaii in 1992. The increase in tourism over the last seven years suggests even more is generated today. This depends on a healthy population of live manta rays in Hawaii.
- Individuals can be identified by their unique spot patterns on their belly. These pigment patterns have allowed residents to name and keep track of individuals, and has shown that many are long-time residents at certain sites.
- Manta rays are very long lived. One individual (Lefty) has been a resident in Kona since before 1979, when she was first identified as a full grown adult female.
- Only 154 manta rays have been identified along the Kona Coast since 1992, suggesting very small population sizes.
- No individual has ever been documented migrating between Kona and Maui, despite two separate photo-identification studies and two acoustic tracking studies. This suggests that each island has its own distinct population, and overfishing on one island will not be alleviated by migration of new individuals from another island.
- Manta rays have extremely low reproductive rates. Only 2-3 new pups are observed in Kona each year. It would take a long time for captured manta rays to be replaced by natural reproduction.
- Manta rays do not have to be in aquarium for researchers to learn more about them. Hawaii is a perfect location for researchers to study manta rays in the wild.
- There is no reason we should allow our local manta rays to be sold to generate income for outside parties. They are worth much more to Hawaii alive and swimming in our local waters than dead or stuck in a tank on the mainland.

I implore you to seriously consider the impact of your decision on this matter. As someone who has observed first-hand, Kona's unique population of Manta Rays, I pray that you will leave them in their natural habitat for future generations to enjoy in this capacity.

Carol Breen

[REDACTED]

January 29, 2009

January 28, 2009

Dear Hawaii State House of Representatives,


I am writing in strong and urgent support of bill HB366 to protect Hawaiian Manta Rays from fishing for live export in the aquarium trade, and export as a food/homeopathic medicinal product. I have been privileged to see these magnificent animals off the Kona coast on the Big Island as well as off of the southern shores of Maui. Being just feet away from these animals as they soar in circles through the water is an exhilarating experience. Many visitors, residents, and the tourism industry will agree that these spectacular animals are worth more alive than dead. Manta Ray ecotourism generated **2.5 million** dollars in 1992, and it is prospected that this will only increase as stories are told around the world. There are currently no laws protecting these fascinating animals from fishing.

A Manta Ray fishery in Hawaii will potentially wipe out the populations here. Manta rays are very site attached, which means they do not migrate between islands. Therefore if we wipe out manta rays in Hawaii, there is little chance of reintroductions from other regions of the world. There have been 154 manta rays identified off of the kona coast since 1992. Females can only give birth to one or two pups per year. If Manta rays are fished at low rates, there is a high chance that these animals can be wiped out in a very short period of time. Shark fisheries off the coast of Mexico have been wiped out very rapidly because of the high fishing pressure, and life history strategies. Because Manta Rays are closely related to sharks and have similar life histories, it is very likely that a Manta fishery in Hawaii will have negative effects on the populations here.

Once again, Manta Rays bring in over **2.5 million dollars** a year, **they are worth more alive in Hawaii** than dead, and there is no reason we should allow outside parties to generate income using Hawaiian Manta Rays with very little to no positive economic impact for the state of Hawaii.

I strongly urge my state representatives to vote for bill HB366 in order to protect Hawaiian Manta Rays from destructive fishing practices.

Mahalo Nui Loa

John Fitzpatrick
Research Assistant
University of Hawaii, Manoa
Department of Zoology


[REDACTED]

From: Ian Cooke [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 4:30 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Subject: HB366 Manta Ray protection

The very slow reproductive rate of manta rays means that unrestrained fishing of these easily observed and caught animals will quickly result in their disappearance. These animals are accessible to study in the wild and removal to an aquarium should be restricted to qualified researchers with appropriate local facilities. Their capture for commercial purposes and for export from Hawaii should be strictly prohibited.

I recall my excitement and fascination at seeing my first manta ray at age 8 on a family vacation to Kona. I'm told that the rays still present a major visitor attraction there and at other locations. Their value to the State as a feature for ecotourism is enormously greater than as a commercial export item.

Please support the passage of legislation to protect this very limited resource.

Ian M. Cooke
[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Dear Committee,

Kona's Manta Rays are a wonderful natural resource, and they bring millions of dollars to Hawaii every year. Their protection is vital to Kona's ecology and economy.

Other areas of the world have been unregulated and brought devastation to the manta populations in those regions. Should that happen in Kona it would surely effect the ecological balance. Our mantas are unusual in that studies have shown they do not migrate. We have a population of mantas here that provide excellent opportunities for research and could attract many marine biologists to our area.

The Kona Manta Rays bring millions of dollars to our local economy. In these times when our country is struggling with financial crisis it would be ridiculous not to do something to protect the very resource that helps our local economy survive. A recent survey has shown that over \$4 million dollars a year comes to our area in direct sales of manta snorkel and dive trips. This does not account for hotel, car rentals, food, t-shirts, hats, sweatshirts, other sight-seeing opportunities. My husband and I originally visited Kona specifically to do the manta dive. While visiting we spent thousands of dollars and returned two more times that year to do the manta dives again.

We currently live in Kailua-Kona and we invite several people over to take part in this wonderful experience.

I recently was made aware of a manta that was speared near Keauhou just for the "fun of it". The manta swam away with a spear in it and most likely died without any part of it being used. This ignorance should not and cannot be tolerated.

Also, taking our Kona Mantas for aquariums should be prohibited. The argument that people gain respect for creatures by visiting them in an aquarium is no longer valid with the new accessibility to them in their own environment. The Kona Mantas are no exception and co-exist with people in the water all the time. What better learning experience can there be than to watch one of these beautiful, graceful creatures do back rolls over and over again while feeding. This can be experienced in our own backyard, and there is no reason to "pen" one of our mantas for human enjoyment.

Please take whatever steps necessary to get this legislation through and protect one Kona's greatest assets.

Very truly yours,

Denise Stuart

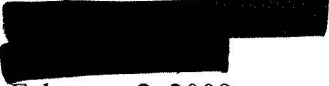
To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing to give my dearest support to HB366 and SB394. These two bills are designed to give protection to one of nature's most incredible creations, the manta ray. I have had the pleasure to scuba dive with these majestic creatures along your coast, and I can think of no better experience I have had in my 17 years of life. Scientists have found them to be quite intelligent creatures, and after looking one in the eye, I would have to agree. They may not be in any immediate danger at the moment, but would be decimated by any exploitation of their population. I suspect if one did the math the amount of money the tourist industry brings in for diving with these creatures, a living manta would be worth quite a lot of money to the Hawaiian economy. You cannot really put a price on any one of these majestic creatures, which have a right simply to be aloud to live. Please be responsible in representing the people of Hawaii and the world, who benefit greatly from manta rays. Please support both of these bills to help ensure the protection of these creatures into the future.

Sincerely,

Noah Michael Schlager

Chairman Ken Ito
Vice Chair Sharon Har
Committee Water, Land, & Ocean Resources
Melynda Dant


February 2, 2009

In Support :HB366: RELATING TO MANTA RAYS.

Dear Chairman Ito, and Vice-Chair Har and Committee Representatives,

I support HB366. The state needs to protect the manta ray from harm. I believe this is a necessary law and a practical first step. If we do not protect these harmless marine animals, then they are vulnerable to being extinct very easily from our Hawaiian waters.

Indonesia and China have markets for the manta ray branchial filaments, which they dry and turn it into a powder for medicinal purposes in the Asian market.

Hawaii has now been targeted by aquariums as a location where they can capture manta rays for husbandry experiments and display in tanks. Without legislative protection, these aquariums will be able to take as many individuals from the population as they want without having to report on the fate of the individuals they take.

It is imperative that we act now. Protect these amazing animals today, by voting to pass HB366.

Sincerely,

Melynda Dant

Vice President
Fair Wind Cruises
Kona Hawaii

Dear State of Hawaii Representatives,

1-29-09

I am writing this testimonial in the utmost support of HB366 – for the protection of Hawaii’s Manta Rays. As you know, there is currently no protection for manta rays from any type of fishing, collection, or capture in Hawaiian waters, yet manta ray ecotourism generates millions of dollars in revenue every year (i.e., 2.5 million dollars in state revenue in 1992, and likely even more in recent years as tourism has increased). The Kona coast of the Big Island is one of the best locations in the world to see manta rays in the wild; a spectacle that attracts thousands of tourists each year. The long-term stability of this attraction and its associated revenue depends critically on a healthy population of live manta rays in Hawaii.

Although no fishery has ever existed in Hawaii, manta rays have been actively targeted in several countries including Indonesia, Mexico, the Philippines, Africa, and throughout Asia. Mexican manta populations have been recently categorized in the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species as “Near Threatened” owed to the alarming negative impacts from fisheries. Due to their large size (up to 20 feet in width), slow growth rate, and extremely low reproductive rates (i.e., only 1 pup every 2-3 years), mantas are exceptionally vulnerable to exploitation and may not have the ability to recover from even moderate population decline. The small size of Hawaii’s manta populations further exasperates their sensitivity to exploitation. Individuals can be identified by their unique spot patterns on their belly. These pigment patterns have allowed residents to name and keep track of individuals. Since 1992, only 154 manta rays have been identified along the Kona Coast, and 187 individuals from the island of Maui. However, no individual has ever been documented migrating between Kona and Maui (a distance of only 60 miles), despite two separate photo-identification studies and two acoustic tracking studies. This evidence suggests that each island potentially houses a unique population that is closed to immigration and emigration from other islands. With such small population sizes, and little likelihood for recruitment from outside sources, the removal of even a few individuals could significantly impact each island’s population.

Hawaii has now been targeted by aquariums as a location where they can capture manta rays for husbandry experiments and for display in tanks. Without legislative protection, these aquariums would be able to take as many individuals from the population as they want, and not have to report on the fate of the individuals they take. Hawaii has a healthy population of manta rays, but information on the life history and movement rates suggest that they would be highly susceptible to overfishing. If we are going to protect manta rays in Hawaii, we need to do it now before fishing starts.

Manta rays do not have to be in an aquarium for researchers to learn more about them. Hawaii is a perfect location for researchers to study manta rays in the wild. There is no reason we should allow our local manta rays to be sold to generate income for outside parties. They are worth much more to Hawaii alive and swimming in our local waters than dead or stuck in a tank on the mainland.

As a concerned citizen, scientist, and local resident, I urge you to support legislation HB366 for the establishment of protection for Hawaii's unique population of manta rays.

Sincerely,

Jonathan Whitney

Graduate Research Assistant
Department of Zoology
University of Hawaii at Manoa
2538 McCarthy Mall, Edmondson 152
Honolulu, Hawaii 96822

[REDACTED]

Associate Researcher
Hawaii Association for Marine Education and Research

[REDACTED]

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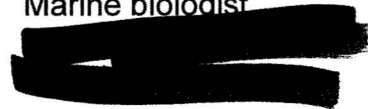
January 29, 2009

Dear Hawaii Legislature:

I would like to express my support for HB366 and SB394, which would make it illegal to capture or kill manta rays in Hawaii. I support these 2 bills because there is currently no protection for manta rays from any type of fishing, collection, or capture in Hawaii. Also, Kona is one of the best locations around the world to see manta rays in the wild. Manta rays are observed on 80% of the dives at Garden Eel Cove each year. Manta ray ecotourism generated over 2.5 million dollars per year in revenue for the state of Hawaii in 1992. The increase in tourism over the last seven years suggests even more is generated today. This depends on a healthy population of live manta rays in Hawaii. Individuals can be identified by their unique spot patterns on their belly. These pigment patterns have allowed residents to name and keep track of individuals, and has shown that many are long-time residents at certain sites. Manta rays are very long lived. One individual (Lefty) has been a resident in Kona since before 1979, when she was first identified as a full grown adult female. Only 154 manta rays have been identified along the Kona Coast since 1992, suggesting very small population sizes. No individual has ever been documented migrating between Kona and Maui, despite two separate photo-identification studies and two acoustic tracking studies. This suggests that each island has its own distinct population, and overfishing on one island will not be alleviated by migration of new individuals from another island. Manta rays have extremely low reproductive rates. Only 2-3 new pups are observed in Kona each year. It would take a long time for captured manta rays to be replaced by natural reproduction. Manta rays do not have to be in aquarium for researchers to learn more about them. Hawaii is a perfect location for researchers to study manta rays in the wild. There is no reason we should allow our local manta rays to be sold to generate income for outside parties. They are worth much more to Hawaii alive and swimming in our local waters than dead or stuck in a tank on the mainland.

I hope you will help us in protecting these amazing animals. Thank you for your support.

Lance Smith
Marine biologist

A large black rectangular redaction mark covering the signature area.

House Bill 366-

I have been to Hawaii for a total four weeks over the last several years, principally to have my family dive and snorkel with manta rays. I have been diving in many parts of the world and there is no creature more majestic or mysterious in my mind. Any bill that can be passed that will aid in the preservation of these amazing creatures is worthy of passage. I live in Virginia and travel a long way to enjoy watching the manta ray's in their habitat. If protective measures are not passed and the manta's disappear from the water's of Hawaii, I will not be the only tourist who finds other places to spend vacation dollars. While I say that, please don't pass protective measures simply to attract tourism, pass the measures for the sake of preserving one of our ocean's greatest living creatures.

Thanks for listening,

Craig Grube

[REDACTED]

RE: Testimony in support of HB 366 and SB 394

My name is Angela Fa'ananu and I am a resident of Hawaii. I am a doctoral student in Urban and Regional Planning at the University of Hawaii. I am also a frequent user of the ocean.

I see manta rays while diving and surfing on Oahu and they are amazing and beautiful creatures that are important assets of this place.

I fully support HB 366 and SB 394 and hope that we can protect the biodiversity of marine life in Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration.
Angela Fa'ananu



David Kwiat, MD

Board Certified Internal Medicine
Kaiser Permanente Kona Clinic
Hualalai Medical Center
75-184 Hualalai Road
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii 96740
(808) 334-4451
Cell(808) 987-7271

Friday, January 30, 2009

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES
Hawaii House of Representatives
THE TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2009

Dear Mr. Ito and members of the Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources,

Save our Manta Rays!

Please support House Bill 366 Relating to Manta Rays (part of Hearing WLO 02-02-2009). This bill would create administrative penalties for any person who knowingly captures or kills a manta ray within state marine waters.

As a physician who lives in Kona and enjoys recreational diving, I can testify that the Mantas are truly one of Hawaii's most valuable and beautiful natural resources. At the present time, they are not protected and efforts are afoot to capture these incredible creatures to use them in aquariums or to kill them for use as a source of alternative medications. There are fewer than 50 Mantas known along the Kona Coast. The Kona Manta Ray night dive is generally considered one of the top diving destinations in the world. To capture them all would probably take less than a day. As they reproduce only every few years, we would likely never see them again in Hawaii waters.

As members of the committee on water, land, and ocean resources, there will likely be no more important bill this term that requires your strong support. I will be unable to be present at the hearing but please feel free to contact me if I can provide any further information.

Sincerely,
David Kwiat, MD

WLO

Kelly S. Boyle
Department of Zoology
University of Hawaii
2538 McCarthy Mall, Edmondson 152
Honolulu, HI 96822

Jan. 30, 2008

To the Water, Land, and Ocean Resources Committee

I am writing in support of HB 366 and SB394 to legally protect Manta Rays in Hawaiian waters. Hawaii has a healthy population of manta rays, but information on the life history and movement rate indicate that they would be highly susceptible to over fishing. Hawaii has now been targeted by professional aquaria as a location to capture manta rays for husbandry experiments and display in tanks. Without legislative protection, these aquariums will be able to take as many individuals from the population as they want without having to report on the fate of the individuals they take.

As a researcher of marine fishes and PhD candidate at the University of Hawaii, Manoa I fully support this House and Senate Bill. I hope that your committee will support HB 366 and SB 394.

Sincerely,

Kelly S. Boyle

We support HB 366 to protect Hawaii's manta rays. As scuba divers, we have been able to experience Hawaii's manta rays up close and personal. They are awesome, graceful animals and it is always a joy to see them. The Kona Manta Night Dive is widely known in the diving community as one of the top ten dives in the world. Divers come to Hawaii just to make this dive. Our mantas generate income for Hawaii.

The mantas need protection because:

- While manta rays have been fished for years in Indonesia, Baja, the Philippines, Africa, and throughout Asia, no fishery has ever existed in Hawaii.
- However, Hawaii has now been targeted by aquariums as a location where they can capture manta rays for husbandry experiments and for display in tanks. This may start as soon as this year. Without legislative protection, these aquariums would be able to take as many individuals from the population as they want, and not have to report on the fate of the individuals they take.
- Hawaii has a healthy population of manta rays, but information on the life history and movement rates suggest that they would be highly susceptible to overfishing. If we are going to protect manta rays in Hawaii, we need to do it now before fishing starts.
- There is no reason we should allow our local manta rays to be sold to generate income for outside parties. They are worth much more to Hawaii alive and swimming in our local waters than dead or stuck in a tank on the mainland.

Please protect our manta rays now before it is too late.

Georgia and Jim Struhsaker
Kona Kailua, HI

From: [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 8:54 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Subject: HB366

Aloha - this email is in regards to testifying for HB366 - Manta Ray Protection bill.

*From: Bryce Groark
*Position: Owner, Living Ocean Productions - Kona, Hawaii
*To: Committee on Water, Land and Natural Resources
*Hearing: Monday, February 2, 2009
*Time: 9am
*Measure: HB366

I am writing in the hopes of getting HD366 to pass. It's seems so simple, so obvious, yet so important. Since Hawaii is one of the best spots to see manta rays in the world, simply means they need to be protected. With their slow birth rate and slow time to sexual maturity, allowing countries, organizations and aquariums to take/kill mantas is ridiculous. I feel crushing this bill could be extremely detrimental to the small population that exists in our waters. From a financial standpoint, their value is far greater alive in the wild in Hawaii versus in an aquarium or being sold in the Asian markets.

We need to protect such an important asset to the state and set an example. The burden of proof should lie on those wanting to defeat this bill - to prove scientifically first that keeping the waters open to fishing mantas would not be detrimental to their species population.

PLEASE PASS HB366!

Aloha,
Bryce Groark
--
Bryce Groark
Living Ocean Productions
808.345.4538
www.livingoceanproductions.com



Ocean Blue Education

PO Box303

Pinehurst, NC 28370

Phone: (910)603-5110 Fax: [Your Fax]

E-Mail: obeducation@gmail.com Web: www.oceanblueeducation.com

1/30/09

To whom it may concern:

My name is Tyler Korte and I currently work in Maui as a captain and dive instructor for Hawaiian Rafting Adventures. I am also the Executive Director of Ocean Blue Education, a non-profit organization dedicated to ocean conservation through education. I have lived in Maui for only one year but have made many dives with the local Manta population here. These enormous and majestic animals are one of a few ocean creatures that can inspire appreciation and conservation of our oceans. Our local Mantas are an enormous draw for divers worldwide to come and visit Hawaii. Legislative protection of these animals is a must due to insure their survival in Hawaii. Mantas are very susceptible to overfishing due to their reproductive strategy, which is similar to large mammals like us. Mantas invest all their energy in a few young that have a great chance of survival. With long gestation periods and only a handful of new mantas being born, these populations cannot survive the losses that humans can inflict through fishing and collection.

I have been in the water off Mexico when a mobula ray (smaller cousin to the manta) was harpooned and then fillet on the beach. Listening to the local fisherman talk as they harvested their days catch it was shocking to hear about how just 20 years ago they didn't even need to leave the beach to catch giant Mantas. In only two decades the population of mantas in the sea of Cortez declined from thousands to zero. This is obviously a species that cannot maintain without our help in protecting them from us. I strongly support Bill HB366 and hope that you will pass it.

