
HOUSE RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO POST SIGNS INFORMING THE PUBLIC OF THE ILLEGALITY OF SHARK FEEDING AND TO AMEND ITS ADMINISTRATIVE RULES TO ENFORCE COMPLIANCE WITH SHARK FEEDING LAWS.

1 WHEREAS, sharks, called "mano" in the Hawaiian language,
2 carry great cultural, historical, and spiritual significance for
3 many native Hawaiians, native Hawaiian practitioners, and others
4 who value the Hawaiian culture; and
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6 WHEREAS, sharks are revered and regarded by many native
7 Hawaiians as their "'aumakua," a protective ancestral spirit;
8 and
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10 WHEREAS, shark tours, the practice of charging customers to
11 venture into the ocean to view sharks, routinely and
12 continuously feed sharks and use attractants to attract and hold
13 many sharks near their operational sites; and
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15 WHEREAS, a recent study concluded that illegal shark
16 feeding by the tour operators has caused larger sharks,
17 specifically the galapagos and tiger sharks, to displace the
18 smaller sharks from the cage diving sites; and
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20 WHEREAS, ocean users near the shark feeding sites have
21 reported increased sightings of, and interactions with sharks
22 since illegal shark feeding began; and
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24 WHEREAS, lifeguards have reported increased shark sightings
25 in the surf-line, a Coast Guard search and rescue crew reported
26 very large sharks below an overturned boat, and boaters, along
27 with Honolulu Fire Department crews, reported numerous shark
28 sightings while conducting search and rescue operations; and
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30 WHEREAS, although prohibited by both state and federal law,
31 commercial shark tour operators continue to feed sharks; and
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1 WHEREAS, the illegal use of food and other attractants by
 2 commercial shark tour operators raises concerns over the health,
 3 safety, and welfare of ocean users, is disruptive to the ocean's
 4 ecology and natural environment, and disrespectful of native
 5 Hawaiian customs, beliefs, and practitioners; now, therefore,
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7 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the
 8 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session
 9 of 2010, that this body requests the Department of Land and
 10 Natural Resources to post signs informing the public of the
 11 illegality of shark feeding and to amend its administrative
 12 rules to enforce compliance with shark feeding laws; and
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14 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this body requests the owners
 15 and operators of commercial shark tours in the State to comply
 16 with state and federal law by immediately ceasing all shark
 17 feeding activities; and
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19 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and
 20 Natural Resources is requested to monitor commercial shark tour
 21 operations in the State to ensure compliance with state law; and
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
 24 Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the Board of
 25 Land and Natural Resources, the Director of the Hawaii Visitors
 26 and Convention Bureau, who in turn is requested to send
 27 additional copies to the registered agents of Hawaii Shark
 28 Encounters Inc., North Shore Shark Adventures Inc., Hawaii Shark
 29 Discovery LLC, and Pacific Paradise Divers Inc.
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