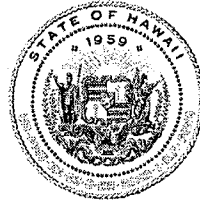
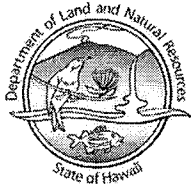


SB2169

SD1

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 Senate Committee on
JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS**

**Tuesday, February 23, 2010
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2169 SENATE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO SHARK FINS**

Senate Bill 2169, Senate Draft 1 would amend Chapter 188, Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS), to prohibit the possession, sale, offering for sale, trade or distribution of shark fins, and would also repeal Section 40.5, HRS. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) understands the rationale behind this measure to deter the needless slaughter of sharks. However, the bill contains some elements that make it unenforceable, or lie outside of scope of the Department's authorities. As such, the Department cannot support this measure.

In particular, this measure does not distinguish between fresh caught shark fins from state waters, over which the Department has regulatory authority, and imported dried shark fins from waters beyond state or even federal jurisdiction. Therefore the scope of the measure exceeds the scope of the Department's authority.

The Department also notes that the proposed amendment does not allow for the take of shark fins, even if attached to a whole shark carcass, for scientific or Native Hawaiian cultural purposes. As such, a consequence of the measure as currently written would be to prohibit the landing of sharks for any reason, with no option for the Department to allow such take through a permit were it deemed justified.

Finally, the Department would note that it is currently legal to land whole shark carcasses taken in state waters. From 2004 to 2007, commercial fishers reported a total landing of over 1.8 million pounds of shark, averaging 453,650 pounds per year (from National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) commercial fisheries statistics), mostly caught outside state waters by the longline fleet and intended for human consumption. Therefore, the current measure would have a certain economic impact to the State by eliminating this particular commercial fishery, which is currently considered sustainable by NOAA.

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



**SB 2169 SD 1
RELATING TO SHARK FINS**

Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations

February 23, 2010

10:00 a.m.

Room: 016

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB 2169, SD 1, which would prohibit the possession, sale and distribution of shark fins in Hawai'i; and would repeal the ban on the practice of shark finning that allowed for the exception of shark finning from a shark that was landed whole.

As the Legislature is well aware, manō hold special significance for Native Hawaiians. Beyond being apex predators, which help hold the entire ocean ecosystem in balance, some manō also are kinolau of Hawaiian gods, ancestral guardians or 'aumakua for various families, part of the genealogy of all Native Hawaiians through the Kumulipo, and a collective part of the indigenous population of Hawai'i – all of which is sacred and culturally imperative.

Shark finning – which usually includes the slow, painful death of the shark after its fin has been removed and it is left to bleed to death, essentially swimming rudderless – has long been seen as a cultural affront and a desecration of Hawaiian cultural and spiritual beliefs, as well as the murder of ancestral manifestations. Many Native Hawaiians believe that they have a cultural mandate to protect manō, as the manō have protected and cared for them over the centuries. And, the Hawai'i State Constitution mandates us all to “protect all rights, customarily and traditionally exercised for subsistence, cultural and religious purposes” by Native Hawaiians (see, Art. XII, Sec. 7).

OHA appreciates the amendments that were made to the original draft of the bill, making this draft more comprehensive, clear and enforceable. We question, however, the elimination of the possibilities of “[s]eizure and forfeiture of shark fins, commercial marine license, vessel, and fishing equipment”, and criminal prosecution or penalty for vessel captains and licensed fishers, all of which had been covered by Hawaii Revised Statutes (HRS) §188-40.5. We also question the Legislature’s ability to regulate international and national trade, which currently allows merchants to import dried shark fins, for example. This bill would find such merchants in violation, and while that may meet with our ethical and cultural preferences, OHA hopes that should this bill pass, it not be found to violate the Commerce Clause of the U.S. Constitution in any manner.

To assure this, perhaps HRS §188-40.5 could simply be amended by repealing the portion of HRS §188-40.5(a) that states “, unless the fins were taken from a shark landed

whole in the State.” This would assure that the Legislature is only regulating within its jurisdiction, while eliminating an insulting loophole to the existing statute. We further urge the Legislature to draft and pass a resolution to the U.S. Congress, promoting the creation of a national law against shark finning and the sale of shark fins anywhere in the country. OHA understands that Congress is currently poised to do just that, which would ultimately enable Hawai’i to pass the current, more comprehensive and culturally appropriate draft bill.