Sincerely,

Tyler Korte

Executive Director

Ocean Blue Education

I support House Bill 366. The Manta Ray is one of the more visible and charismatic of our ocean creatures here in Hawaii and it is important to maintain their populations as part of our natural heritage. Time and time again, unregulated resource extraction has resulted in over exploitation, to the extent of harming our environment and (in the case of organisms) the collapse of population being exploited. Not only are Manta Ray captivating and inspiring, but they, like every other organism, play a role in the environment. We should also exercise caution in our approach to managing our Manta Ray population because we know relatively little about their role in ecosystems and how declines in Manta Ray populations will affect other parts of the ecosystem. Growing up in Hawaii I have always enjoyed getting a chance to see a Manta Ray in the wild. I'm sure the same could be said for many of our local families and people who come to Hawaii every year for vacation. There are even many local businesses that profit from being able to take people to see these majestic animals in their natural environment. Please pass this bill and help protect our natural heritage.

Mahalo,
Kauaoa Fraiola

January 30th, 2009

Re: Bill HB366 Manta Protection

Dear Sir or Madam

I am writing in support of this bill that would provide protection for Manta Rays in Hawaii.

Although there are not any current fishing operations in Hawaii targeting mantas that I am aware of, I believe we need proactive and strong legislation to protect this unique and precious resource from exploitation.

I know from following recent discussions and some claimed 'scientific' presentations that Hawaii's manta population is being targeted by aquariums as a location where they can capture manta rays for husbandry experiments and for display in tanks. This may start as soon as this year. Without legislative protection, these aquariums would be able to take as many individuals from the population as they want, and not have to report on the fate of the individuals they take.

I believe that Hawaii has a healthy population of manta rays, but information on the life history and movement rates suggest that they would be highly susceptible to overfishing. For example, current research leads us to believe that each island's manta population is particular to that island and mantas do not migrate or move between islands. Any reduction in the population, other than natural changes not precipitated by human intervention has the very real risk of dramatically reducing and endangering this unique creature.

Only 154 manta rays have been identified along the Kona Coast since 1992, suggesting very small population sizes. No individual has ever been documented migrating between Kona and Maui, despite two separate photo-identification studies and two acoustic tracking studies. This suggests that each island has its own distinct population, and overfishing on one island will not be alleviated by migration of new individuals from another island.

Manta rays have extremely low reproductive rates. Only 2-3 new pups are observed in Kona each year. It would take a long time for captured manta rays to be replaced by natural reproduction.

Obviously I believe that manta rays do not have to be captured for food or for display in an aquarium. Our local manta rays should not be sold to outside parties for any reason. Hawaii is a perfect location for researchers to study manta rays in the wild if they 'need' to be studied further.

I personally have been diving on this island for over 20 years, the local accepted rules for interaction are being well presented and to the most part, followed by people that are in the water, boaters, snorkelers and scuba divers. As an avid diver and master Scuba Diver Instructor I have personally been in the water and guided people hundreds of times. These guided and controlled interactions are limited to passive viewing of the mantas. The response of everyone, including myself, is that these animals are unique and precious. To most people, it is the highlight of their water experience for life. After hundreds of dives, I still never tire of the experience.

The mantas of the islands, particularly here in the Big Island are a major draw for the tourism industry on the island, providing revenues to dive and snorkel operations, hotels, restaurants and other services locally. I believe that the estimation of tourism dollars related to the manta rays was approximately \$2.5M per year in 1992. The growth in this type of tourism has been very steep over the past 17 years. As the economic issues grow, people will become very particular in spending their vacation dollars. Taking fewer vacations will probably be the norm for most people over the foreseeable future. With that said, offering unique experiences, the Volcanoes Park, the observatory on Mauna Kea and our Manta Ray population are all treasures that we, the people of this State need to protect.

I urge you to adopt Bill HB366 and protect this unique resource for the people of Hawaii and future generations.

Sincerely

Patrick du Monceaux

I support HB366 to protect Hawaii's manta rays.

I am a marine biologist, underwater photographer and active long-time SCUBA diver of 35 years in Hawaiian waters.

Out of the many, many dives that I have made here, manta rays have appeared very infrequently. When one is seen, it is a beautiful and exhilarating experience.

To allow the capture or killing of manta rays would diminish the richness of Hawaii's Ocean Resources for the very short-sighted gain of a few.

Therefore I urge you, Chairman Ken Ito, Vice Chair Sharon Har and the members of this Water, Land and Ocean Resources committee, to support HB366.

Thank you,

Lytha Conquest
Kaneohe, Hawaii

Jacques Costeau:

“Water and Air, the two essential fluids on which life depends, have become global garbage cans. We forget that the water cycle and the life cycle are one.”

Our planet is in peril due to man's heavy usage of the ocean as a primary source of food and profit. It is time we as a community started to do something about saving our planet, and that means we can start right here at home and take care of our own 10 acres.

So, where do we start? We begin by setting a precedent of protecting our local species such as the Hawaiian Manta Rays that are proven to stay here. They do not travel and intermingle with other Manta's, therefore this population has found a sacred balance for surviving in the local habitat. HAWAII.

We need your help today! Please pass this bill and start to help preserve our oceans and planet by letting at least one population of Manta Ray's survive unharmed and unscathed. If it helps you make your decision, think of it this way, by protecting these Manta's you are directly preserving business income, tax dollars, and jobs in Hawaii.

As the quote above says, we cannot continue to allow delicate eco-systems in our oceans to break down because an aquarium wants to profit or a particular society thinks these animals are better off dead so they can experience some “magical” cure. The rebalancing of this planet begins with each of us taking a bold stand against greed and changing the course of history.

I did my part and wrote this letter, will you do yours? Please, let these animals have a sanctuary and pass this bill today. Do something different with your power and be radically averse to other countries' negligence, save these animals.

Thank you for your consideration.

Julie Steelman
Concerned Citizen
Kailua-Kona, Hi

Testimony in favor of HB 366

Robin Newbold, [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 4:49 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Please support HB 366 to protect Hawaii's unique population of mantas. These are amazing animals, we know very little about them, they attract visitors to our state, and are a natural wonder for all of us who enjoy the reefs.

- There is currently no protection for manta rays from any type of fishing, collection, or capture in Hawaii.
- Kona is one of the best locations around the world to see manta rays in the wild. Manta rays are observed on 80% of the dives at Garden Eel Cove each year.
- Manta ray ecotourism generated over 2.5 million dollars per year in revenue for the state of Hawaii in 1992. The increase in tourism over the last seven years suggests even more is generated today. This depends on a healthy population of live manta rays in Hawaii.
- Many mantas are long-time residents at certain sites.
- Manta rays are very long lived.
- Only 154 manta rays have been identified along the Kona Coast since 1992, suggesting very small population sizes.
- Each island has its own distinct population, and overfishing on one island will not be alleviated by migration of new individuals from another island.
- Manta rays have extremely low reproductive rates. Only 2-3 new pups are observed in Kona each year. It would take a long time for captured manta rays to be replaced by natural reproduction.
- Manta rays do not have to be in aquarium for researchers to learn more about them. Hawaii is a perfect location for researchers to study manta rays in the wild.
- There is no reason we should allow our local manta rays to be sold to generate income for outside parties. They are worth much more to Hawaii alive and swimming in our local waters than dead or stuck in a tank on the mainland.

I hope you will help us in protecting these amazing animals.

HB366 Testimony
Timothy B. Clark

I am the science advisor for Manta Pacific Research Foundation and a graduate student at the University of Hawaii. I have been conducting research on manta rays in Hawaii for the past ten years. I am writing in support of House Bill 366 for the protection of manta rays in Hawaii.

I strongly urge you to support the protection of manta rays in Hawaii. We are lucky in Hawaii to have manta rays regularly visiting our coastline, attracting visitors from around the world who want to see these magnificent animals. Over 11,000 visitors per year come to Hawaii to swim and dive with mantas, generating over \$2.4 million/year in revenue for the state. We have a unique opportunity in Hawaii for visitors and researchers to learn about and interact with manta rays in the wild. This wild population and unique resource should be protected, as should the industry that depends on the animals continued health.

While manta rays have been fished for years in Indonesia, Baja, the Philippines, Africa, and throughout Asia, no fishery has ever existed in Hawaii. However, there are no laws protecting manta rays from being fished. This year a spotted eagle ray was speared in Honokohau Harbor for fun, and a harmless whitetip reef shark was caught off of Puako. Besides fishing, this bill would also protect manta rays from this type of unwarranted killing. Additionally, aquariums have looked at Hawaii as a location where they can capture manta rays for husbandry experiments and for display in tanks. While aquariums provide unique opportunities for research and education, aquarium should have to obtain a permit before any take is allowed so that the state can monitor their activities.

Hawaii has a healthy population of manta rays, but information on the life history and movement rates suggest that they would be highly susceptible to overfishing. Any take of individuals from our population should be regulated to insure that this valuable resource is not wiped out.

Some key points about manta rays in Hawaii:

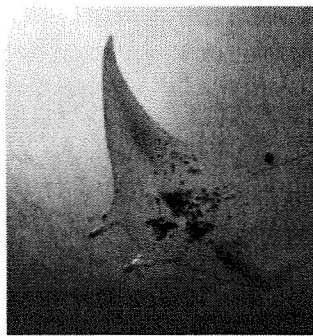
- There is currently no protection for manta rays from any type of fishing, collection, or capture in Hawaii.
- Kona is one of the best locations around the world to see manta rays in the wild. Manta rays are observed on 80% of the dives at Garden Eel Cove each year.
- Manta ray ecotourism generated over 2.5 million dollars per year in revenue for the state of Hawaii in 1992. The increase in tourism over the last seven years suggests even more is generated today. This depends on a healthy population of live manta rays in Hawaii.
- Individuals can be identified by their unique spot patterns on their belly. These pigment patterns have allowed residents to name and keep track of individuals, and has shown that many are long-time residents at certain sites.

- Manta rays are very long lived. One individual (Lefty) has been a resident in Kona since before 1979, when she was first identified as a full grown adult female.
- Only 154 manta rays have been identified along the Kona Coast since 1992, suggesting very small population sizes.
- In the last four years an average of 57 unique individuals have been seen per year.
- No individual has ever been documented migrating between Kona and Maui, despite two separate photo-identification studies and two acoustic tracking studies. This suggests that each island has its own distinct population, and overfishing on one island will not be alleviated by migration of new individuals from another island.
- Manta rays have extremely low reproductive rates. Only 2-3 new pups are observed in Kona each year. Sexual maturity is late, possibly 10-12 years of age. Females have a single pup at a time, with a year gestation period. It would take a long time for captured manta rays to be replaced by natural reproduction.
- Manta rays do not have to be in aquarium for researchers to learn more about them. Hawaii is a perfect location for researchers to study manta rays in the wild.

Manta rays in Hawaii are a poor target for any fishery due to their small population sizes, lack of migration between islands, and low reproductive rates. Allowing any take of manta rays from Hawaii's populations could be detrimental for the health of the population, and to business that rely on having an abundance of individuals in Hawaii. I hope you will vote in favor of HB366. Please protect these amazing animals in Hawaii.

Mahalo,

Tim



Biology of the manta ray in Hawaii
by Tim Clark
Manta Pacific Research Foundation
and University of Hawaii
clarkt@hawaii.edu

The purpose of this paper is to review the scientific research related to the biology of the manta ray in Hawaii to give a general background to legislators related to protecting manta rays. Most of this data is being prepared for publication as part of my PhD research.

Manta ray is the common name used for several species of batoids around the world belonging to the genus *Manta* (currently one but most likely three species) and *Mobula* (nine species). These genera have a pair of fleshy appendages called cephalic fins projecting on opposite sides of the mouth that are used to funnel plankton into their oral cavity. The most commonly observed species in Hawaii is the coastal *Manta* species, *Manta birostris*. A second *Manta* species (*Manta sp.*) is also rarely observed here. This species is pelagic but occasionally comes near shore. What may be a hybrid of the two species also is rarely seen in Hawaii. This hybrid is commonly known as the “Black” manta due to its mostly black ventral surface (fig. 1). At least one unidentified species of *Mobula* has also been observed rarely in Hawaii.

Research in Hawaii has been on the coastal species of manta ray (*Manta birostris*). Individuals of this species are easily identified based on variations in their ventral pigmentation patterns. These patterns are stable throughout the life of an individual, allowing them to be used in photo-identification studies. Manta ray surveys have been conducted by recreational SCUBA dive instructors along the Kona Coast since 1992. From 1992 through 2007 a total of 3208 surveys were conducted, primarily at the Keauhou and Ho’ona Bay dive sites where manta rays congregate at night. Divers reported number of manta rays observed, identity of individuals if known, an index of plankton abundance, the number of vessels utilizing the site, and an estimate of the number of divers and snorkelers in the water.

The population of manta rays in Kona appears to be small, and probably numbers under 200 individuals though no formal mark/recapture analysis has been conducted. A total of 106 individuals were identified on the Kona Coast of Hawaii from 1992 through 2007 (fig. 2). Individuals were observed between 1 and 724 times over the course of the study. Not all individuals were sighted every year. The number of unique individuals per year ranged from 1 to 65 along the Kona Coast (Keauhou 1 – 22, Ho’ona Bay 2-58) (fig. 3).

The life history of manta rays is poorly known, but in general they appear to have characteristics similar to many shark species, with long life spans, slow growth rates, late sexual maturity, and low reproductive rates. The oldest known individual in Kona is a minimum of 30 years age, having been identified as a full grown adult in 1979. Age of sexual maturity is not known, but appears to be in the teens based on growth of claspers

in males (claspers in mature individuals extend past the pelvic fin). Manta rays are ovoviviparous, and only produce a single pup at a time. Gestation rates are approximately one year, as was confirmed recently by the birth of two manta ray pups in two consecutive years from a single female in captivity at Okinawa Charaumi Aquarium (gestation 374 and 366 day, respectfully). From 1994 through 2007 there were 30 new pups identified in Kona, given a birth rate of approximately 2 pups per year (fig. 4).

Migration between islands is limited. No individual has been observed migrating between Maui and Kona either through photo-identification studies on both islands or acoustic telemetry. Photo-identification studies have identified 106 manta rays in Kona through 2007, and over 200 on Maui (data not shown). No individual have been observed on both islands. Telemetry studies show that manta rays tend to be coastal in Hawaii, with no individual recorded in depths greater than 1,000 ft. Tracking in Kona shows that mantas make regular migrations between feeding areas and cleaning stations, but only utilize a small area of the coastline on a regular basis (fig. 5).

Manta rays are of economic importance in Hawaii as a part of the dive and snorkel industry. Regular manta ray dives have been conducted along the Kona Coast of Hawaii since the late 1970's and on Maui since the early 2000's. A survey of nine dive shops in Kona revealed that those shops took approximately 11,000 snorkelers and divers on manta ray tours in 2002. Direct revenue to the nine shops was approximately \$920,000. In 2002, the Department of Business and Economic Development estimated that the average diver spent \$220 per day on vacation expenses in addition to diving (hotel, food, ect.). If each manta ray tourist spent one extra day in Hawaii to observe manta rays, over \$2.4 million in additional revenue would be generated for businesses in Kona due to manta ray tourism.

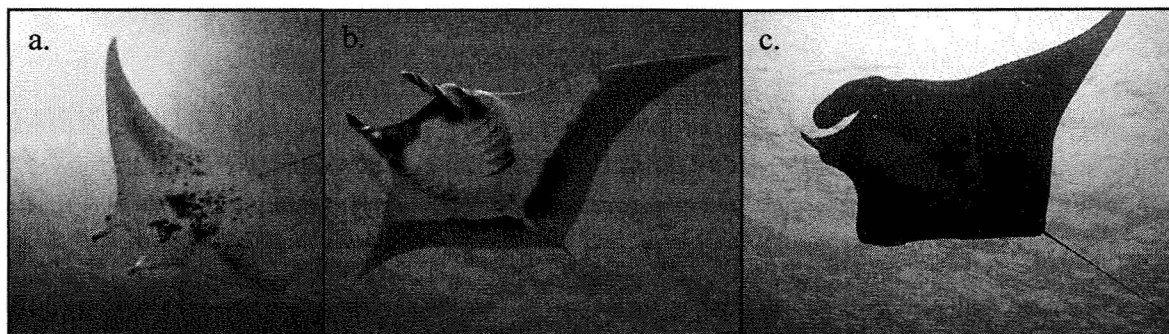


Figure 1 – Species of manta rays in Hawaii include the common coastal *Manta birostris* (a), the pelagic *Manta sp.* (b), the Black manta hybrid (c), and *Mobula sp.* (not shown).

Discovery curve - Kona Coast

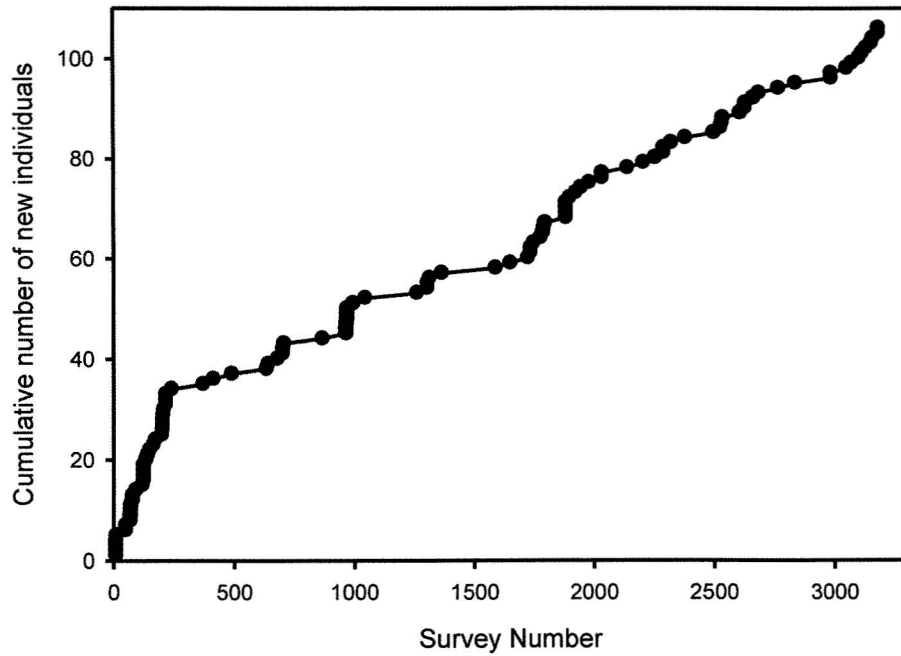


Figure 2 – Cumulative number of manta rays identified along the Kona Coast of Hawaii from 1992 through 2007.

Number of Unique Individuals per Year

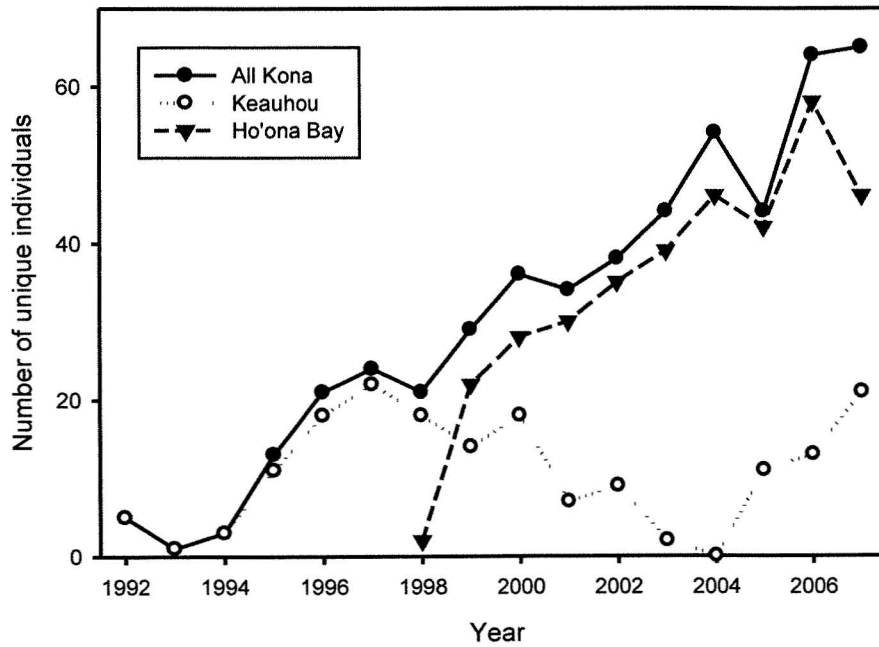


Figure 3 – Number of unique individuals encountered each year along the entire Kona Coast, Keauhou and Ho'ona Bay.

Discovery Curve - Kona pups

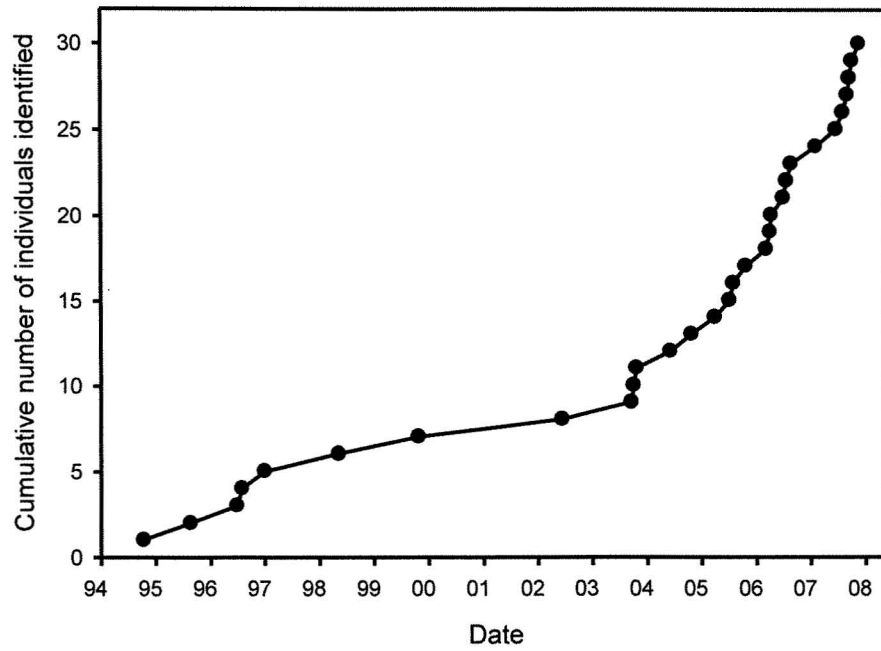


Figure 4 – Cumulative number of new pups entering the Kona population per year.



Figure 5 – Movement patterns of nine individual manta rays tracked for 3-10 days each along the Kona Coast of Hawaii. Each dot represents a 15 minute interval.

Suggested amendments to HB366
Timothy B. Clark

I would suggest that manta rays be defined in HB366. A suitable definition would be
“Any batoid of the genus Manta or Mobula”.

HB366

Karen Herrington [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 7:50 AM**To:** WLOtestimony**Cc:** [REDACTED]

From: Karen Herrington
Position: Realtor in Austin Texas
To: Committee On Water, Land & Ocean Resources
Hearing: Monday, February 2, 2009
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Measure: HB366

I am submitting testimony in support of HB366. As I am not a citizen of the State of Hawaii, I am not certain if my testimony will be allowed. However I was moved to write and thought that my perspective on the tourism value Manta rays might be helpful. I believe that the manta rays are an invaluable asset to Hawaii that Hawaiians could only want to preserve and protect. To scuba divers and snorkelers the mantas have come to represent a "Brand" and to allow ANY of them to be captured or killed would be the absolute destruction of that brand.

Let me explain. My husband and I are scuba divers and we have been to Hawaii three times in the last 5 years. Every-time we come we do at least two dives with the Manta rays. It is an absolutely beautiful and amazing experience. When we are not in Hawaii we get the Manta report almost daily by email. Thus we feel that we have come to know the mantas. They have become an integral part of our Hawaiian experience. To us they are Hawaii. They are the local residents that we have come to know. We follow the reports on Big Bertha (wasn't she pregnant recently?), Cloe (the first manta we ever saw who had that terrible experience with the fishing line, fortunately Keller was able to free her from it), and Lefty (he's always easy to spot in a crowd). We appreciate the care and respect the dive operators show the mantas. To us they show that Hawaiians care for the other creatures they share the land and water with. It all adds up to the Aloha spirit that we feel and love when we are in Hawaii.

Now imagine that we find out that Cloe has now been captured for an aquarium and didn't survive the experience. Or that Lefty is not imprisoned some where. It would be absolutely devastating. To us to us it would be like hearing that the Hula dancers are now free game to be captured or killed. It would destroy our whole feeling of that Aloha spirit. Could we come back to Hawaii again? Would we want to? Maybe not. Knowing that mantas had been and were being captured or killed would be so painful. Who wants a vacation filled with pain and regret?

I have a degree in marine biology and I know there are many valid scientific reasons to protect the mantas, and I am certain that others will speak to those concerns. But I want to be sure that the impact to tourism from failing to protect the mantas is also considered. At very little cost to Hawaii the mantas have come to be an invaluable "brand. To a great number of tourists who visit for the scuba diving or snorkeling, the mantas are Hawaii. Allow them to be captured and killed is to destroy the love and affection these tourists have for Hawaii.

On the other hand, to protect and promote the mantas would allow Hawaii to build on that brand. I could see an entire tourism advertising campaign built around inviting people to come see the mantas. Showing videos of the mantas, giving their names and histories, inviting tourists to come meet them. What an incredible opportunity for Hawaii. Tourists are seeking experiences these days, not just sun and sand and buffets. I think to advertise and promote the opportunity to see the mantas in the WILD, not just in some aquarium, would be tremendously successful. This experience isn't something they can get in the Caribbean. What a way to differentiate Hawaii from all the other travel destinations. Since you can experience the mantas by snorkeling, a lot of tourists could have this experience.

The mantas are a hidden treasure for Hawaii and could do so much to bring more tourism dollars to the Hawaiian economy.

But it all begins with protecting the mantas, so I urge the passing of HB366.

Aloha,

Karen Herrington

Karen Herrington



To whom it may concern,

My name is Ryan Leinbach. I have been an underwater videographer of the Kona Manta Rays for 4 years. It may sound strange but these Manta Rays are like good friends. In case you don't know Manta Rays have individual spot patterns on their bellies. Therefore we are able to identify individuals. Each Manta has a name and also a personality. If you were to think through your friends and acquaintances some of them are probably very friendly, others standoffish, some are probably shy when they are in big groups but very engaging when one on one. Some people you know are very extraverted while others are introverted. My point is the Manta Rays have the same qualities. Just as you befriend a person for their personal characteristics the same holds true for the Mantas. Angelika is a 6 month old Manta and she is a little ball of energy with not much fear just like a 3 year old. Sugar Ray is a teenager who zooms around trying to get the most food he can. Calamity Jane is probably the oldest manta estimated 50+ years when compared to Lefty. She swims slowly like an old woman and clearly doesn't have the flexibility of her youth. I could go on and on about the different mantas but my point is they are intelligent animals with individual personalities not just some fish in the ocean.

Here in Kona we have a relatively healthy population of Mantas. There is a lot of good information that can be easily obtained about this species because they come to the same place often to feed. I'm not a scientist but I have seen that Manta rays are quite capable of healing Major wounds Reece had her cephalic fin cut more than half way off with not a lot of function left in it. Less than a year later the scar is almost invisible, it looks as good as if someone had done plastic surgery. Doug was hit by a boat prop and lost a 6-8 inch chunk from his back flank. That too has grown back it looks very similar to a burn victims scar. I was amazed that they were able to recover a recoup so fast. We can also observe ageing, sexual maturity, as well as birthing cycles with relative ease.

I read an argument against the bill saying that the manta rays need no more protection than other fish. However, in Kona, no other fish brings in, or even comes close to bringing in the amount of revenue that the Manta rays bring in. The Manta Ray dive and snorkel is a huge asset for our economy. I have met people on the boat that come vacation in Hawaii just because of the manta ray experience. Kona is the only place in the world this activity happens. It is also mentioned in almost every one of the dive magazines that I receive.

While capturing and killing Manta Rays has not been an issue in Kona to my knowledge. I do think that action should be taken to prevent someone from trying to capitalize on our Manta Rays. My vote would be for HB366.

Thank you for your time,

Ryan Leinbach



For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife
HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

850 Richards Street, Suite 505, Honolulu, HI 96813-4709
Phone/Fax: (808) 528-1432; hiaudsoc@pixi.com
www.hawaiiudubon.com

TO: Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources
Representative Ken Ito, Chair & Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair

HEARING: Monday, February 2, 2009; 9:00 A.M., Conference Rm. 325

Re: HB366, Relating to Manta Rays

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Chair Ito and Vice Chair Har, and members of the Committee on Land, Water, & Ocean Resources. My name is George Massengale and I am a member of the Hawai'i Audubon Society and also serve as their legislative analyst during session. **We support HB366, which offer substantial protection to the Manta Ray through a penalty and fine mechanism.**

Founded in 1939, the Hawai'i Audubon Society is Hawai'i's oldest conservation group, with over 1,500 dedicated members statewide. The Society's primary mission is the protection of Hawai'i's native birds, wildlife & habitats, our ocean resources, and restoration of ecosystems and the conservation of natural resources through education, science and advocacy in Hawai'i and the Pacific. The Society has an established and active partnership with the Pacific Fisheries Coalition, and together we've advocated for various measure that would further protect our oceans and coastal waters from the Big Island of Hawai'i to Kure in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

Manta rays are an integral part of Hawaii's marine ecosystem and are essential in promoting and sustaining Hawaii's growing marine tourism industry, one of the states primary sources of revenue. Manta ray night dive operations off Kona, Hawaii, produce over 2.5 million dollars in revenue annually for this small community. However, sustainability is the key to long-term prosperity for both the manta rays and the community.

A recent demand in East Asia for manta ray gill arches to be used in medicine poses the greatest immediate threat to the manta rays. This has caused a dramatic increase in fishing pressure throughout Southeast Asia and Eastern Africa and has led to significant population declines in the Philippines, Mexico, Sri Lanka, India and Indonesia. Although a fishery directly targeting manta rays

in Hawaii does not currently exist, no laws prevent the establishment of one. Such a fishery has the potential to cause local population extinctions within a matter of months.

We would urge the committee to pass this measure onto the Judiciary Committee. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony here today.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "G. Massengale". The signature is stylized with a large initial "G" and a long horizontal stroke.

George Massengale, JD
Legislative Analyst



RESEARCH FOUNDATION
Research • Education • Conservation

P.O. Box 3227
Kailua-Kona, HI
96745-3227

info@mantapacific.org
www.mantapacific.org
808.325.1630

To: Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources
Representative Ken Ito, Chair and Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice-Chair

Re: HB366 pertaining to manta rays

From: Jan McLaughlin,
Director and Co-Founder of Manta Pacific Research Foundation (MPRF)

I would like to take this opportunity to **support** HB366 making it unlawful to knowingly capture or kill a manta ray within state marine waters.

As one of the Founders of MPRF, perhaps my support of the Bill is obvious. However as someone intimately involved with the status of manta rays worldwide, I know what their threats are and know that protecting them is of paramount importance. Also, as someone who has worked on the ocean in the past, taking people diving and snorkeling with these great creatures, I know their greatest impact is on people. Having taken many people out into the dark black waters of the night, held their hand, and showed them a very up close and personal look at one of the great underwater creatures, I also know first hand their immediate emotional connection to the ocean and wanting to care for all it's creatures. I have heard directly from so many people, that their manta experience was one of their more cherished experiences of their lives and they have become champions of ocean preservation. I believe that broader ocean stewardship is one of the most important outcomes from manta preservation.

In 2002, MPRF conducted a survey of the Kona Dive and Snorkel Operators to determine the economic impact of the manta night dive on the local economy. At that time, the mantas brought in approximately \$2.5 million dollars in direct revenue to the operators. As a Director of MPRF, I have recently finished the 2007 survey and our preliminary results show that this number has certainly increased, perhaps by 20% or more. There is no question that the value of a manta ray continues to increase and provides jobs and money to the local economy and is thereby recycled into the whole community. Our statistics show that there is an 80% chance of seeing a manta ray in Kona on the dive and this very high number brings in tourists, year round, from all over the world to experience it first hand. Kona is probably the only place in the world where snorkeling with mantas is a viable option making the potential audience even greater and not just limited to scuba divers. Seeing people of all ages and physical capabilities, overcome their primal fears and jump in the black water to snorkel with manta rays, is one of the most rewarding experiences for me, and certainly for those who have participated. Their complete enthusiasm for the experience continues when they get home and the cycle continues. I have seen this myself, many times.



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P.O. Box 3227
Kailua-Kona, HI
96745-3227

info@mantapacific.org
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808.325.1630

While it is true that there are no known plans to start a manta ray fishery, it is clear to me personally that should one start up, they would be such an easy take that the population would suffer losses that they would unlikely be able to return from. You have probably seen the research giving their long life spans, low reproductive levels, and the lack of replenishment from other areas. If fishing were to start, there would be no possible way to protect them fast enough to make a difference. We currently have many different levels of protection for many of our large ocean animals (charismatic megafauna) that inhabit the Hawaiian waters, and mantas are one of the last unprotected ones. I believe now is the time for manta ray protection as we continue on the road to protecting the oceans beauty and inhabitants in general, but it is only a step on the continual path.

The aquarium trade in Hawaii has been a long and contentious one in the legislative halls and I'm sure you are more aware of this than I. It's my belief that the Hawaii manta rays are available for all to see and experience in the ocean. With the increased technology available to researchers, and with MPRF's help, we have shown that Hawaii manta rays, if studied in their own environment, can benefit the world's population of manta rays. At the manta ray summit in Montreal this past July, we heard mixed results from organizations that had manta rays held in tanks. As an individual, it was clear to me that researchers learned very little more from tank watching than I did from watching them in the ocean. Hawaii is blessed with a consistent, small population of manta rays that has not yet even begun to be studied in situ. We could learn so much from watching them in their natural environment, especially with the latest technological advancements, that capturing for tank viewing seems frankly, inconsequential. I encourage you to consider stopping the aquarium trade before it starts in this case and protecting manta rays from being captured or killed for any reason.

Thank you so much for reading this far, and for giving mantas the opportunity for protection.

Sincerely,

Jan McLaughlin

Dear Sirs:

I would like to enter testimony supporting the proposed House bill HB366 and Senate bill SB366 regarding the protection of manta rays within the marine waters of Hawaii. I have personally been involved with the tracking of the manta rays on the west coast of the Big Island at least two times a week for over four years and in that time I see how slowly they evolve, how few new ones appear, and how they are already inadvertently damaged by careless boaters not watching for them on the surface or caught in large masses of discarded monofilament line.

The quantity of mantas on our coast is so few that we can count the newly discovered in the range of less than 10 per year and have only 156 at present identified. They are an incredible source for eco-tourism as our manta night dive is known world wide as the only place to experience them feeding in large numbers. Our community of dive guides know these animals individually and the thought of any of them being harassed or taken is like someone kidnapping our brother and taking them out of the country, not to be seen again.

The pressure is present right now for certain groups to obtain mantas for possible transfer to aquariums. This issue has been ignored too long and time is of the essence to give these animals the protection they need. Please consider this in a timely manner and don't put this off any longer.

Regards,
Bo Pardau

Eli Michael, PhD
82-5939 Napoopoo Rd.
Captain Cook, Hawaii 96704

Jan. 30, 2009

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to ask you to support HB366, protection for manta rays in Hawaiian waters. Manta rays are majestic creatures that have great economic value to the State of Hawaii. Recent surveys of the dive operators on the Big Island show that in 2007 almost \$3 million dollars was generated in direct charter sales for the dive industry. Adding the cost of housing, food, etc. will demonstrate that the actual contribution to the Hawaiian economy is far greater.

Manta rays have been targeted for fishing and aquarium collection in many places of the world, and unsustainable harvests have led to greatly diminished populations. With approximately 150 individual manta rays documented each on both Maui and Hawaii, the population of rays here is extremely small. There is evidence that manta rays do not migrate between islands, therefore such small populations make them very susceptible to fishing pressures. If manta rays are taken from Hawaiian waters it could easily take 100's of years to replenish the stock.

Although no one has yet attempted to fish manta rays in Hawaii, there has been interest in collecting these manta rays for aquarium stock. While aquariums do promote education about these wonderful animals, taking them from Hawaiian waters is dangerous. In Okinawa they have attempted to keep manta rays in captivity for over 15 years. In that time they have collected 19 rays, 4 of which survive today. With such a track record it is unreasonable to take rays from Hawaii. The rays here are enjoyed by tens of thousands of divers and snorkelers who come from

around the world to see them each year. The rays here are named and people feel close relationships to these individual manta rays that are seen over and over again throughout the years.

If aquariums must capture manta rays to put in their aquarium, let them collect them from elsewhere where the stocks can support the removal of the rays, rather than exploit them from the very small numbers of these greatly loved creatures resident in Hawaii.

I hope you support HB 366 as a preemptive measure to protect the beautiful rays and their ecosystem that we have in Hawaii. In doing so we can join other countries, such as Yap and Mexico, in protecting these wonderful fish. Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
Eli Michael, PhD

Manta Pacific Research Foundation
Jack's Diving Locker
Kailua-Kona, Hawaii

Bill HB366

mark droscoski [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 1:57 PM**To:** WLOtestimony

To: Committee On Water, Land & Ocean Resources
From: Mark Droscoski
Position: Underwater Videographer Living Ocean Productions
Hearing: Monday, February 2, 2009
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Measure: HB366
Copies: Thirteen, one for each committee member.

I am writing in regards to the capturing of manta rays. Here in Hawaii, USA there is safe research performed without the capturing of the beautiful creatures. I am voting to prohibit the collecting of our manta rays. Please see that each of the 13 committee members receives a copy of my testimony. Thank you for your time as I know you are very busy.

Sincerely,
Mark Droscoski
Living Ocean Productions

Manta Protection HB366

MLHGHDVR1@cs.com [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 12:51 PM

To: WLOtestimony; [REDACTED]

January 31, 2009

Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources

Dear Committee;

Please take a positive position on HB366 and vote to protect the manta rays here in Kailua Kona and throughout the Hawaiian Islands. These majestic animals are a very important resource to our island economy. Every year thousands of scuba divers and snorklers travel to Kona to take part in a dive that is unique to our island.

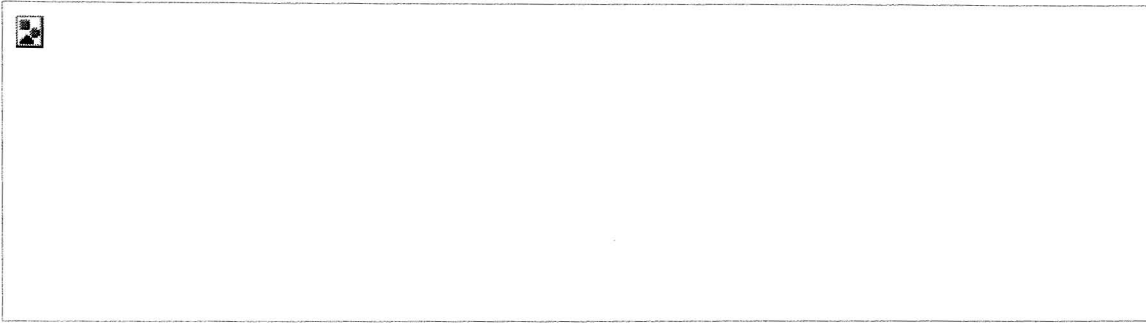
There is no where else in the world that has a manta ray population that presents itself nightly for the amusement and education of thousands of visitors while only doing what is natural to them, eating. These rays come to our manta ray dive site because it is a natural feeding area for them. No food is added to what nature provides here and people can see these beautiful animals up close, in their natural environment as they feed.

For many of the visitors the main goal of their trip is to see these wild mantas feed. Once they and their travel companions arrive here, they are adding badly needed dollars to the community. A dead manta is worth a few dollars as "shark skin" and food. Each live manta, here in Kona, is worth thousands of dollars over its life span.