Therefore, OHA urges the Committee to PASS SB2169, SD 1, taking the above recommendations under consideration. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

From: Anjie Pham [potteringpuck@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2010 12:18 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: SB2169 (Shark Fins): Support

BILL: SB2169 (Shark Fins): SUPPORT
DATE: Tuesday, February 23, 2010 @10AM
PLACE: State Capitol, Rm. 016

Dear Senators:

I firmly support SB2169 to ban the sale and distribution of shark fins in the islands of Hawaii.

Killing manos only for their fins is a cruel and frivolous practice catering only to the taste buds of a tiny segment of the population yet its impact on the ocean's ecological health and balance is immense. We must not let in continue in our Aloha State, please do all you can to pass SB2169!

Mahalo nui,

Anjie Pham
Honolulu, Hawaii

From: Joel Fischer [jfischer@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2010 1:13 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: SB2169; JGO; 2/23/2010; 10AM; Rm 016

Importance: High

SB2169, Relating to Shark Fins
JGO; Chair, Sen Taniguchi

PLEASE PASS THIS BILL!

The practice of shark-finning is as brutal and inhumane as any human activity could be. It treats our water-borne cousins, the amakua of many Pacific Islanders, as though they are worthless with no feelings of pain whatsoever. This is the cruelest form of speciesism, in which other living species are treated as so inferior to humans that they can be tortured and exploited by us.

Shark-finning has tortured and destroyed literally MILLIONS of sharks around the world, just so some humans can enjoy a soup! This is too unbelievable for words!

Please join me in showing that we care about animals in Hawai'i enough to ban these barbaric practices.

Thank you.

Aloha, joel

Dr. Joel Fischer, ACSW
Professor (Ret.)
University of Hawai'i, School of Social Work
Henke Hall
Honolulu, HI 96822

"It is reasonable that everyone who asks justice should DO justice."
Thomas Jefferson

"There comes a time when one must take a position that is neither safe, nor politic, nor popular, but one must take it because one's conscience tells one that it is right."
Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

"Never, never, never quit."
Winston Churchill

From: Catherine Goeggel [selkie@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2010 4:02 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: SB2169 support

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Members of the Committee

Mahalo for considering this vital legislation. The concerns of the international community as well as Hawai'i residents was amply demonstrated during the WTL hearing. It lacks only your approval to end the cruel wasteful practice of shark finning, by prohibiting the possession and sale of shark fin product in Hawai'i.

You have the opportunity to end a horrific practice. I hope you will do the right thing.

With aloha,

Cathy Goeggel
President
Animal Rights Hawai'i

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2010 4:05 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Cc: selkie@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Cathy Goeggel
Organization: Animal Rights Hawai'i
Address: pO Box 10845 Honolulu, HI 06816
Phone: 808 7214211
E-mail: selkie@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/19/2010

Comments:

Dear Senator Taniguchi and Members of the Committee

Mahalo for considering this vital legislation. The concerns of the international community as well as Hawai'i residents was amply demonstrated during the WTL hearing. It lacks only your approval to end the cruel wasteful practice of shark finning, by prohibiting the possession and sale of shark fin product in Hawai'i.

You have the opportunity to end a horrific practice. I hope you will do the right thing.

With aloha,

Cathy Goeggel
President
Animal Rights Hawai'i

From: Barbara Steinberg [h2ocolor@webtv.net]
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2010 4:09 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Cc: h2oColor@webtv.net
Subject: S.B.2169 Testimony

To Senator Taniguchi and committee,
Thank you for holding a hearing for S.B.2169 to ban cruel sale of shark fins in Hawaii.
I urge you to pass this crucial bill and show Hawaii does have a heart . Not only are shark fins full of mercury , it is inhumane to sell what makes a shark live and thrive as endangered animals .
Thank you Barbara Steinberg

Maui
PO box 1764
Kihei HI 96753
808 8790025

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS Measure SB 2169 Relating to Shark Fins Decision Making Feb 23rd, 2010

I write to you IN SUPPORT OF MEASURE 2169. Sharks are vital to the world's healthy ocean ecosystem. The ocean has a finely balanced ecosystem (just like all life) that has evolved over millions of years. If this balance is disrupted by the extinction of the apex predator, sharks, there is no telling what may happen. In addition to the environmental consequences the finning of sharks is a barbaric and inhumane practice. Fins are sliced from living sharks and then the shark is dumped back into the ocean to die a slow, painful bloody death. Would we allow chickens, cows or pigs to have limbs sliced from their bodies while they are still alive then let them slowly bleed out in a pile? Please take a small step towards saving sharks by supporting Measure 2169.