The mantas are a natural resource that is too valuable to leave unprotected. Please pass this bill so we can continue to provide entertainment and education to the thousands who come here every year and support our island and our jobs with their vacation dollars.

Mahalo for your time,

Captain Richard M. Osada
[REDACTED]



CAPTAIN RON GITTINS USCG
Kailua Kona, Hawaii
808 987 1584
1/30/09

Manta Ray protection in Hawaii.

Living in a State where tourism is a major source of income, how concerned is this State of Hawaii? It's beneficial to reflect on how other countries have prospered. The lawmakers have considered the long range benefits to the economy and the natural resources of their lands.

We all see that Ecotourism have rapidly become popular, making ecotourism the fastest-growing segment of the tourism industry.

Consider a few examples to see how profitable promoting natural wonders has been. Journalist Martha S. Honey explained: "In several countries, nature-based tourism mushroomed into the largest foreign exchange earner, surpassing bananas in Costa Rica, coffee in Tanzania and Kenya, and textiles and jewelry in India."

Tourism has thus provided a valuable financial incentive to save plants and animals. "In Kenya," Honey observed, "it is estimated that one lion is worth \$7,000 per year in income from tourism, and an elephant herd is valued at \$610,000 annually." Hawaii's coral reefs are estimated to generate \$360 million each year from nature-based tourism! How much are our Manta Rays worth?

Martin Wikelski, of Princeton University, says: "Ecotourism is one of the main factors keeping the Galapagos [Islands] safe." In the African country of Rwanda, the successful promotion of ecotourism is credited with saving the mountain gorilla population, as it provides the local people with a source of income that is an alternative to poaching. In other African countries, game reserves are sustained by tourist spending.

Worldwide, ecotourism has contributed to environmental and social improvements, and the tourism industry has undeniably brought many financial benefits.

Will the State of Hawaii be able to claim that they took the initiative to protect the Manta Rays?

Our tours with the Manta Rays have brought about a change in the thinking of peoples appreciation for the natural wonders of the earth. I feel that I would like to do all

I can to protect God's creations and preserve them for our children and our grandchildren.

Hundreds of people who have returned from the Manta Ray charter have said, "That is the greatest thing I have done in my whole life!" We hope that this has brought about a change in their appreciation and respect for the Natural Resources where they live and assist them in being more environmentally concerned for their local issues. So, this simple experience of swimming with the Manta Rays can have a long range effect on those that enjoy this experience.

For the State of Hawaii to move forward with the decision to protect our valuable Manta Rays from capture, slaughter or being fished out of extinction is the wisest course to take in this time of widespread loses of natural resources. It will be a wonderful day when it is noted that this State has recognized the importance of protecting the Manta Rays as well as the Coral Reef system we have here.

Please consider the long term effect both with preservation and economic value that our Natural Resources offer the whole world.

**Sincerely yours,
Ron Gittins
Coral Reef Snorkel & Dive**

Committee On Water, Land & Ocean Resources

Sean Dyer [REDACTED]

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 9:11 PM

To: WLOtestimony

From: Sean Dyer
Position: Hawaiian Scuba Diver, Website Developer
To: Committee On Water, Land & Ocean Resources
Hearing: Monday, February 2, 2009
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Measure: HB366

Hi there,

Please pass this bill to protect the Hawaiian Manta Rays. They are very rare and are a significant benefit to the Hawaiian Scuba Diving economy. Aquariums have no business taking Manta Rays without permission, and if Hawaii is a source of Mantas they can easily be over harvested. I don't believe there is enough research done to accurately state the impact on this species. Allowing their harvesting will have a direct impact on the economy. Big animals are scare in Hawaiian waters so we need to preserve the Mantas we have here now. I believe they reproduce at a slow rate so the imact would be felt very quickly.

Just as Hawaii has protected the Humpback Whales, they need to protect the Manta Ray. It would be short-sighted to allow them to be taken by for-profit aquariums without the permission of the proper authorities.

Thank You,

Sean Dyer

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 1:29 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Karen Johnson
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

Please protect these magnificent manta rays. They are gentle, beautiful creatures that need our protection.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 1:30 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rick Gaffney
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

Hawaii's manta rays are one the marine resources that attracts millions of tourist dollars to the islands each year. Moreover, they cannot sustain any level of harvest due to long gestation periods and a relatively small population. For these reasons and many more they should be protected, and this bill does just that.

Mahalo,
Rick Gaffney

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 1:42 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position:
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Paula Kirschner
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

I believe that the Manta Rays that inhabit the oceans off the Kona Coast of The Big Island need to be protected. For the past 20 years people that have been interested in observing and learning about these magnificent creatures have been able to without harming them in any way and without interfering with their natural lifestyle. They do not need to be captured, kept in an aquarium, tagged, or fished for any reason. There are not too many of them and they do no harm. We, as humans, have a duty to protect and respect the beauty that surrounds our islands. Modern technology allows almost anyone to either experience marine creatures in their natural habitat without removing them from that habitat. For people that want to see any form of marine life, there are many ways to do so, without harming the creatures. What is needed may be better guidelines for interaction with other species, not loosening of guidelines so that they will all be destroyed.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 1:48 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB191 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB191

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cathy Roberts
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

I feel that aquarium fish collectors are wiping out our reef fish. these fish are extremely valuable to sustaining our reef. and waters

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 1:57 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cary Rosenzweig
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

I live in California, but I strongly support HB366 and SB394 in the State of Hawaii.

You must protect manta rays for two reasons.

First, they are beautiful and noble animals that simply "ought" to be protected simply because "it's the right thing to do" for certain types of animals (dolphins, whales and eagles are similar examples).

Second, manta rays bring economic benefits to Hawaii. I'm a scuba diver, and I've made two trips (so far) to Kona specifically to dive with the manta rays. I spent thousands of dollars in Hawaii on these two trips. Manta rays are such an attraction that I also travelled to Yap in the South Pacific to dive with them.

Please do the right thing and support HB366 and SB394.

Thank you.

Cary Rosenzweig

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 2:05 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Travis Cook
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 2:07 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tina Owens
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

We cannot wait for the threat to our manta rays to become a reality. There are so few of them and one or two people with nets could wipe them out. They provide a huge stimulus to our ocean tourism and the loss of our mantas would mean our state would be poorer, and not just monetarily, because of it. Do this now, this year, before it is too late.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 2:11 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Owens
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

I've seen literally hundreds and hundreds of divers and snorkelers leave the waters in a daze of joy after an encounter with a manta ray. The manta ray night dive here in Kona is one of the most valuable tourism resources we have but, ironically, the nightly gathering of the mantas to feed makes them vulnerable to being wiped out in a single stroke.

I don't know about other areas of the state but at least recognize that we here in Kona are very, very protective of our mantas and don't want them ending up on someone's plate.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 2:11 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: kevin and kathy conway
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
please support and pass this law

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 2:18 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Janice Kerr
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

Why does this state always wait until it is too late to protect a resource?! This bill allows the state to protect a very, very valuable marine animals BEFORE it becomes a fishery! I get sick of hearing about how Hawaii can't protect our ocean life because someone will lose their livelihood, and here we have a chance to do it before anyone complains! Please protect the manta rays. No more studies, no more messing around. Please do it now!

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 2:20 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Leila Atkin
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

It is imperative that this bill be passed to protect such a valuable animal and resource. The vulnerable mantas attract many tourists and could easily be depleted if not immediately protected. We've waited long enough and have been fortunate so far, but the mantas are now in imminent danger. Please act swiftly to protect these precious non replaceable creatures. Thank you.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 2:22 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jim Kerr
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

One of the greatest reasons people have made Kona one of the world's premier dive sites is the fact that they can see mantas, day or night. Compared to some of the other reefs in the world, Hawaii's reefs are a little barren, not as colorful, no soft corals or big sea fans, but what we do have is the magical combination of the small reef fish and the big guys, the mantas, the dolphins and the whales. The dolphins and the whales are already protected so why not the mantas?! If someone decides to kill the mantas or capture them, I can't imagine how many millions of dollars of tourist money will be lost to our state. Protect the mantas and do it now!

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 10:18 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Chris Perritt
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

I support HB 366 to protect Hawaii's manta rays. HR 366 is very simple and easy to understand: it prohibits killing or capturing of manta rays and it includes penalties if the law is broken. Furthermore, it does not require funding for more studies.
Please protect our manta rays now before it is too late.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 10:29 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Deborah Telesmanic
Organization: Individual
Address: *
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
You MUST support this bill!

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 10:31 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marcia Harter
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

Hawaii State needs to preserve and protect that which makes Hawaii unique for the long term well being of the state and its people both economically, culturally, and socially. A big contribution to the uniqueness of Hawaii are our manta rays. This measure is a step in assuring that the ray populations are not decimated.

It is also unconscionable to remove manta rays that are only going to live for a short time in captivity. It is removing a valuable part of Hawaii for a short term profit.

Please support this bill as an attempt to preserve what is unique to Hawaii.

Marcia Harter, Anahola, Kaua'i

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 11:16 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: sylvia masella
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366
Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Wanda Rowan
Organization: President, Kona Underwater Photographic Society
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Aloha,

Without HR 366 passed, it will be a very short time until Hawaii is left without manta rays. This bill is so urgently needed as fishermen, aquariums, etc. become aware that our mantas are more easily accessible than in other waters around the world. We have a limited resource here and a worldwide demand that is escalating.

This measure to protect Hawaii's manta rays is simple and does not require funding for more studies. There are several organizations and dedicated local resources that supply accurate data on a daily basis for manta research.

Isn't it wonderful that people come to our islands to experience and learn about our manta population? Do we want that to change?

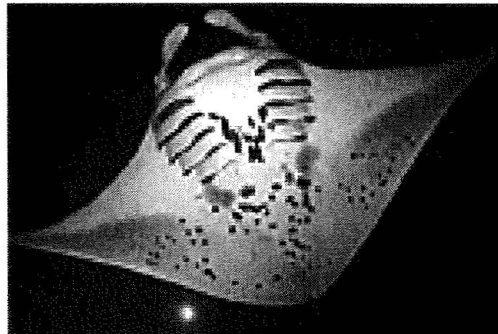


photo of Sugar Ray courtesy of www.mantapacific.org



photo courtesy of www.konahonudivers.com/index.shtml



photo courtesy of www.konahonudivers.com/index.shtml

I support HB 366 to protect Hawaii's manta rays as it prohibits the killing or capturing of manta rays and it includes penalties if the law is broken. We need this. The mantas need this.

Please approve this bill to protect our manta rays now before it is too late.

Mahalo nui,

Wanda Rowan
Kona Underwater Photographic Society
www.kups.org

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 12:05 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Hodson
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

I believe manta rays are one of our most precious natural resources and deserve special protection. Currently, there are no laws to prevent them from being fished, captured or malicious activities.

These majestic animals bring in millions of dollars to Hawaii from tourists and wildlife enthusiasts that come here to observe the manta rays. There is a limited and relatively small population of mantas in the Hawaiian waters. The manta ray's slow rate of reproduction makes their population susceptible reduction and potentially irreversible damage if they are not protected.

Specific threats including fishing mantas for their meat, cultures that use the manta ray's gill rakers to make traditional medicine and capturing mantas for display in aquariums must be addressed and abated to ensure our population of manta rays are allowed to thrive.

We have laws to protect whales, monk seals and other animals. We need to extend that protection to our manta rays to promote the survival of our unique and precious natural resources.

The joy our manta rays bring to the many that come here to see them, not to mention the positive impact on our economy, far outweigh any possible value that could be derived from allowing manta rays to be fished, harvested for their body parts, captured for aquariums or maliciously harmed.

Please pass HB366!!

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 12:01 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Erik Stein
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

Mantas are red lined on the CITIS list meaning there are so few and so little is known about them that we can not even declare them endangered, too little is known.
Maui has resident Mantas that need protection.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 12:58 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kelleen Lum
Organization: Individual
Address: Kamuela HI
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

Please protect our manta rays from fishing and aquarium takes. Right now they have no support whatsoever. They are our responsibility. Protecting the rays also supports the watersports and eco-tourism industries, educating visitors about these wonderful creatures. I urge your support. Mahalo!

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 1:26 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Shayla Middleton
Organization: Individual
Address: Kihei
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

I wholeheartedly SUPPORT this bill! I hope you will too!!!!

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 2:37 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Miranda Dornfeld
Organization: Individual
Address: Hanalei, HI
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

I wholeheartedly SUPPORT this bill, and I hope you do too!

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 3:53 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mary Lake
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

I wholeheartedly support the bill to make penalties tougher on anyone capturing or killing manta rays in our state waters. Besides the fact that they belong HERE. They are also a magnificent tourist magnet and with proper care they can both share this ocean.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 3:54 PM
To: WLO testimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lynn Allen
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

Manta rays are unique and precious animals. There is much no known about them and therefore it is critical not to disturb their habitat and not to interfere with their behavior, including removing them from their environment.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 4:02 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jeffrey Milisen
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

To allow the taking of a resource so important to the already ailing tourism industry of Hawaii would be economic suicide. We need to maintain all of the resources we can to keep visitors coming back. It is a simple equation of loss and gain. We gain nothing from letting aquariums collect Mantas from our waters, but we lose the eco-tourists that flock to Kona's shores every year. As a resident of Hawaii, I cannot take this abuse of our natural resources lying down.

Manta Rays, like many other elasmobranchs, live long lives and produce relatively few young. Tim Clarke says that only 2 or 3 are seen off Kona every year. This is a combination that has shown to leave organisms extremely vulnerable to overfishing. Few young mean the population will take a long time to rebound from even slight overfishing. In the case of the Manta Ray, once the population has been depleted, it is doubtful they will rebound in our lifetimes if ever.

Please do not allow the taking of Manta Rays in Hawaiian waters. We have a lot to lose from the overfishing of these gentle beings, and will gain nothing. Thank you.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 4:09 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tom Tatum
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

There is currently no protection for manta rays from any type of fishing, collection, or capture in Hawaii.

Kona is one of the best locations around the world to see manta rays in the wild. Manta rays are observed on 80% of the dives at Garden Eel Cove each year.

Manta ray ecotourism generated over 2.5 million dollars per year in revenue for the state of Hawaii in 1992. The increase in tourism over the last seven years suggests even more is generated today. This depends on a healthy population of live manta rays in Hawaii.

Individuals can be identified by their unique spot patterns on their belly. These pigment patterns have allowed residents to name and keep track of individuals, and has shown that many are long-time residents at certain sites.

Manta rays are very long lived. One individual (Lefty) has been a resident in Kona since before 1979, when she was first identified as a full grown adult female.

Only 154 manta rays have been identified along the Kona Coast since 1992, suggesting very small population sizes.

No individual has ever been documented migrating between Kona and Maui, despite two separate photo-identification studies and two acoustic tracking studies. This suggests that each island has its own distinct population, and overfishing on one island will not be alleviated by migration of new individuals from another island.

Manta rays have extremely low reproductive rates. Only 2-3 new pups are observed in Kona each year. It would take a long time for captured manta rays to be replaced by natural reproduction.

Manta rays do not have to be in aquarium for researchers to learn more about them. Hawaii is a perfect location for researchers to study manta rays in the wild.

There is no reason we should allow our local manta rays to be sold to generate income for outside parties. They are worth much more to Hawaii alive and swimming in our local waters than dead or stuck in a tank on the mainland.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 4:09 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Martin Murray
Organization: Individual
Address: Lahaina, HI
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 4:35 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kristin Bergh
Organization: Individual
Address: Gig Harbor, WA
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

I strongly support HB366 and SB394! I am a N.B.C.T. Science Specialist in Washington state who was able to observe these magnificent and enormous animals up close on a visit to Kona, Hawaii 1 year ago. As a nature enthusiast and biology teacher I was amazed to see Manta Rays safe in their natural environment. I observed them on a night dive and was taken with their large size and graceful swimming. These animals are succetible to skin infection when unknowing divers or snorklers touch them or remove the protective coating on their bodies. Much more needs to be done to preserve and protect this animal.

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 4:42 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Paul Clark
Organization: Save Our Seas
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

Save Our Seas, its board, and its members support the bill that "no person shall knowingly capture or kill a manta ray within state marine waters".

Please do all you can to protect these rare creatures as well as other marine life that is danger from humans.

Mahalo

Paul Clark

Save our Seas President

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 4:49 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dr. Julian Lifschiz
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
I STRONGLY support this bill!

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 5:04 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: mary goggin
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 5:04 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lesa McDonald-Chan
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

har1-Tammy

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 5:05 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jerry goggin
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 5:18 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Barron L. Fackler
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

I support manta ray protection. Ecologically, it makes sense to protect creatures which reproduce at such a low rate. The local population could be quickly decimated by commercial fishing interests as well as by collectors for aquaria. Economically, the tourism dollars that diving and snorkeling with the mantas is very significant to West Hawaii. Dead or missing rays will not benefit Hawaii's economy. Not protecting this resource would be irresponsible given the current economic crisis.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 5:30 PM
To: WI Otestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sandra Doherty
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
We need to protect our manta rays from poaching & commercial fishing prohibited. This bill is needed.

[REDACTED]

From: I lefler [REDACTED]
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 5:27 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Subject: mantas

please protect mantas. laura lefler

dont let what you cannot do, interfere with what you CAN do. John Wooden

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 5:41 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jan Salerno
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

It is unthinkable to entertain the idea of capturing these magnificent animals. Our manta resource here in Hawaii is relatively small in number yet everyone of them is identifiable and known as a friend. People from around the world come here to Kona to observe them in the water both under and above. They are a precious resource bringing the much needed education for their preservation, familiarity, delight, and tourist dollars to Hawaii.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 5:41 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jay Schiesser
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 6:02 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Betsy Clark
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

Mantas generate a large revenue for the state of Hawaii. Aside from that mantas should be protected for humanitarian reasons. It saddens me to think that one of those magnificent, intelligent creatures could spend its days swimming in a tank in Atlanta or New Orleans.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 6:10 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marilyn Kelly
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 6:26 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rebekah Kaufmann
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 6:27 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Greg Kaufmann
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 6:45 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kim Spanoghe
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

I fly to Hawaii every 1 to 2 months to scuba dive on the Kona coast. A big incentive is to dive with manta rays in their natural environment - their habitat rays is presently relatively undisturbed. Manta rays are harmless and provide a substantial incentive to bring scuba divers to the islands. These unique creatures must be protected by law... they are part of Hawaii's natural heritage.

[REDACTED] ny

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 7:41 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Carlos Eyles
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: b [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
The manta rays of Hawaii are a part of these islands just as the surf and the Hawaiians themselves are. They have become vulnerable to harvesting just as the manta rays of Mexico have become, and are now completely wiped out in the Sea of Cortez. We must protect these mantas with resources available. Thank you. Carlos Eyles

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 7:42 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Beth Davidow
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: 8 [REDACTED] 5
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

I have had a number of experiences diving with giant manta rays; it is truly astonishing to swim alongside such a large and gentle creature, especially when they come up to you and watch you. It is very obvious that these are individual, intelligent animals. I find it appalling, for many reasons, that anyone would even consider killing these animals. In many places around the world, including Hawaii, where giant mantas live, millions of dollars are pumped into local economies by people coming to observe, and interact with, the rays. Killing one manta kills millions in local dollars. It is a sign of a responsible, compassionate, and intelligent society that realizes the fascinating creatures with whom we share this planet are far more valuable alive than dead. I urge you to protect Hawaii's giant manta rays, and never allow them to be fished! Engaged in an underwater ballet with a giant manta ray, in the wild, is an experience I will always treasure.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 7:53 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rachel Bianco
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 8:35 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Lynch
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

Please protect Hawaii's manta rays by passing bill HB366. They are a valuable resource but have no protection.

I have been snorkeling with the mantas in Kona many times. It is an amazing experience to see these beautiful animals. We have a resident population off the Big Island leeward coast that attracts divers from all over the world.

In Indonesia mantas are being killed for food or for their gill rakers. There is nothing to protect our mantas from such attacks. Mantas are long-lived and slow-reproducing creatures and therefore particularly threatened by overharvesting.