Sincerely,

Carl D. Mahlstedt
New Hampshire

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2010 1:58 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Cc: donnabro@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Donna Brown
Organization: Individual
Address: 82 S. Lauhoe PL Lahaina, HI 96761
Phone: 808-661-5380
E-mail: donnabro@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/21/2010

Comments:

I support SB 2169, which makes it unlawful for any person in the state to possess, sell, offer for sale, trade, or distribute shark fins in Hawai'i. Shark finning is a cruel and wasteful practice. Millions of sharks are killed every year for their fins alone, while the rest of the shark is discarded. The health of our planet depends on all parts of the oceanic food web. In addition, sharks hold cultural values for Kanaka Maoli of these islands. Be pono and protect sharks from this useless slaughter.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2010 8:42 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Cc: bsager42@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Bill Sager
Organization: Individual
Address: 44-211 Mikiola Dr Kaneohe, HI
Phone: 235-0757
E-mail: bsager42@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/20/2010

Comments:

Shark fining is an abhorrent practice. Hawaii should not be complicit.

Shark fining is wasteful, it may have a significant negative affect on marine ecosystems, it is disrespectful to some families, and it should stop.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2010 9:57 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Cc: tamara.ticktin@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Tamara Ticktin
Organization: Individual
Address: Honolulu, HI
Phone:
E-mail: tamara.ticktin@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/20/2010

Comments:

I support SB 2169, which makes it unlawful for any person in the state to possess, sell, offer for sale, trade, or distribute shark fins in Hawai'i. Shark finning involves catching a shark, slicing off its fins, and discarding the shark (often still alive) at sea for subsequent distribution and sale. Most of the shark fins currently landed in Hawai'i are shipped to the mainland or elsewhere.

Shark finning is a very cruel practice, it has significant negative impacts on shark populations and therefore likely on marine ecosystems, and it is disrespectful to some families. It needs to stop.

From: debnahant@comcast.net
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2010 3:54 AM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF MEASURE 2169

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
Measure SB 2169 Relating to Shark Fins
Decision Making Feb 23rd, 2010

I write to you IN SUPPORT OF MEASURE 2169. Sharks are vital to the world's healthy ocean ecosystem. The ocean has a finely balanced ecosystem (just like all life) that has evolved over millions of years. If this balance is disrupted by the extinction of the apex predator, sharks, there is no telling what may happen. In addition to the environmental consequences the finning of sharks is a barbaric and inhumane practice. Fins are sliced from living sharks and then the shark is dumped back into the ocean to die a slow, painful bloody death. Would we allow chickens, cows or pigs to have limbs sliced from their bodies while they are still alive then let them slowly bleed out in a pile? Please take a small step towards saving sharks by supporting Measure 2169.

Sincerely,
Deborah Barnes
Writer / Educator
Nahant, Massachusetts

From: Martin, Joanne [martin_joanne@gsb.stanford.edu]
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2010 2:34 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: SB 2169 email testimony

I am writing in support of SB 2169 Relating to Shark Fins to the Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations, which has scheduled this bill for decision making on Tuesday, February 23, 2010, 10 am in Room 016. I support this bill because the sharks are sometimes killed, and sometimes sent alive into the waters to drown painfully, unable to swim without fins. Killing sharks is disrespectful to some Hawaiian families, especially those who have the shark as their protector. The shark fins are shipped abroad or to the mainland, and the impact on the local economy is not great. The money earned does not compensate for the suffering of the sharks or the disrespect to some Hawaiian families. Please vote in favor of SB 2169 and try to ensure that it is enforced, which may entail going after officials who benefit from looking the other way.