Mantas are a key part of our ecotourism industry and on the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 8:51 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alicia Chapman
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: A [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 8:52 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Christopher Chapman
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 9:03 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Teri Elaides
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

I have been a supporter of the Manta Pacific Foundation since its inception and am fully in support of any bill which offers protection to these beautiful animals. One of the reasons we moved to Kona is because of the wonderful marine life found so close to the coast. As the mantas don't reproduce very often, it would take a long time for any animals removed to be replaced, and there really aren't that many here to begin with. I have come to know and love the manta of Hawaii, in particular the ones that live in the Kona area. On the financial side the local manta population generates a large income for the dive/marine tourism industries in Kona. They are worth much more to Hawaii alive and swimming in our local waters than dead or stuck in a tank on the mainland.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 9:08 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bonnie Bonse
Organization: Individual
Address: Makawao, HI
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

Please protect manta rays. Strict regulation needs to be in place to protect our marine life of all kinds. Our oceans have already been abused by "takers." Enough biopiracy of Hawaii!

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 9:34 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marjorie Erway
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

I urge you to support saving the manta rays -- not even one should be captured or killed for humans. Manta rays need to be protected.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 9:38 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Gladden
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: 8 [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:
WLO, Monday 02-02-09, 09:00am., House Conf. Room 325
HB366 Relating to Manta Rays

I am in support of this bill. These animals are in need of protections, they are a resource for many businesses on the islands, and are an attraction for visitors from all over the world. For those that have swam with them, it is awe inspiring, similarly like seeing whales up close.

They are animals that have a slow reproductive system, if they were fished out it would take a very long time for them to recover, if they could recover. The groups on one island do not interact with other groups from other islands, so that limits their chance. There are records that show this.

Also there is another threat, that is coming, one from the Asian markets, a growing market for the gill rakers of Manta Rays and for their meat. We don't want to have something like what is happening to sharks (finning) to happen here. So, protection is needed.

Manta Rays are one of the symbols of Hawaii, we should protect them. They are part of the old Hawaii, and should be protected so they can be part of the present Hawaii, and the future Hawaii. If we lose them, we lose a part of this state and a part of ourselves.

So please support this bill HB 366, and pass it.

Robert Gladden

I would be willing to meet with anyone to discuss further.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 9:49 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Pauline Fiene
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 10:20 PM
To: WL Otestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Laurence Scott
Organization: Individual
Address: 75-150 [REDACTED] a
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

This proposal should be a no brainer. It protects the Manta Rays (and since no one in Hawaii is killing or injuring them for any reason 'no one is hurt' by this bill).

And just because no one is killing or capturing them at the moment doesn't mean they may not start 'tomorrow'. Please protect these beautiful creatures that are part of our Hawaii!

Tourists spend thousands of dollars a year to come and look at them.

They should be protected!!

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 11:02 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Kearnes
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

I strongly support bill HB 366. Our population of mantas is small compared to other species of marine life and therefore fragile. Elasmobranchs (sharks and rays) take years to mature sexually and produce few young. We have all seen the devastating fisheries in Mexico, Asia and elsewhere that have virtually wiped out elasmobranch populations. We should learn from this and ensure this never happens in Hawaii. As for collection of individuals for aquaria; it is educational to a limited degree. Seeing these animals in their natural environment is much more educational because they are behaving in a natural way. In an aquarium they have a limited range. In the wild their range is measured in miles. In captivity it is measured in yards. Marine life confined to public aquariums also take a beating from their environment, bumping into walls, subsisting on foods unnatural to their diet in the wild, artificial light lack of mates and things we cannot even know. I hate to even say this because it shouldn't matter but the rays are much more valuable as a tourist draw than any other use. A fisherman can conceivably eliminate our entire local population of mantas in a few days. This needs to be made illegal. Someone interested in procuring a specimen for an aquarium could remove an individual (or two or three or more) that has been seen here by locals and returning tourists for 30 years. Interest in the harvesting of manta rays and other elasmobranchs is increasing. I feel we need to initiate measures to protect them fully starting now. Please accept my support of bill HB 366. Sincerely, David Kearnes

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 11:11 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Abigail Laros
Organization: Lost fish Coalition
Address: [REDACTED] HI
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

MANTAS HELP US ALL IN HAWAII

We thank them for bringing many travelers to our shores for a chance to see or visit with them.

Manta rays are beautiful, exotic, slow reproducing creatures that we cherish, and value here in Kona. They have been studied, and worried over for many years by the dive and ocean people community. We know their habits, their gathering places and their names. AND they are a rare treat for scuba divers and snorklers.

Especially in these tough economic times, let's protect them and publicize them and welcome more tourists.

Mahalo, Abigail Laros

From: Mariko [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 3:41 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Subject: HB366

From: Mariko Lurbiecki
Manager
Breeze Hawaii Diving Adventures

To: Committee On Water, Land & Ocean Resources
Hearing: Monday, February 2, 2009
Time: 9:00 a.m.
Measure: HB366
Copies: Thirteen, one for each committee member.

We have watching mantas over 15 years in Big Island water.
Please pass HB366.
We need to protect mantas
They are beautiful in wild not in the tanks!!
Keep mantas safe.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 11:36 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Susan Kellam
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

I support HB 366 to protect Hawaii's manta rays. HR 366 is very simple and easy to understand: it prohibits killing or capturing of manta rays and it includes penalties if the law is broken. Furthermore, it does not require funding for more studies.

Please protect our manta rays now before it is too late.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 11:38 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lorraine Newport
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

I support HB 366 to protect Hawaii's manta rays. HR 366 is very simple and easy to understand: it prohibits killing or capturing of manta rays and it includes penalties if the law is broken. Furthermore, it does not require funding for more studies.

Please protect our manta rays now before it is too late.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, January 29, 2009 11:41 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Victoria Martocci
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/29/2009

Comments:

I support this bill because it is important for the health and restoration of Hawaii's marine ecosystems. It is important and timely. Thank you, Victoria Martocci

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 12:33 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kathleen Golitzen
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 4:58 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Alfredo Barroso Ruiz
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Kona is one of the best locations around the world to see manta rays in the wild. Manta rays are observed on 80% of the dives at Garden Eel Cove each year. Manta ray ecotourism generated over 2.5 million dollars per year in revenue for the state of Hawaii in 1992. The increase in tourism over the last seven years suggests even more is generated today. This depends on a healthy population of live manta rays in Hawaii. Individuals can be identified by their unique spot patterns on their belly. These pigment patterns have allowed residents to name and keep track of individuals, and has shown that many are long-time residents at certain sites. Manta rays are very long lived. One individual (Lefty) has been a resident in Kona since before 1979, when she was first identified as a full grown adult female. Only 154 manta rays have been identified along the Kona Coast since 1992, suggesting very small population sizes. No individual has ever been documented migrating between Kona and Maui, despite two separate photo-identification studies and two acoustic tracking studies. This suggests that each island has its own distinct population, and overfishing on one island will not be alleviated by migration of new individuals from another island. Manta rays have extremely low reproductive rates. Only 2-3 new pups are observed in Kona each year. It would take a long time for captured manta rays to be replaced by natural reproduction. Manta rays do not have to be in aquarium for researchers to learn more about them. Hawaii is a perfect location for researchers to study manta rays in the wild. There is no reason we should allow our local manta rays to be sold to generate income for outside parties. They are worth much more to Hawaii alive and swimming in our local waters than dead or stuck in a tank on the mainland.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 5:34 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: bruce brooks
Organization: Individual
Address: Kona, HI
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:
Protect our Mantas.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 5:46 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: david.maddox@hawaii.gov
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Maddox
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

I am in support of the proposed legislation. Based on research and history in other areas of the world, protection of the manta species needs to be pro-active. This is an important species for eco-tourism, as well, and provides a large, renewable income to local business.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 7:24 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Stephen C Juarez
Organization: Hawaiian Rafting Adventures Inc.
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED] 3
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Please Pass this bill! Manta Rays need protection in Hawaii lets save these magnificent animals that are being decimated everywhere else around the world.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 7:39 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Wanda
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

I support HB 366, protection of Hawaii's manta rays is very important, visitors come to Kona to dive with the manta rays, which in turn brings money into our state. HR 366 is very simple and easy to understand: it prohibits killing or capturing of manta rays and it includes penalties if the law is broken. Furthermore, it does not require funding for more studies.

Please protect our manta rays now before it is too late.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 8:09 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Eva Hillman
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:
Please support this bill which would protect Manta Rays from being killed or captured.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 8:11 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: anita wintner
Organization: Individual
Address: kihei HI
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Let's protect them before it becomes a problem. They are beautiful creatures which serve an important function on our reefs, Mahalo,

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 8:11 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jenna ishii
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Honolulu, HAWAII - January 29, 2009 - Two bills have been introduced into the Hawaiian Legislature for manta ray protection in the state - one each in the House and the Senate. House Bill 366, stating that "no person shall knowingly capture or kill a manta ray within state marine waters", was introduced on Friday by Representatives Denny Coffman and Hermina Morita and was also signed by 9 more representatives. Senate Bill 394, using the same language, was introduced by Kona Senator Josh Green and Senator Mike Gabbard.

While manta rays have been fished for years in Indonesia, Baja, the Philippines, Africa and throughout Asia, no fishery has ever existed in Hawaii. Hawaii has a healthy population of manta rays, but information on the life history and movement rate show that they would be highly susceptible to over fishing. Hawaii has now been targeted by aquarium as a location where they can capture manta rays for husbandry experiments and display in tanks. Without legislative protection, these aquariums will be able to take as many individuals from the population as they want without having to report on the fate of the individuals they take.

There is currently no legal protection for manta rays in the state.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 8:14 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tom Carey
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

I support HB 366 to protect Hawaii's manta rays. Are you aware of how many people come here just to dive with manta rays? This brings a lot of money into the state that we may lose if they are gone. HR 366 is very simple and easy to understand: it prohibits killing or capturing of manta rays and it includes penalties if the law is broken. Furthermore, it does not require funding for more studies.

Please protect our manta rays now before it is too late.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 8:30 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Porter H Watson
Organization: KUPS
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

I support HB 366 to protect Hawaii's manta rays. HR 366 is very simple and easy to understand: it prohibits killing or capturing of manta rays and it includes penalties if the law is broken. Furthermore, it does not require funding for more studies.

Please protect our manta rays now before it is too late.

[REDACTED] y

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 8:38 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Ken Johnson
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: k [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

I support this proposed bill. I feel that keeping in tact the existing wild mantra ray population in the Hawaiian waters will better aid in their research. By prohibiting thier capture I feel we will be better able to study these animals than if they are caputered and studied in aquariums.

[REDACTED] y

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 8:46 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nick Bennett
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED] 1
Phone [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Hawaii is one the best places in the world to see mantas. Let try to keep it that way !!!

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 8:51 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: d [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Steve Kessler
Organization: Hawaiian Rafting Adventure
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

There is currently no protection for manta rays from any type of fishing, collection, or capture in Hawaii.
Kona is one of the best locations around the world to see manta rays in the wild. Manta rays are observed on 80% of the dives at Garden Eel Cove each year.
Manta ray ecotourism generated over 2.5 million dollars per year in revenue for the state of Hawaii in 1992. The increase in tourism over the last seven years suggests even more is generated today. This depends on a healthy population of live manta rays in Hawaii. Individuals can be identified by their unique spot patterns on their belly. These pigment patterns have allowed residents to name and keep track of individuals, and has shown that many are long-time residents at certain sites.
Manta rays are very long lived. One individual (Lefty) has been a resident in Kona since before 1979, when she was first identified as a full grown adult female.
Only 154 manta rays have been identified along the Kona Coast since 1992, suggesting very small population sizes.
No individual has ever been documented migrating between Kona and Maui, despite two separate photo-identification studies and two acoustic tracking studies. This suggests that each island has its own distinct population, and overfishing on one island will not be alleviated by migration of new individuals from another island.
Manta rays have extremely low reproductive rates. Only 2-3 new pups are observed in Kona each year. It would take a long time for captured manta rays to be replaced by natural reproduction.
Manta rays do not have to be in aquarium for researchers to learn more about them. Hawaii is a perfect location for researchers to study manta rays in the wild.
There is no reason we should allow our local manta rays to be sold to generate income for outside parties. They are worth much more to Hawaii alive and swimming in our local waters than dead or stuck in a tank on the mainland.
We need to do everything possible to protect these animals! Thank you.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 8:56 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: janet braithwaite
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

here are the following reasons why i think this bill should be passed:

There is currently no protection for manta rays from any type of fishing, collection, or capture in Hawaii.

Kona is one of the best locations around the world to see manta rays in the wild. Manta rays are observed on 80% of the dives at Garden Eel Cove each year.

Manta ray ecotourism generated over 2.5 million dollars per year in revenue for the state of Hawaii in 1992. The increase in tourism over the last seven years suggests even more is generated today. This depends on a healthy population of live manta rays in Hawaii.

Individuals can be identified by their unique spot patterns on their belly. These pigment patterns have allowed residents to name and keep track of individuals, and has shown that many are long-time residents at certain sites.

Manta rays are very long lived. One individual (Lefty) has been a resident in Kona since before 1979, when she was first identified as a full grown adult female.

Only 154 manta rays have been identified along the Kona Coast since 1992, suggesting very small population sizes.

No individual has ever been documented migrating between Kona and Maui, despite two separate photo-identification studies and two acoustic tracking studies. This suggests that each island has its own distinct population, and overfishing on one island will not be alleviated by migration of new individuals from another island.

Manta rays have extremely low reproductive rates. Only 2-3 new pups are observed in Kona each year. It would take a long time for captured manta rays to be replaced by natural reproduction.

Manta rays do not have to be in aquarium for researchers to learn more about them. Hawaii is a perfect location for researchers to study manta rays in the wild.

There is no reason we should allow our local manta rays to be sold to generate income for outside parties. They are worth much more to Hawaii alive and swimming in our local waters than dead or stuck in a tank on the mainland.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 9:11 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Mary Braithwaite
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

MY DAUGHTER WORKS FOR A DIVE SHOP IN MAUI AND HER BUSINESS DEPENDS ON A HEALTHY ECOSYSTEM. MANY OF HER GUESTS COME TO SEE MANTAS AND OTHER LARGE ANIMALS THAT ARE FOUND THERE. IT IS IMPORTANT, WITH ALL THE DISTRUCTION IN OTHER COUNTRIES , THAT WE BECOME AN EXAMPLE OF WHAT IS RIGHT. HERE ARE SOME MORE REASONS TO PROTECT THESE ANIMALS: There is currently no protection for manta rays from any type of fishing, collection, or capture in Hawaii. Kona is one of the best locations around the world to see manta rays in the wild. Manta rays are observed on 80% of the dives at Garden Eel Cove each year. Manta ray ecotourism generated over 2.5 million dollars per year in revenue for the state of Hawaii in 1992. The increase in tourism over the last seven years suggests even more is generated today. This depends on a healthy population of live manta rays in Hawaii. Individuals can be identified by their unique spot patterns on their belly. These pigment patterns have allowed residents to name and keep track of individuals, and has shown that many are long-time residents at certain sites. Manta rays are very long lived. One individual (Lefty) has been a resident in Kona since before 1979, when she was first identified as a full grown adult female. Only 154 manta rays have been identified along the Kona Coast since 1992, suggesting very small population sizes. No individual has ever been documented migrating between Kona and Maui, despite two separate photo-identification studies and two acoustic tracking studies. This suggests that each island has its own distinct population, and overfishing on one island will not be alleviated by migration of new individuals from another island. Manta rays have extremely low reproductive rates. Only 2-3 new pups are observed in Kona each year. It would take a long time for captured manta rays to be replaced by natural reproduction. Manta rays do not have to be in aquarium for researchers to learn more about them. Hawaii is a perfect location for researchers to study manta rays in the wild. There is no reason we should allow our local manta rays to be sold to generate income for outside parties. They are worth much more to Hawaii alive and swimming in our local waters than dead or stuck in a tank on the mainland.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 9:19 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jennifer Homcy
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

- * There is currently no protection for manta rays from any type of fishing, collection, or capture in Hawaii.
- * Kona is one of the best locations around the world to see manta rays in the wild. Manta rays are observed on 80% of the dives at Garden Eel Cove each year.
- * Manta ray ecotourism generated over 2.5 million dollars per year in revenue for the state of Hawaii in 1992. The increase in tourism over the last seven years suggests even more is generated today. This depends on a healthy population of live manta rays in Hawaii.
- * Individuals can be identified by their unique spot patterns on their belly. These pigment patterns have allowed residents to name and keep track of individuals, and has shown that many are long-time residents at certain sites.
- * Manta rays are very long lived. One individual (Lefty) has been a resident in Kona since before 1979, when she was first identified as a full grown adult female.
- * Only 154 manta rays have been identified along the Kona Coast since 1992, suggesting very small population sizes.
- * No individual has ever been documented migrating between Kona and Maui, despite two separate photo-identification studies and two acoustic tracking studies. This suggests that each island has its own distinct population, and overfishing on one island will not be alleviated by migration of new individuals from another island.
- * Manta rays have extremely low reproductive rates. Only 2-3 new pups are observed in Kona each year. It would take a long time for captured manta rays to be replaced by natural reproduction.
- * Manta rays do not have to be in aquarium for researchers to learn more about them. Hawaii is a perfect location for researchers to study manta rays in the wild.
- * There is no reason we should allow our local manta rays to be sold to generate income for outside parties. They are worth much more to Hawaii alive and swimming in our local waters than dead or stuck in a tank on the mainland.

Please support HB 366 and protect manta rays in Hawaii State waters.

[REDACTED] y

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 9:21 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Joan Lloyd
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]@com
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Dear Chairman Ito and Representatives of The House Water, Land & Ocean Resources Committee,

Thank you for hearing HB366, the Manta Ray bill. I support HB366 to keep Manta Rays in Hawaii's waters.

Thanks and Aloha,
Joan Lloyd

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 9:53 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Allen Eggleston
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Please support HB 366 to protect Hawaii's manta rays. I am a diver and live on the Big Island and frequently see the magnificent fish. The mantas are very important to tourists and the maintenance of the tourist industry, as many dives are scheduled to view them. HR 366 is very simple and easy to understand: it prohibits killing or capturing of manta rays and it includes penalties if the law is broken. Furthermore, it does not require funding for more studies.

Please protect our manta rays now before it is too late.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 10:02 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Richard Bilow
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Capturing manta rays is too easy. They are not like reef fish, dolphins or many other sea animals with regard to their abundance. Damaging their populations and risking their future will be quite easy compared to other species. Any collection should be highly regulated. In my opinion no collection of large manta rays should be allowed at all. I do not personally know enough about their life cycle and reproduction but the Marine Aquarium Council should have information. Tourism for Hawaii's dive industry will take a big hit if the animals start to disappear. As a diver I travel to the islands and go to Eel Garden Cove exclusively because I know my chances of viewing the mantas is very high. If the frequency of viewings drops I will not risk my travel dollars. I am in the aquarium trade and am very much against any collection that is not highly regulated. Collectors simply do not think long-term and unregulated unethical practices have already contributed towards the destruction of many species and many reef. Don't let it happen in Hawaii.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 10:03 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rosanne Shank
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]m
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

I am an avid scuba diver and I have enjoyed many dives with our beautiful manta rays. I support HB 366 to protect Hawaii's manta rays. HR 366 is very simple and easy to understand: it prohibits killing or capturing of manta rays and it includes penalties if the law is broken. Furthermore, it does not require funding for more studies.

Please protect our manta rays now before it is too late. I would like to continue diving with them in the future. Thank you for your consideration in this matter.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 10:11 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jane Bockus
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

I urge complete support of HB366, the bill to protect manta rays in Hawaii. They should not be permitted to be collected as aquarium specimens or as "alternative medicine" remedies. They are a valuable resource in our West Hawaii waters, and need the protection of the full extent of the law.
Mahalo.

[REDACTED] ny

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 10:12 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Elarka Yuen
Organization: Individual
Address: Lanai City HI
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]@m
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:
Keep our manta rays here!

[REDACTED] y

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 10:13 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Karen Bullock
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Clearly the Manta Rays should be protected from poaching and commerical fishing in Hawaii and I wholeheartedly support this Act.

From:

Manta Pacific Research Foundation
Pacific Research Foundation [info@mantapacific.org]

Sent:

Friday, January 30, 2009 10:17 AM

To:

Rep. Sharon Har

Subject:

Talking Points - Why should we support HB366 and SB394?



Manta Pacific Research Foundation

Information

Manta Pacific Research Foundation - Talking Points

Why Should we support HB366 and SB394?



Kailua-Kona, HAWAII - January 30, 2009

As you may have heard, there are two Bills in the Hawaiian State Legislature this year. A review of our website will show you that this is not our first attempt, however this year we are more hopeful than ever that we will secure some success. But it won't happen without the support of the manta community and that's where you come in.

This year two bills have been proposed in the Hawaii Legislature that would make it illegal to capture or kill manta rays in Hawaii, [HB366](#) and [SB394](#). While manta rays have been fished for years in Indonesia, Baja, the Philippines, Africa, and throughout Asia, no fishery has ever existed in Hawaii. However, Hawaii has now been targeted by aquariums as a location where they can capture manta rays for husbandry experiments and for display in tanks. This may start as soon as this year. Without legislative protection, these aquariums would be able to take as many individuals from the population as they want, and not have to report on the fate of the individuals they take. Hawaii has a healthy population of manta rays, but information on the life history and movement rates suggest that they would be highly susceptible to overfishing. If we are going to protect manta rays in Hawaii, we need to do it now before fishing starts.

The first bill ([HB366](#)) is being heard in the House on Monday, but testimony needs to be submitted **24 hours in advance by Sunday** to be heard in

this session. It is critical that the House knows your feelings on this matter. It is fairly easy to submit testimony on the web at <http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/emailtestimony/>. Please tell the representatives about your personal experiences with manta rays and why you think they deserve protection in Hawaii. Some key points you may want to consider are:

- There is currently no protection for manta rays from any type of fishing, collection, or capture in Hawaii.
- Kona is one of the best locations around the world to see manta rays in the wild. Manta rays are observed on 80% of the dives at Garden Eel Cove each year.
- Manta ray ecotourism generated over 2.5 million dollars per year in revenue for the state of Hawaii in 2002. The increase in tourism over the last seven years suggests even more is generated today. This depends on a healthy population of live manta rays in Hawaii.
- Individuals can be identified by their unique spot patterns on their belly. These pigment patterns have allowed residents to name and keep track of individuals, and has shown that many are long-time residents at certain sites.
- Manta rays are very long lived. One individual (Lefty) has been a resident in Kona since before 1979, when she was first identified as a full grown adult female.
- Only 154 manta rays have been identified along the Kona Coast since 1992, suggesting very small population sizes.
- No individual has ever been documented migrating between Kona and Maui, despite two separate photo-identification studies and two acoustic tracking studies. This suggests that each island has its own distinct population, and overfishing on one island will not be alleviated by migration of new individuals from another island.
- Manta rays have extremely low reproductive rates. Only 2-3 new pups are observed in Kona each year. It would take a long time for captured manta rays to be replaced by natural reproduction.
- Manta rays do not have to be in aquarium for researchers to learn more about them. Hawaii is a perfect location for researchers to study manta rays in the wild.
- There is no reason we should allow our local manta rays to be sold to generate

[REDACTED] ny

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 10:18 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Sharon and Dean Williams
Organization: Individual
Address: Kalamauka Rd HI
Phone [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

We are asking for you to support HB366 which would protect the Manta Rays in the waters of Hawaii. Allowing the capturing or taking of even one Manta Ray from the waters surrounding the Big Island would do tremendous harm to a thriving tourist industry here. Kona is one of the few places that people come to in order to see these majestic creatures in the wild, not in an aquarium. By allowing the taking of Mantas by either collectors or hunters we are again allowing others to strip our island and or its waters of a resource that makes Hawaii the special place that it is. We can't leave the fate of the Mantas in the hands of the DLNR we already see what a poor job they do of managing the other resources under their control. So please support HB366 and vote in favor of protecting our Mantas.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 10:18 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David A. Ziemann
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: d [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

bart [REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 10:21 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: sarah bumpus
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: 808 [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

I strongly support the protection of manta rays in Hawaiian waters. We are lucky to have the opportunity to view and interact with these creatures: not only is this a great boon to our visitor industry, but it is a great boon to our quality of life. The small, slow to reproduce manta population could easily be destroyed by "fishing". It is stupid and unnecessary to capture and kill these animals for "scientific study" or any purpose. PLEASE act to protect this local treasure.

Sarah Bumpus, DVM , Makawao, HI

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 10:22 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dorene Centeio
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

I would really like to see a layer of protection for these graceful and beautiful animals. One of the areas that wants manta ray for research is the Monterey Bay Aquarium. Although an amazing place it is not even located and benefiting Hawaii, the location that these animals are from. I believe that a lot of great and valid data comes from studying the animals in the wild. So researchers can come to the Kona Coast for that purpose. Which would be a source of revenue for Hawaii instead of depleting a resource we are adding to our economy. With a population that is so slow at breeding we don't want to take an animal that is holding its own and place it in a position where it would become threatened or endangered. We have an opportunity to be proactive and forward thinking. I would like my 6 year old daughter to one day go diving and be able to see these animals in the wild and potentially see Lefty who has been a Kona "resident" for the past 30 years. Please support HB366 a vote for the future of the Manta Ray, Hawaii's fragile marine life and the future of Hawaii's children to have the same rich marine biodiversity that we have today. Also, a step forward in the growing area of eco-tourism in Hawaii. Thank you. With much appreciation. Dorene Centeio

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 10:24 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Cheryl Hammack
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

There is currently no protection for manta rays from any type of fishing, collection, or capture in Hawaii.

Kona is one of the best locations around the world to see manta rays in the wild. Manta rays are observed on 80% of the dives at Garden Eel Cove each year.

Manta ray ecotourism generated over 2.5 million dollars per year in revenue for the state of Hawaii in 1992. The increase in tourism over the last seven years suggests even more is generated today. This depends on a healthy population of live manta rays in Hawaii.

Individuals can be identified by their unique spot patterns on their belly. These pigment patterns have allowed residents to name and keep track of individuals, and has shown that many are long-time residents at certain sites.

Manta rays are very long lived. One individual (Lefty) has been a resident in Kona since before 1979, when she was first identified as a full grown adult female.

Only 154 manta rays have been identified along the Kona Coast since 1992, suggesting very small population sizes.

No individual has ever been documented migrating between Kona and Maui, despite two separate photo-identification studies and two acoustic tracking studies. This suggests that each island has its own distinct population, and over fishing on one island will not be alleviated by migration of new individuals from another island.

Manta rays have extremely low reproductive rates. Only 2-3 new pups are observed in Kona each year. It would take a long time for captured manta rays to be replaced by natural reproduction.

Manta rays do not have to be in aquarium for researchers to learn more about them. Hawaii is a perfect location for researchers to study manta rays in the wild.

There is no reason we should allow our local manta rays to be sold to generate income for outside parties. They are worth much more to Hawaii alive and swimming in our local waters than dead or stuck in a tank on the mainland.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 10:31 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Linda Berry
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

There are only a small finite number of manta rays in Hawaii. Manta ray ecotourism generates over 2.5 million dollars per year in revenue for the state of Hawaii. They are part of the resource and spirit of the islands. Not to protect them would ultimately harm Hawaii. They are long lived and do not reproduce very quickly, so to harm to even one would be devastating and could upset their population balance.

It is important to take the long view here, not the short view. Please support their protection. Thank you.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 10:43 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Angela Pierce
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Please protect the manta population of Hawaii. Diving with the mantas this last summer was the most memorable dive of my life. They are too precious and too slow to reproduce to ignore. The sea life of Hawaii is the single greatest attribute of the area and is the only reason why I spend my tourism dollars there. I hope to continue my visits in the years ahead, but if the mantas decline, there will be no reason.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 10:48 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Amack
Organization: Individual
Address: Kihei, HI
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

We need to impose significant penalties for those who willingly kill or capture a manta ray. History has proven that without the penalties, the law is ineffective. Please vote in favor of HB 366.

[REDACTED] y

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 10:49 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: comments only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Betsy Lanegran
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]@g
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

My husband and I have visted Hawaii from Minnesota five times. It is always a highlight of our trip to dive with the Mantas. Please make sure these magnifican creatures stay in the Hawaiian waters and not be caught and brought to aquariums. They do not reproduce quickly so any loss to the population is significant.

Thank you
Betsy Lanegran

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 10:59 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Nancy Cogliandro
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

The Manta Rays are a beautiful reason that my husband and I visit Hawaii every year. We specifically visit Kona to dive with the Mantas. Every year we look for Lefty. If, one year Lefty became missing due to trapping or fishing, it would be like losing a long time friend. We beg of you to help protect the Manta Rays in Hawaii.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 10:59 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Wendy Kuntz
Organization: Individual
Address: 420 A N. Kalaheo Kailua
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Research suggests that Manta Rays are not a species that is suitable for a fisheries or exploitation. They have a slow population growth rate, are long-lived, and low birth rate.

Manta ray ecotourism generated over 2.5 million dollars per year in revenue for the state of Hawaii in 1992. The increase in tourism over the last seven years suggests even more is generated today. This depends on a healthy population of live manta rays in Hawaii.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 11:05 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Thomas M McDonald
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:
Our Manta Rays need protection. HB366 does not require funding and has penalties for killing or capturing a manta ray. Manta rays are vital to the tourism industry in Hawaii and need protection. Please pass HB366

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 11:15 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Karen
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]@com
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 11:16 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dionne Miller
Organization: Individual
Address: Akahi Kapaa
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Please protect the Manta Rays. I've lived on Kauai for over 20 years and I vacation in Kona. I have had a baby Manta Ray swim right up to me like a puppy. They are beautiful and intelligent, when you look into their eyes. Their economic worth to Hawaii, as free and wild beings is huge.

Aloha

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 11:18 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Doug Miller
Organization: Individual
Address: Akahi Kapaa
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

We want the manta rays protected from being captured for research and fishing. Please consider the proposal.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 11:36 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Donna Rodes Goodale
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Manta Rays have slow reproductive rates and need to be protected from hunting or fishing in order to survive in local waters. They account for millions of dollars of local and state revenue because of dive trips that watch them.

Any take of Manta Rays is too much. Please support the banning of any take of Manta Rays.

Donna Rodes Goodale, MS Zoology and a middle school teacher

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 11:45 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: [REDACTED] AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: John Hoover
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: 808 [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Please pass this bill. Note that HAWAII IS THE WORLD'S BEST PLACE TO SEE SEA TURTLES because of the protection given to these animals. The value to our tourism industry is incalculable. Similarly, Hawaii is also THE BEST PLACE IN THE WORLD TO SEE MANTA RAYS! Sadly, it is also the easiest place in the world to catch them for aquariums or for any other purpose. Please do not let the lucrative manta gill raker trade from China, or the desire of large aquariums for a manta ray destroy our manta population. Nip it in the bud!! - Thanks, John Hoover

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 11:59 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: MARC SAKS
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 11:59 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Jai Samuel Vinayaga
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:
Manta Rays must be saved!!!!

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 12:02 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: draysen wilson
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:
Manta Rays must be saved!!!!

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 12:03 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Kimberly
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

I have lived in Kailua-Kona, Hi for 16 years and love the surrounding ocean and wildlife. I URGE YOU TO SUPPORT BILL HB366. I've snorkeled and seen these beautiful, patient, inquisitive creatures that cause nothing buy joy to those witnessing their ballet-like swimming. These creatures deserve protection and shoould be awarded the dignity to live out their lives in Hawaii. Allowing manta rays to be shipped to aquariums opens the doors to allowing them to be killed for food, and onward. PLEASE SUPPORT THIS BILL !!!, Kimberly A. Jackson, attorney and snorkeler

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 12:04 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Malia Oxley
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:
Manta Rays must be saved!!!!

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 12:08 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: James Coon
Organization: Ocean Tourism Coalition
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

This is an important step in protecting the Manta in Hawaiian waters.
Please pass this important bill.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 12:12 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: sherry klassen
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:
It is very important on so many levels to protect the Mantaray

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 1:03 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Danene Warnock
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Please do not allow unregulated taking of manta rays from Hawaiian waters. They are so much more valuable to ALL of us when allowed to live and procreate as part of their natural ecosystem. Having lived in the islands for over 5 years, and spent time in Hawaii on numerous other occasions, I've been able to enjoy mantas from both above and below the water, in their natural setting, and that is where they should be. Thank you for supporting HB366.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 1:26 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: comments only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Reg White
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

While I support the intention of this bill, I do not see any provision here for accidental bycatch during a commercial fishing operation. Perhaps consult with NMFS to see how to establish an accidental take level and if necessary, a permitting or reporting process for this accidental take. Establish periodic surveys of the stock to see if this bill is having the desired effect.

[REDACTED]

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 1:55 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: [REDACTED]
Subject: Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marty Snyderman
Organization: Individual
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Manta rays are a Hawaiian treasure, Their reproductive biology is such that it is extremely easy to over fish a population. Studies show that various islands in Hawaii have only a few hundrd animals each. Those animals are worth thousands of dollars every year alive, and about >50 a pound one time caught.

Please pass HB 366 to provide protection for manta rays in Hawaii. It is rare to see manta rays in the wild. I have only seen them a few times in my 15-year career as a marine biologist. Yet, at certain places in Hawaii they can be seen regularly (see below). Please take measures for Hawaii to make certain that phenomenon will continue, so that no manta rays will be collected or killed for sport, food, or for display in aquariums.

Keep in mind:

There is currently no protection for manta rays from any type of fishing, collection, or capture in Hawaii.

Kona is one of the best locations around the world to see manta rays in the wild. Manta rays are observed on 80% of the dives at Garden Eel Cove each year.

Manta ray ecotourism generated over 2.5 million dollars per year in revenue for the state of Hawaii in 1992. The increase in tourism over the last seven years suggests even more is generated today. This depends on a healthy population of live manta rays in Hawaii.

Individuals can be identified by their unique spot patterns on their belly. These pigment patterns have allowed residents to name and keep track of individuals, and has shown that many are long-time residents at certain sites.

Manta rays are very long lived. One individual (Lefty) has been a resident in Kona since before 1979, when she was first identified as a full grown adult female.

Only 154 manta rays have been identified along the Kona Coast since 1992, suggesting very small population sizes.

No individual has ever been documented migrating between Kona and Maui, despite two separate photo-identification studies and two acoustic tracking studies. This suggests that each island has its own distinct population, and overfishing on one island will not be alleviated by migration of new individuals from another island.

Manta rays have extremely low reproductive rates. Only 2-3 new pups are observed in Kona each year. It would take a long time for captured manta rays to be replaced by natural reproduction.

Manta rays do not have to be in aquarium for researchers to learn more about them. Hawaii is a perfect location for researchers to study manta rays in the wild.

There is no reason we should allow our local manta rays to be sold to generate income for outside parties. They are worth much more to Hawaii alive and swimming in our local waters than dead or stuck in a tank on the mainland.

Sincerely,

Matt Dunlap

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 3:04 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Julie Klaz

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: jule [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

The Manta Rays in Hawaii need protection. The population of mantas off the Kona coast is small and part of our dive community. The idea of one of them being captured and displayed by a member of the scientific community for the Monterey Aquarium or any other aquarium is abhorrent.

We in the dive community enjoy their company five nights a week. We consider them part of our family and they deserve protection.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 2:57 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Allison Brandt

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Please protect our manta rays. Not only are they are beautiful creatures of the sea, but they are one of the reasons many divers come to the Big Island. They help represent the livelihood of many business owners and their employees.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 2:27 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: MARIE ADDARIO

Organization: PUAKO COMMUNITY ASSOCIATION

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

KINDLY PROTECT OUR MANTA RAYS. THESE GENTLE GIANTS ARE TOO EASY TO LURE AND NEED TO BE PROTECTED. THANK YOU.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 2:24 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Wendy McIlroy

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

People travel from all over the world just to go on Hawai'i's famed Manta Ray Night Dive. Removal of any of these animals, besides leading to the ultimate death of individual rays, which do not do well in captivity, will also lead to very bad PR for Hawaii and will harm our tourist economy.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 2:22 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Judith Elam

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 2:20 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Michael Elam

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 7:26 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Loree Draeger

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED] [link not](#)

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

We own a vacation condo in Kailua-Kona and dive regularly there. We have been diving all over the world for the past 5 years. We have seen the damage to coral reef ecosystems where overfishing has destroyed the natural balance of flora and fauna. Hawaii's Mantas are small in number and slow to reproduce. Protect one of our Islands' star attractions for snorkelers and divers. We have visited many aquariums. Well managed aquariums can breed their own mantas from existing captured stock.

PROTECT HAWAII'S MANTAS!



31st January 2009

To Whom It May Concern,

My name is Guy Stevens and I am the founder of the Maldivian Manta Ray Project; a non-profit research, conservation and education organization established in 2006 to study all aspects of the manta ray population here in the Republic of Maldives. The Maldives has a thriving resident population of many thousands of mantas which generate US\$10 Million to the country's economy through direct revenue from dive and snorkel excursions each year. The Maldivian government realize the value of their natural heritage and have created laws which prohibit the export of any rays from the country. I therefore strongly support any government bill which would create greater protection for the manta rays of Hawaii.

Manta rays are amazing animals which captivate and enthrall divers and snorkelers all over the world wherever they are encountered. The small population which exists within Hawaii is a huge asset to the State, one which it should be proud to have, and endeavour to protect. Not only is passing this bill the right thing to do ethically, it is also the right thing to do economically. Any fisheries or live capture of mantas for the aquarium trade from Hawaii's manta population would only result in the short-lived profits for a few individuals. Whereas the annual financial benefit for protecting the mantas in Hawaii will continue to exceed several million dollars.

Yours Truly

Guy Stevens
Maldivian Manta Ray Project
Landaa Giraavaru
Baa Atoll
Republic of Maldives
www.maldivianmantas.com

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 4:59 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Robin Newbold

Organization: Individual

Address: Kihei, Hi

Phone: 1

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Please support HB 366 to protect Hawaii's unique population of mantas. These are amazing animals, we know very little about them, they attract visitors to our state, and are a natural wonder for all of us who enjoy the reefs and there are too few of them to take from Hawaii's waters.

Please also consider the following:

There is currently no protection for manta rays from any type of fishing, collection, or capture in Hawaii.

Kona is one of the best locations around the world to see manta rays in the wild. Manta rays are observed on 80% of the dives at Garden Eel Cove each year.

Manta ray ecotourism generated over 2.5 million dollars per year in revenue for the state of Hawaii in 1992. The increase in tourism over the last seven years suggests even more is generated today. This depends on a healthy population of live manta rays in Hawaii.

Many mantas are long-time residents at certain sites.

Manta rays are very long lived.

Only 154 manta rays have been identified along the Kona Coast since 1992, suggesting very small population sizes.

Each island has its own distinct population, and overfishing on one island will not be alleviated by migration of new individuals from another island.

Manta rays have extremely low reproductive rates. Only 2-3 new pups are observed in Kona each year. It would take a long time for captured manta rays to be replaced by natural reproduction.

Manta rays do not have to be in aquarium for researchers to learn more about them. Hawaii is a perfect location for researchers to study manta rays in the wild.

There is no reason we should allow our local manta rays to be sold to generate income for outside parties. They are worth much more to Hawaii alive and swimming in our local waters than dead or stuck in a tank on the mainland.