Joanne Martin
61-163 Iliohu Place
Haleiwa, HI 96712

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2010 6:39 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Cc: oahurandy@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Randy Ching
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: oahurandy@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/19/2010

Comments:

I support SB2169. Killing sharks for their fins is extremely cruel and totally unnecessary. Stop this inhumane practice.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2010 8:03 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Cc: wolfhowlmama@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Lydia Garvey
Organization: Individual
Address: 429 S 24th Clinton,OK 73601
Phone: 5803232327
E-mail: wolfhowlmama@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/19/2010

Comments:

Sharks are endangered & as predators are vital to ocean ecosystem balance. Do your job- Protect Our Public health, waters & wildlife. You work for citizens, not industry. Your attention to this most urgent matter would be much appreciated by all present & future generations of all species. Thank you, Lydia Public Health Nurse

From: Marina Whyte [oceannews@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2010 8:11 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF MEASURE 2169

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
Measure SB 2169 Relating to Shark Fins
Decision Making Feb 23rd, 2010

IN SUPPORT OF MEASURE 2169

My name is Marina Whyte. I'm a North Shore resident of 20 years. I was born and raised in Tokyo, and like most in Japan, I'd occasionally eaten shark fin soup. That was until I saw the movie "Sharkwater" several years ago and learned the implications of the shark finning practice.

I can tell you from experience that shark fin soup is something we can all live without. People eat the soup mostly for the status associated with it.

It is not worth the negative effects such as:

- *The suffering of sharks left to die at the bottom of the ocean
- * The alarming decrease in number of sharks and possible environmental catastrophes it may cause
- *The illegal finning in the protected areas by people who make large sums of money by selling the fins underground

Please know that I love Chinese food, and am not in any way trying to hurt their businesses. But I believe that banning the sale of shark fins in Hawaii is the right thing to do in this era of environmental fragility.

Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,

Marina Hoshi Whyte
61651 Kamehameha Highway
Haleiwa, HI 96712

From: Marina Whyte [oceannews@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2010 8:33 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Cc: OCEANNEWS@aol.com
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF MEASURE 2169

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
Measure SB 2169 Relating to Shark Fins
Decision Making Feb 23rd, 2010

IN SUPPORT OF MEASURE 2169

My name is Marina Whyte. I'm a North Shore resident of 20 years. I was born and raised in Tokyo, and like most in Japan, I'd occasionally eaten shark fin soup. That was until I saw the movie "Sharkwater" several years ago and learned the implications of the shark finning practice. I can tell you from experience that shark fin soup is something we can all live without. People eat the soup mostly for the status associated with it. It is not worth the negative effects such as:

*The suffering of sharks left to die at the bottom of the ocean

*The alarming decrease in number of sharks and possible environmental catastrophes it may cause

*The illegal finning in protected areas by people who make large sums of money by selling the fins underground

Please know that I love Chinese food, and am not in any way trying to hurt their businesses. But I believe that banning the sales of shark fins in Hawaii is the right thing to do in this era of environmental fragility.

Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,

Marina Hoshi Whyte
61651 Kamehameha Highway
Haleiwa, HI 96712

From: J Gillmar [jg@lava.net]
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2010 9:20 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Cc: Marjorie Ziegler
Subject: SB 2169

Aloha,

Re: Hearing Feb. 23, 10 am

I support SB 2169, Relating to Shark Fins. Besides the strong practical argument that the loss of shark species and numbers means serious problems due to imbalance in the ecosystems of the oceans, when removing a shark's fins and throwing it back into the water means a slow death, that practice is immoral. Such a practice is not acceptable in our time no matter how much people may justify it as a cultural tradition.

Mahalo for considering my views.

Janet Gillmar
3035 La-i Road
Honolulu, Hawaii 96816

From: Jo-Ann M. Adams [jadamsesq@aol.com]
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2010 8:59 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: Re: Kokua Alert - Shark Finning Bill

I support SB 2169, which makes it unlawful for any person in the state to possess, sell, offer for sale, trade, or distribute shark fins in Hawai'i.

Shark finning involves catching a shark, slicing off its fins, and discarding the shark (often still alive) at sea. It is cruel, wasteful and may have a significant negative affect on marine ecosystems,.

While there is demand for shark fins, most shark fins are exported. Therefore, the ban will have little effect on the local economy.