Thank you, Robin Newbold

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 5:08 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Laurel Whillock

Organization: KUPS (Kona Underwater Photography Society)

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

As an Hawaii state citizen, registered voter and SCUBA diver, I strongly support HB366. Hawaii's number one SCUBA dive attraction, as promoted by every SCUBA dive magazine in print, is the opportunity to snorkel and/or dive with our magnificent manta rays. They are an invaluable resource for tourism to the Big Island and our numerous dive operators count on being able to offer this specialty dive to visitors from all over the world. In these difficult economic times, reducing the number of manta rays, or hunting them to the point of extinction, is foolhardy and a poor choice for use of a natural resource. Please choose to protect this wonderful and special species in our Hawaiian waters.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 5:55 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Ann Fielding

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

This is a very important and timely bill.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 6:08 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Kecia Joy

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

As a marine biologist and educator of almost 20 years, it is imperative for all of us to realize that the ocean inhabitants are vital to the planet and need to be protected as much as possible. Collection of manta rays to put on exhibit is a very bad idea. The mantas do NOT do well in captivity, they are highly migratory plankton eaters and need to stay in the wild.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 6:19 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Caroline Azelski

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

I support HB366. As a scuba diver on the Big Island, I can honestly say that there is nothing as majestic as suddenly noticing a large manta ray gliding by. It is a life-changing experience and I believe the Hawaii would be culturally and economically (tourism) poorer without them or with less of them. Please pass HB366.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 6:22 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Diane Campbell

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

I swim several times weekly at Puako or north from there. One of my deepest joys in the water is when a manta, such a gentle giant, swims up close to me and eyes me so softly, or the day when one "played" in front of us for over ten minutes.

I personally know of many visitors to Big Island who come here specifically hoping to see mantas as they swim.

If our kindness to these beautiful creatures is not enough reason to protect them, the tourist dollars could be.

To me, these creatures are within our kuleana. I am sickened by the thought of people lacking true aloha, coming to these waters to capture and enslave mantas for monetary gain.

We are the only creatures who can prevent such a thing happening. Clearly, the time is now.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 3:26 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Cathy Shields

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

I support this bill because it is important for the protection and restoration of Hawaii's reefs and marine life

Regarding HB366 and SB394, Hawaii's manta rays need protection to avoid possible exploitation. These animals are not only important to our local marine environment but are also a draw to many visitors coming to Hawaii to dive with them (especially on Big Island). It is our responsibility to maintain the health and welfare of all of our resources and this is why I am in support of HB366 AND SB394.

Sincerely, Chyna Colorado

1/29/09

Protect Hawaii's Manta Rays

I urge you to protect Hawaii's manta rays by passing bill HB366. There is currently no protection for these amazing creatures who live in our waters.

I have been fortunate to experience snorkeling with the mantas here in Kona several times. They are truly amazing and beautiful animals. Research has documented that there is a resident population off the Big Island leeward coast. Divers come from all over the world to be able to experience diving with the mantas in Kona. In other parts of the world mantas are being killed for food or for their gill rakers. There is nothing to protect our mantas from such attacks.

Mantas are long-lived and slow-reproducing creatures who are particularly threatened by overharvesting. And, since they can become quite large, they are not really suitable for aquariums. They belong in our ocean.

In 2002 manta tours attracted 11,000 visitors who generated \$2.4 million in revenue for the state. We need to retain this local Hawaiian tourist attraction. They were added to the IUCN Red List of Threatened Species in 2005.

1/29/09

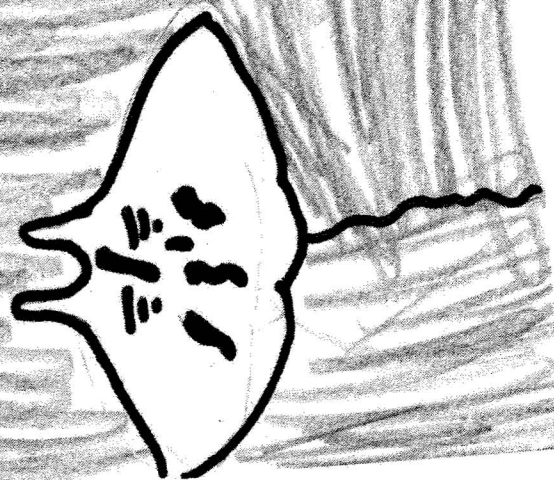
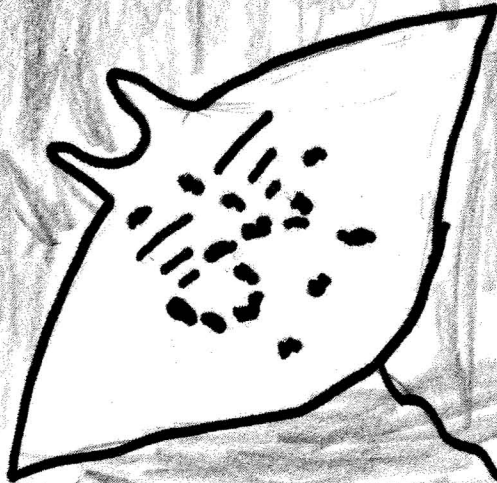
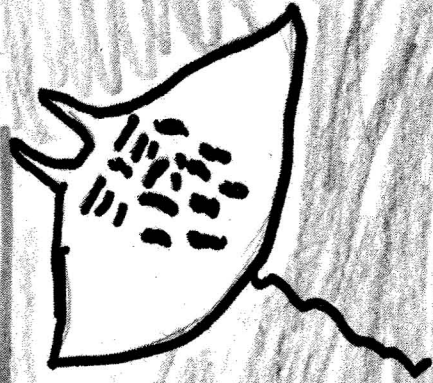
Aloha,

My name is Janelle Laros. I am 9 years old and I live in Kona. I have been snorkeling with Manta rays several times and I really like them a lot. I think Manta rays are beautiful and very special. I hope that they can live in Hawaii for a long time. Please pass a law to protect Manta rays from being killed or caught in Hawaii.

Thank you.

Janelle Laros

SAVE THE MANTAS



Bx: Janelle Laros

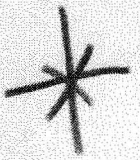
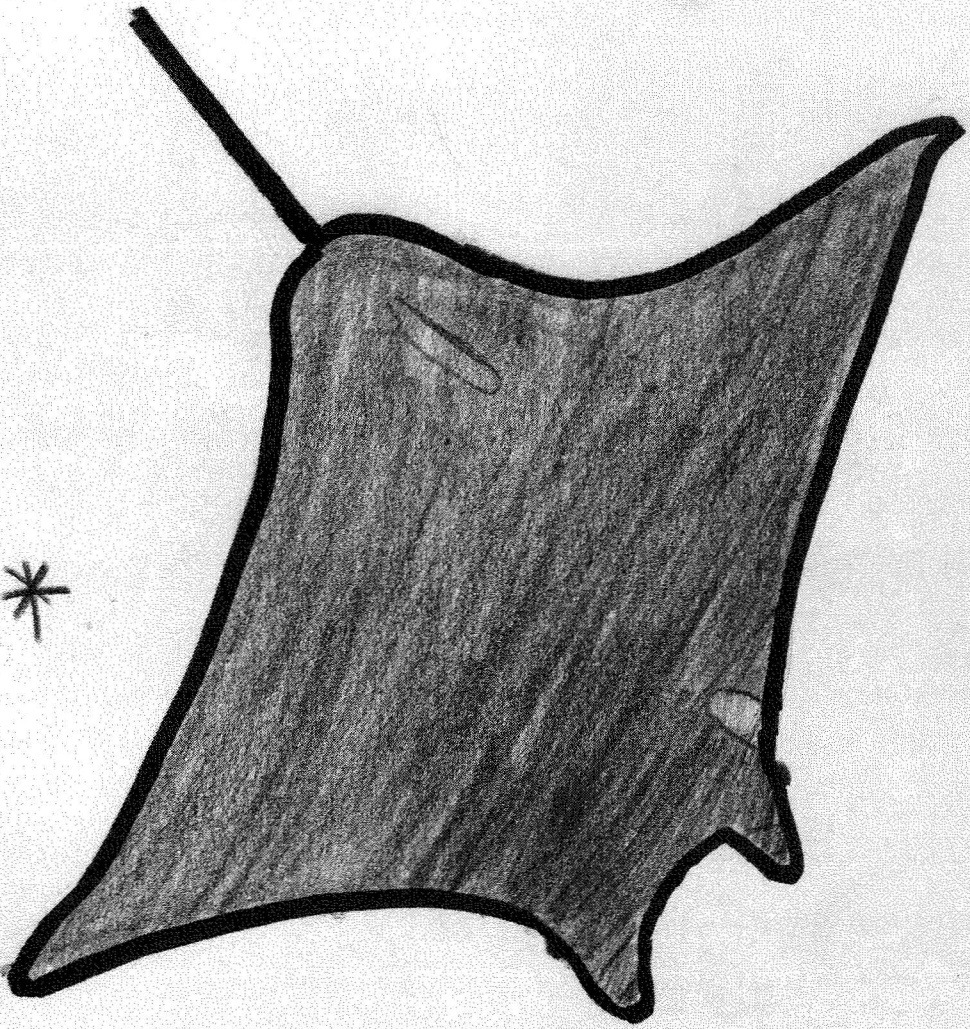
June 27, 2008

My name is Keli. I'm 12 years old and I live in Kona, Hawaii. I've been lucky enough to have gone snorkeling with manta rays. It was one of the most awesome experiences I have ever had. I think manta rays should be protected because they are so cool! They only have 1 to 2 babies every 2 to 3 years and if someone started fishing manta rays the population would be wiped out fast. I would like my children and my grandchildren to be able to swim with manta rays. Those are the different reasons I think manta rays should be protected.

Sincerely,
Keli N. P. Jackson

By:
Heii
Jackson

Manta Rays



June 27, 2008

Hi, my name is Nora. I'm twelve years old and I live in Kona, Hawaii. I have not been scuba diving with manta rays but I have been snorkeling with them but I still got the same wonderful experience of these big and beautiful sea creatures. I have learned so much about them and knowing that they are not being protected at all worries me that they will become extinct very soon. One reason is because they only have one to two pups every two to three years and it takes them about ten years to reach full grown maturity. If we keep overfishing them then there won't be any left. I LOVE these mantas and I hope that they will become protected very, very soon!
~♡♡♡ THANK YOU ♡♡♡~

Mahalo,
Nora J. Frank

By: Nora * *

Save ~~~~~

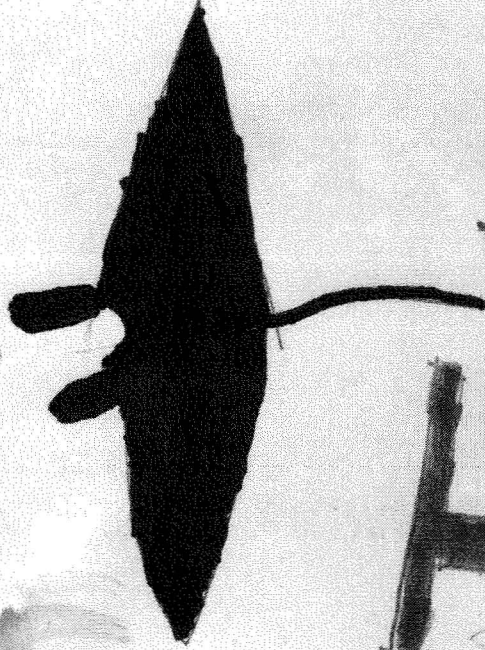
the

Ma ntas

of Hawaii!



SAVE THE



MANITAS

By Alexander
AGE 5

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 2:14 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Teri Leonard

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I strongly support the passage of this bill.



Hawai'i Wildlife Fund

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND OCEAN RESOURCES

Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
Rep. Sharon Har, Vice Chair

HB 366 Relating to Manta Rays

Hearing: Mon, 9am in House conference room 325

Dear Chairman Ito and Vice Chair Har:

I am submitting testimony on behalf of Hawai'i Wildlife Fund, a Maui and Hawai'i Island based non-governmental organization, in support of this bill to protect manta rays from fishing pressures. While I appreciate the effort to establish fines and penalties for knowingly killing or capturing manta rays, and believe that this is of critical importance for the effectiveness of preventing their depletion in the wild, I hope that the fines have been set high enough for them to be taken seriously. I hope that they have been set in relation to the potential value they might pose to a collector.

I know from working closely in partnership with Maui's Division of Conservation and Resources Enforcement (DOCARE) that effective fines are sorely lacking in our marine resource laws. I applaud the Legislature's efforts to establish these fines in this bill, it's a good start, and only wish to ensure that they have been scaled in accordance with the demand and value of this species.

Mahalo for your kind consideration,

Hannah Bernard

Hannah Bernard
President, Hawai'i Wildlife Fund

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 7:45 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Ann Kobsa, PhD in Biology

Organization: Malama O Puna

Address: Koa'e, Puna, HI

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I believe that our precious marine life should not be exploited for entertainment. The delicate marine food web is already experiencing challenges due to global warming, pollution, coastal development, damage by swimmers, and overfishing. Please pass this bill that will afford protection to our majestic manta rays from harvesting for use in aquaria. These beautiful creatures deserve to live out their lives in the free and relatively clean waters of Hawai'i, not in captivity. Thank you for your careful consideration of this issue.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 8:13 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Linda Jerome

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

BIA-HAWAII

BUILDING INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION

February 2, 2009

Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources

9:00 a.m.

Conference Room 325

Honorable Ken Ito, Chair
Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources
State Capitol, Room 325
Honolulu, HI 96813

RE: HB 951 “Relating to Landowner Liability”

Relieves the landowner of liability for any damage, injury or harm to persons or property outside the boundaries the landowner’s land caused by naturally occurring land failure originating on unimproved land.

Chair Ito and Members of the Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources:

I am Karen Nakamura, Chief Executive Officer of the Building Industry Association of Hawaii (BIA-Hawaii). Chartered in 1955, the Building Industry Association of Hawaii is a professional trade organization affiliated with the National Association of Home Builders, representing the building industry and its associates. BIA-Hawaii takes a leadership role in unifying and promoting the interests of the industry to enhance the quality of life for the people of Hawaii.

BIA-Hawaii supports the passage of HB951, “Relating to Landowner Liability.”

BIA-Hawaii supports HB951, which is intended to provide a level of protection to landowners from “acts of god” events. It would provide some legal certainty with respect to the legal duties and obligations of landowners arising from the inherent risks of land failures caused by natural conditions on unimproved lands, where the landowner has not created or increased the risk of harm by artificial improvements or alterations to the land.

Thank you for the opportunity to express our views on this matter.



Executive Vice President & Chief Executive Officer
BIA-Hawaii

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 11:59 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Mia

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 2/1/2009

Comments:

I am strongly in favor of this bill to protect manta rays in Hawaiian waters.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 11:47 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Thomas Clark

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 2/1/2009

Comments:

Fishing for and/or killing of manta rays should be prohibited.

If allowed, capture should be regulated with permits required.

Transfer of funds for captured manta ray beyond expenses and a reasonable profit should benefit the State of Hawaii.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 8:21 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Paul Anka

Organization: Individual

Address: Makawao, Hawaii

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 2/1/2009

Comments:

Manta Rays should not be caught or removed from Hawai'ian waters- it is morally and ethically wrong.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 8:04 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Michael Stocker
Organization: Ocean Conservation Research
Address: [REDACTED]
Phone: [REDACTED]
E-mail: [REDACTED]
Submitted on: 2/1/2009

Comments:

I grew up through the 1960's as an amateur aquarists and sportsfishermen. It has been alarming to see the impacts of reckless harvesting on marine species in just a few short years between 1965-1975. It was due to witnessing these impacts that began supporting the conservation of natural habitat. I support this bill.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 8:03 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: maren springer

Organization: Individual

Address: Makawao, Hawaii

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 2/1/2009

Comments:

Manta Rays are unique and amazing animals that need protection, not removal from the Hawai'ian waters.

Don't collect manta rays please!

Kaia [REDACTED]

Sent: Sunday, February 01, 2009 4:26 AM

To: WLOtestimony

I am opposed to the bills being introduced to be able to collect manta rays in Hawaiian waters for ANY reason! As an avid SCUBA diver for over 20 years, I can see all the tourists that spend millions of dollars not spending them any more if the mantas are gone....that goes for the whole world!

Please don't take our mantas!!!

Sincerely, Kaia

_____ Information from ESET NOD32 Antivirus, version of virus signature database 3811 (20090129)

_____ The message was checked by ESET NOD32 Antivirus.

<http://www.eset.com>

HB366

January 31, 2008

I spend a great deal of time in the ocean and have great respect for it's diverse creatures.

During the past half a century, I've seen the waters around our Islands go from plentiful to barren in comparison.

I optimistically estimate the total current population of 90% of Hawaiian species of fish, including pelagic and reef species around the Big Island, versus 1958 to be less than 1/250,000% of what it once was.

I've seen all of the various species diminish, some, considerably more than others while others have seemed to have disappeared completely from our shorelines.

I have very fond childhood memories of the boat harbors around Big Island being filled with seemingly-endless large-schools of countless, tiny, silver fish

I could go on and on and wish to seek protection for all, but must ask you to please help to protect Manta Rays by approving of this bill: HB366

Mantas and other rays are not plentiful and are known as very sparse reproducers.

Please begin protecting them as soon as possible in order to help them have a chance for survival here in Hawaii.

Please don't delay. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Leona Roberts

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 10:37 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Michael J. Duberstein

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Manta rays should be protected point blank. There is no reason at all to kill them and those who do should be severely punished.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 10:20 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Attachments: Hawaii 004.jpg (813 KB)

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Mr David Green

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED] Queensland, Australia

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I have visited Kailua-Kona on 4 occasions to dive with Kona Honu Divers, on the Manta Night dives, I have taken my son to witness this beautiful sight and will be returning again in 2009.

I would openly support any efforts to protect all these beautiful animals.

Regards

Dave Green [REDACTED]

Queensland

Australia

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 9:48 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Miranda Kawaiola

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 9:26 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Craig Venema

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I absolutely support this bill. I am a captain on Maui and have seen manta ray populations severely declined over the years. It is time something is done to save our reef ecosystems.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 9:25 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Amy Venema

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I absolutely support this bill. I am a captain on Maui and have seen manta ray populations severely declined over the years. It is time something is done to save our reef ecosystems.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 8:17 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: David Jerome

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 8:14 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Diane Shepherd

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Under no circumstances should a rare species like manta rays be exported from Hawaiian waters to die in marine amusement parks.

Manta ray protection

Kathy Malasky [REDACTED]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 6:48 PM**To:** WLOtestimony**Cc:** [REDACTED]

I am writing in support of the pending bills for protection of the beautiful manta ray. This fish attracts thousands of visitors a year to snorkel and scuba dive with them providing much needed revenue for the state. Beyond that, they are susceptible to similar forces that drive the shark finning industry. Unfortunately, manta rays are nowhere near as plentiful as sharks. Manta ray dives have been going on in Kona for over 20 years and only about 100 individuals have been identified over a 20 mile stretch of coastline. Given their incredibly low birth rate, a single collector in the Kona waters could decimate them out in a very short time.

Bruce

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 6:44 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Holly Baker

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

We fully support this Bill!

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 6:34 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Christine Andrews

Organization: Individual

Address: Makawao

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I support the establishment of fines and penalties for knowingly killing or capturing these beautiful creatures!
Mahalo for listening.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 6:23 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [Redacted]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Florence Bahr

Organization: Individual

Address: [Redacted]

Phone: [Redacted]

E-mail: [Redacted]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Please pass this to save the Manta Rays that can't save themselves from poachers.

Thank you.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 6:03 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Mary

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I support this bill because it is important for the protection and restoration of Hawaii's reefs and marine life.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 5:57 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Katie Velasquez

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I support this bill. Our local manta ray population is very small and should be protected from hunting.

Manta rays are very slow to reach maturity, to produce many offspring, are difficult to keep, die frequently in captivity, and should be only studied in the wild.

Hawaii should FIERCELY protect our marine life.

I thank you.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 5:12 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Frank Fiorentino

Organization: Individual

Address: Wailuku

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 5:04 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Julie Bradley

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 5:02 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Kate Bradley

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 4:25 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Dr. Bruce Parsil

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I support this bill because it is important for the protection and restoration of Hawaii's reefs and marine life

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 3:43 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Povi Gonzales

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]@hotmail.com

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Please help protect our manta rays.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 1:26 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Teri Leicher

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Aloha,

Viewing Mantas Rays while scuba diving and snorkeling has become a huge part of Hawaii's economy. Hawaii's mantas have become world renown over the years. Currently on the Big Island alone this none consumptive industry brings in well over 2 million dollars per year to the State.

We are asking you to protect these beautiful animals from collecting and fishing.

There is a market for Mantas in other parts of the world and we would like Hawaii's Manta Rays to be protected from that market.

Current studies so far are showing that this majestic animal does not reproduce rapidly and are not abundant enough to risk opening them up to collection or fishing.

Bill HB 366 will accomplish this protection in the simplist fashion.

Mahalo, Teri Leicher

CEO Jack's Diving Locker

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 12:55 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: James Spears

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I support this bill because it is important for the protection and restoration of Hawaii's reefs and marine life.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 12:18 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: comments only

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: mark harding

Organization: project elasm0

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Dear Hawaiians,

It is with great sadness that I learned today that you are to consider allowing individuals or businesses to allow the capture of manta rays in your waters.

I have had the great pleasure to study manta rays in the wild, granted, not in hawaiian waters, but in south america, and without needing to go into the scientific basis, they are one of the ocean's most majestic creatures, and that is how people who see them will remember them. Not for the scientifically significant marking on their ventral surface, but for the magical way in which they approached the person, and left an indelible imprint on their memory. That person will never forget the magic they learned that day, and they will forever help to protect the oceans. Please do not allow commercial activity on the hawaiian mantas, of any kind, and please further enforce any protection to them, so that they may continue to inspire many generations of ocean conservationists as they once did with me.

Yours sincerely,

Mark Harding.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 11:25 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: director@maui.tomorrow.org

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Irene Bowie

Organization: Maui Tomorrow Foundation, Inc.

Address:

Phone:

E-mail:

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

HB No. 366

Relating to Manta Rays.

Maui Tomorrow Foundation, Inc. supports HB 366, which would establish fines and penalties for knowingly killing or capturing manta rays. This legislation is much needed as there is currently no protection for manta rays from any type of fishing, collection, or capture in Hawaii.

Manta ray ecotourism generated over 2.5 million dollars in revenue for the state of Hawaii in 2002. The increase in tourism over the last seven years suggests even more is generated today. This depends on a healthy population of live manta rays in Hawaii.

There is no reason we should allow our local manta rays to be sold to generate income for outside parties. They are worth much more to Hawaii alive and swimming in our local waters than dead or stuck in a tank on the mainland. Nor do manta rays need be in aquariums for researchers to learn more about them. Hawaii is a perfect location for researchers to study manta rays in the wild.

Only 154 manta rays have been identified along the Kona Coast since 1992, suggesting very small population sizes. These animals have extremely low reproductive rates. Only 2-3 new pups are observed in Kona each year. It would take a long time for captured manta rays to be replaced by natural reproduction.

Please also consider that no individual has ever been documented migrating between Kona and Maui, despite two separate photo-identification studies and two acoustic tracking studies. This suggests that each island has its own distinct population, and over-fishing on one island will not be alleviated by migration of new individuals from another island.

Maui Tomorrow Foundation supports the passing of this Act establishing fines and penalties for knowingly killing or capturing manta rays. Please pass HB 366 and give this marine species the protection it deserves.

Thank you,

Irene Bowie

Executive Director

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 10:46 AM**To:** WLOtestimony**Cc:** [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Cerell Terese Rivera

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

As a Native Hawaiian, state resident, and frequent visitor to Hawaii Island, I have a responsibility to protect Hawaii's delicate ecosystem and to act in the best interests of the land. I hope that you, my local representatives, feel the same way.

Last August I had the unique opportunity to observe manta rays in their natural habitat at Eel Cove. The encounter was transformative! The experience caused me to reflect on my own relationship with the land and my own aumakua. In addition, I sought out experts in the fields of marine biology and tourism at the University of Hawaii and at the Pacific Manta Foundation to inquire about:

- * the current level of protection for manta rays from fishing and invasive species;
- * the implications of ecotourism on the animals and the local environment;
- * the population distribution of manta rays across the Hawaiian Islands;
- * and the role I, as an individual, could play in the further conservation of these magnificent creatures.

I learned that currently there is no protection for mantas from fishing, collection, or capture in Hawaii. This surprised me since only 154 mantas have been identified along the Kona Coast since 1992 and only 2-3 new pups are observed in Kona each year.

Manta rays are unique animals and Kona is one of the best locations in the world to observe them in their natural habitat. In 2002, manta ray tourism generated more than 2.5 million dollars in revenue for the state. In these tough economic times we are reminded how important these tourism dollars are to our state economy. The number of visitors to Hawaii is on the decline. It is crucial that now, more than ever, we protect manta rays living in our island waters. The presence of manta rays on our shores is part of what make our state unique and is what will continue to attract visitors for generations to come. In the long-term, manta rays are worth more to Hawaii alive and swimming in the ocean off the Kona coast than any temporary monetary gain. There is no reason why manta rays should be removed from local waters and sold to generate income for outside parties.

Since my own experience viewing manta rays in Kona I have encouraged a great many of my friends and family members to travel to Hawaii Island and to consider visiting the mantas in their natural habitat. We cannot allow manta rays to be threatened or take away the opportunity for others to encounter these magnificent creatures.

Please make the right decision for Hawaii's present and future generations -- vote "yes" on HB366.

Mahalo nui loa.

Cerell Terese Rivera
Mona, Oahu

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 10:11 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Wendi Gordon

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

These majestic creatures need to be protected!

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 9:33 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Jeanne Mosley

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 9:20 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Joseph A Niezgodzki

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I have seen manta rays in the wild, this bill would allow for all visitor and residents of the great state of Hawaii to continue to enjoy this beautiful creature in the wild.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 8:55 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: bell...

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Shannon Walker

Organization: Individual

Address: Manoa Honolulu, Hawaii

Phone: N/A

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Hawaii's local Manta Ray populations must be protected from exploitation, especially from intended uses of the animals outside Hawaii. We have already learned how delicate the Hawaiian ecosystem is with introduced species and subsequent loss of native populations. Weather or not we fully understand the consequences of loss of Manta populations in our ecosystem, uncontrolled fisheries would have an effect on the Hawaiian marine ecosystem and thus, local resident marine enthusiast enjoyment, eco-tourism revenues, and current Manta research which is furthering our understanding of their role in our ecosystem. Reproducing only 1-3 pups a year, Hawaii CANNOT afford to leave the fate of the Manta populations to chance! As residents of Hawaii it is our kuliana to be good stewards of the aina e kai, so please represent me in your vote to support HB366.

January 30, 2009

State of Hawaii Legislature

Dear House of Representatives,

The Manta Network, its Manta Science Advisory Board and the more than 1,000 members worldwide would like to submit our support for House Bill 366.

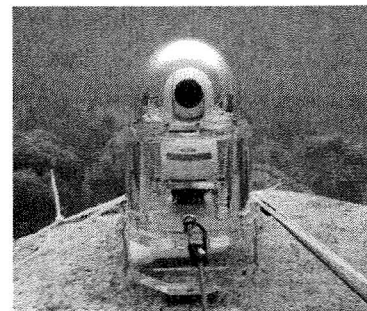
The Manta Network is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization dedicated to research, education, conservation and protection of manta and mobula rays worldwide. TMN includes most of the world's manta biologists, research affiliates in more than 40 countries and volunteers and supporters around the world. Manta Network's Science Advisory Board includes Dr. Bob Rubin, Dr. Heidi Dewar, Dr. Ellen Freund, Tim Clark, M.S. and Robert Aston, M.S.

HB366 would make it illegal to capture or kill manta rays in Hawaii. No fishery has ever existed in Hawaii. However, aquariums are now targeting Hawaii as a location where they can capture manta rays for husbandry experiments and for display in tanks. Without legislative protection, these aquariums would be able to take as many individuals from the population as they want, and not have to report on the fate of the individuals they take.

Hawaii has a healthy population of manta rays, but information on the life history and movement rates suggest that they would be highly susceptible to over fishing. If we are going to protect manta rays in Hawaii, we need to do it now before fishing starts.

Kona is one of the best locations around the world to see manta rays in the wild. Manta rays are observed on 80% of the dives at Garden Eel Cove each year. Each year, manta ray ecotourism generates over 2.5 million dollars in revenue for the state of Hawaii. The economic benefit in tourism depends on a healthy population of live manta rays in Hawaii.

Manta rays do not have to be in aquarium for researchers to learn more about them. Hawaii is a perfect location for researchers to study manta rays in the wild. In addition, with today's Internet technologies, it is now possible to maintain live video cameras to provide real-time manta encounters directly to aquarium exhibits. The MantaCam, as develop by Ocean Presence Technologies, is now being deployed at manta cleaning stations in the Pacific Ocean. This approach is not only more cost-effective than husbandry but also has no negative impacts on the species.



There is currently no protection for manta rays from any type of fishing, collection, or capture in Hawaii. They are worth much more to Hawaii alive and swimming in the Hawaiian waters.

The Manta Network, its advisors and members urge your legislative body to pass HB366!

Signed respectfully yours and on behalf of the Manta Science Advisory Board,

FW: support for HB366 protection of Hawaii's Manta Rays

Rep. Ken Ito

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 7:42 AM

To: WLOtestimony

From: Lytha Conquest [REDACTED]
Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 11:45 AM
Subject: support for HB366 protection of Hawaii's Manta Rays

I am your constituent and an active voter, as well as a marine biologist, underwater photographer and SCUBA diver in Hawaii for more than 35 years.

I urge you, as a member and Chairman of the Water, Land and Ocean Resources Committee to support HB366, Manta Rays; Poaching and Commercial Fishing Prohibited.

I have submitted testimony for the hearing on Monday, 2/2/09, but unfortunately will be at work at the time of the hearing and cannot be there personally to support the bill.

HB366 is not asking for funding and will not put commercial fishermen out of work since there is not yet a fishery for the manta ray. But there could be a fishery in the future with the Chinese demand for their gill rakers. Let's protect the manta ray now, rather than after their small population has been diminished.

Mahalo and Aloha,

Lytha Conquest
Kaneohe, Hawaii

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 7:37 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Jan Hendrix

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 6:57 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Vicki McManus

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

For the visitors to our area as well as ourselves, a Manta Ray siting is akin to a whale siting, a moment to treasure. An article I read recently summed it up perfectly. "There is no reason we should allow our local manta rays to be sold to generate income for outside parties. They are worth much more to Hawaii alive and swimming in our local waters than dead or stuck in a tank on the mainland."

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 6:42 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: john haut

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Aloha,

I am a small business owner with approximately 20 employees. About half our revenue is either directly or indirectly related to manta rays. Any threat to them is a threat to the livelihood of my staff members. Aside from the financial considerations, these beautiful, graceful, harmless creatures deserve to have a safe place to live and Kona should be that place.

Mahalo for your consideration on this important issue,

John Haut

Kona Honu Divers

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 3:34 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Lee Ragland

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:


E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I support this bill because it is important for the protection and restoration of Hawaii's reefs and marine life.

Representative Ken Ito, Chair
Representative Sharon E. Har, Vice-Chair
Committee on Water, Land & Ocean Resources

Julie-Beth Ako


Monday, February 2, 2009

Support of HB 366, Relating to Manta Rays

I am a resident of Mountain View, Hawaii, and an avid diver, committed to protecting our ocean's resources. I ***strongly support*** HB 366, Relating to Manta Rays, which would impose penalties and fines on those who take mantas from our State's waters.

To date, only 154 manta rays have been identified along the Kona Coast¹ and another 254 have been identified off of Maui's West Coast². Their small population sizes coupled with low reproductive rates make mantas susceptible overfishing. It is our responsibility to ensure that this never happens by enacting legislation to prevent the taking of these gentle giants from our ocean through fishing, collection, or capture, for sustenance, as bycatch amongst other ocean species, or for study.

The World Conservation Union (IUCN) categorizes manta rays as a "data deficient" and "near threatened" species – one that requires further research. What better way to ensure the collection of accurate information than to protect them in their *natural habitat* and allow those interested in their study – scientist and ecotourist alike – to come to Hawaii! Over \$2.5 million is reaped annually by our island's economy, with very little government investment required to sustain it. I have no doubt that the dive tour companies that venture out to view these creatures would assist in enforcement efforts by reporting illegal activity that may threaten their livelihood.

In protecting manta rays and imposing criminal penalties and administrative fines, you are safeguarding one of our ocean's resources, a thriving economic industry, and a marine creature that deserves further study. I urge the Committee to pass HB 366, and thank you for the opportunity to testify.

¹ Information provided by Manta Pacific Research Foundation (2009).

² Information obtained from The Hawaii Association for Marine Education and Research, Inc.. Manta Ray Awareness Program.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 9:35 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Mike Milligan

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

Manta Rays deserve protection.

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Friday, January 30, 2009 7:57 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Dick Dresie

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/30/2009

Comments:

We support any ruling that would save our Manta Rays. They are a precious part of our underwater world, and depleting them, in any measure, would NOT be intelligent.

Please, save our Manta Rays. They are a special part of our Kona ocean environment.

January 30, 2009

Aloha,

My name is Adam J Clark; I am a resident of Washington State and a property owner in Kailua-Kona, HI.

I am writing you with great interest and concern about HB366 relating to Manta Rays in Hawaii. I began visiting the Islands over 20 years ago and have not missed an opportunity to visit at least once if not 2 or 3 times annually for the past 15 years. I love this land and these waters so much my wife and I felt motivated to purchase property here in 2006. Our property is often rented to vacationers/divers wanting to explore the great diving that exists in Kona waters. A large part of the attraction to Kona for vacationers/divers is the Manta Ray. They know this is the place to come for an experience like no other. As a PADI Dive Master Professional as well as a PADI Master Diver, I believe these beautiful creatures provide a strong economic drawn for Kona and Hawaii. Think about how much the Mantas contribute to our local economy, dive shops, hotels, restaurants, car rentals, etc... By passing HB366, you will protect this invaluable natural resource for generations to come. In addition history has proven time and time again when humans disturb nature no good can come of it, the Manta Rays need this protection. Please, I strongly urge you to pass HB366.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Adam J Clark

[REDACTED]

Cell 425-246-2210

2/1/2009

Aloha,

My name is Jenifer Clark. I am a Washington state resident and a Kailua-Kona property owner. I am also a Dive Master, Master Diver and completed a BS in Environmental Policy and Assessment at Huxley College. I have been diving in the Puget Sound and Kona waters for cumulatively seven years and felt compelled to write in my support for HB 366 Relating to Manta Rays.

Passing HB 366 would do more than directly protect Hawaii's manta rays; it will demonstrate a proactive and matured approach to the protection of sea creatures in the United States and world.

Having grown up in the Northwest and been involved with local environmental activities and protection it is difficult *not* to compare the intent of HB 366 to make it illegal to capture or kill manta rays to the history and current status of the Orca "Killer" whale of the NW. They say, 'hind sight is 20/20' and we can only look back with regret and forward with hope the resident pods of whales in the NW recover from the capturing practices in the past. I urge you to support HB 366.

As stewards of the land, sea, and all the creatures for all generations, Hawaii cannot overlook the relationship it has with the manta rays. I have had the opportunity to see manta rays in the wild on dives and still sign up with excitement for the next dive every visit. Being a part of two dive communities, Kona and Puget Sound, I can attest that seeing the glory a manta ray in the wild is one of those dive stories every diver wants to be able to tell. The Hawaiian manta rays will always give Hawaii so much more in so many ways now and forever alive, living in Hawaiian waters, and having the chance to flourish.

Lets us learn from the past and apply what we know today. I urge you to support HB 366 for all of us today...and future generations tomorrow.

Mahalo Nui Loa,

Jenifer A. Clark

[REDACTED]

and

[REDACTED]

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 11:45 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Attachments: Testimony HB366.doc (29 KB)

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Steve Kaiser

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED] 55

Phone [REDACTED]

E-mail [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

Testimony HB366

February 2, 2009

I am in opposition to the way this bill is written and certainly some of the information about these fantastic animals currently being circulated are clearly slanted and being dramatized for maximum effect.

Firstly the take of these animals has never happen as either a fishery or a commercial endeavor in Hawaii. In fact most commercial takes of these animals around the world are incidental catches related to types of fishing gear used namely drift nets, gill nets, and trap nets. All of these types of fishing are either already tightly controlled or prohibited under current state laws. This in effect makes it highly unlikely that any commercial activity will ever take place in Hawaiian waters. Also no market exists for the meat or skin of these animals in Hawaii and establishing a market would be immensely difficult if not impossible. We cannot even get a market going for Ta'ape (just a bit of humor).

So what is this bill really about is the possibility of collecting these animals for the aquarium trade. Currently 3 aquariums (Georgia Aquarium, Atlantis Bahamas, and Okinawa Aquarium) has Mantas on display. Okinawa has been very successful in keeping these magnificent animals and have now produced the first successful birth in captivity and their animals are obtained locally. Atlantis Bahamas keeps animals on display for 1 to 3 years at which time they are released back into the wild where they are tracked with satellite tags as a long term study of these animals in their local waters. Georgia Aquarium has only one animal obtained from Ushaka Aquarium in Durban South Africa. As you can imagine keeping these animals requires an immense facility of several million gallons. So the numbers of aquarium facilities are limited, and the monetary expenses of keeping such specialized animals are huge. This alone has restricted these animals to all but a few facilities.

Aquariums do play a vital role in education and research. As large numbers of people do not have the opportunities do to physical or monetary means to go out and see these animals in the wild. They will be able to see, learn and enjoy them in an Aquarium. Also not all our answers to some of the vital questions we have about animals can be done in the ocean. Having these animals in Aquariums allows us to observe and record infinitely more then the limited glimpses we get in the wild.

I would propose that the bill be amended to include a provision that these animals are allowed to be taken for study in a facility but only with a review of the facility and with a permit which is reviewed by DLNR. For certainly if this bill passes as written it will mean that only if you have the money and are physically able to dive can you go out and see these the animals. This is quite an elitist group of people which precludes most of our elderly and less affluent members of our communities. It also does not allow for captive research by any of our Universities or research institutes. And one day I would believe it will become a reality that Hawaii has its own world class aquarium which will allow all of our visitors and residents to see all of Hawaii's undersea world including Mantas without amending laws.

Thank you for your time and I hope you will not let this bill pass as written as the opportunities to study and share these animals with so many more people are infinitely more important.

Steve Kaiser

Kapaau, Hawaii

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 2:25 PM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: rudy socha

Organization: Zoo and Aquarium Visitor

Address: Iorain

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

You have to be kidding me. The nonsense that comes from people with too much time and money combined with access to politicians. No wonder politicians have such a low rating.

A couple of key points:

- There are very few aquariums in the WORLD that can hold and care for a manta. A lot of specialized lifts and quarantine equipment is required for each large specie housed in an aquarium. Remember the tank has to already have a display that includes the right salinity and temperature.
- Aquariums would not kill the mantas. Some may rotate those on display similar to what MBA does with white sharks. Granted, there is a chance a couple would be killed during capture or transport.
- Mantas are not endangered.
- At most less than a half dozen would be taken and that is if only every aquarium with the space to house one takes one.
- This is another case of taking jobs away from American who will try to do the captures correctly and requiring everyone to use an offshore supplier.
- Why not license and regulations governing the capture, sales and transport?

Rudy Socha

CEO

Zoo and Aquarium Visitor

<http://www.zandavisitor.com>

Testimony for HB366 on 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM

mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov]

Sent: Saturday, January 31, 2009 5:30 AM

To: WLOtestimony

Cc: [REDACTED]

Testimony for WLO 2/2/2009 9:00:00 AM HB366

Conference room: 325

Testifier position: oppose

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: David C. Powell

Organization: Individual

Address: [REDACTED]

Phone: [REDACTED]

E-mail: [REDACTED]

Submitted on: 1/31/2009

Comments:

I am against a blanket ban on all take. I support a permit system for limited take for US aquariums only. Aquariums offer millions of visitors the opportunity to see and appreciate marine animals they would otherwise never see. Public aquariums are highly effective conservation organizations.