Jo-Ann M. Adams, Esq.
LAW OFFICES OF JO-ANN M. ADAMS, LLLC
Seven Waterfront Plaza, Suite 400, Honolulu, Hawaii
Mailing Address: PO Box 75472, Honolulu, HI 96836
Telephone: (808) 528-2100 Fax: (866) 370-0259

From: stefanie brendl [stefaniebrendl@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, February 19, 2010 10:42 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: Measure SB2169

COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY AND GOVERNMENT OPERATIONS
Measure SB 2169 Relating to Shark Fins
Decision Making Feb 23rd, 2010

IN SUPPORT OF MEASURE 2169

From: Linda Tatreau
Marine Biology Teacher

I am thrilled to discover that Hawaii is considering a ban on the sale of shark fins. I have been teaching my students about the inhumane practice of shark finning for 20 years. The vast majority of my students have vowed to protect sharks and spread the word about the atrocities committed in pursuit of the fad of shark fin soup.

Hawaii can be a model for the rest of the world by banning the taking and importing of shark fins. I have read the testimony on this bill. It appears to be 100% in favor of the bill. I enthusiastically add my voice to encourage the passing of this bill.

Thank you,
Linda Tatreau

From: Keith Swindle [kaspdx@juno.com]
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2010 5:04 AM
To: JGO Testimony
Subject: Shark finning bill

I support SB 2169, which makes it unlawful for any person in the state to possess, sell, offer for sale, trade, or distribute shark fins in Hawai'i.

Keith Swindle
4446 Wahinekoa place
Honolulu, Hawaii 96821

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2010 8:39 AM
To: JGO Testimony
Cc: gentlewave@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: David Dinner
Organization: Individual
Address: P.O. Box 942 HI
Phone: 808 639-7845
E-mail: gentlewave@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/20/2010

Comments:

Shark finning is barbaric and should not be allowed. To many, these animals are sacred and must be respected.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2010 9:32 AM
To: JGO Testimony
Cc: rick.pacific@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Rick Gaffney
Organization: Hawaii Fishing and Boating Association
Address:
Phone: 808 960 6767
E-mail: rick.pacific@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/20/2010

Comments:
Sharks are in danger, world wide and critical to the health of our oceans. Passage of this bill will help assure the survival of these important apex predators. Please pass this bill out of committee to the full Senate.
Mahalo,
Rick Gaffney
Hawaii Fishing and Boating Association

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2010 11:53 AM
To: JGO Testimony
Cc: imua-hawaii@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: comments only
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Isaac Harp
Organization: Individual
Address: 64-217 Wailani Place Kamuela, HI 96743
Phone: 808-345-6085
E-mail: imua-hawaii@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 2/20/2010

Comments:

Aloha Members of the Committee on Judiciary and Government Operations:

I support SB 2169 but have a comment.

The most powerful language to deter the unlawful take, possession, and sale of sharks fins is proposed to be stricken, which makes no sense.

I strongly suggest that this penalty currently found under 188-40.5 (b)(1) be included.

188-40.5 (b)

(1) Seizure and forfeiture of shark fins, commercial 16 marine license, vessel, and fishing equipment.

This language must be included or the measure will be significantly weaker than what currently exists.

Mahalo,

Isaac Harp

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2010 12:08 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Cc: ekumabe@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Elizabeth Maynard
Organization: Individual
Address: 45-179 Lilipuna Road #P Kaneohe, HI
Phone:
E-mail: ekumabe@gmail.com
Submitted on: 2/20/2010

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, February 20, 2010 12:41 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Cc: palmtree7@earthlink.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: janice palma-glennie
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: palmtree7@earthlink.net
Submitted on: 2/20/2010

Comments:

I support SB 2169, which makes it unlawful for any person in the state to possess, sell, offer for sale, trade, or distribute shark fins in Hawai'i.¶

Most of the shark fins currently landed in Hawai'i are shipped to the mainland or elsewhere. This bill will not affect the economy here. Shark finning is harmful to innocent animals, wasteful and harmful to the web of life upon which we all depend.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, February 21, 2010 9:13 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Cc: paulinesato@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM
Attachments: Leg2010 SB2169.docx

Testimony for JGO 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Pauline Sato
Organization: Individual
Address: Honolulu, HI
Phone:
E-mail: paulinesato@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 2/21/2010

Comments:

From: annmarie@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 8:08 AM
To: JGO Testimony
Cc: Sen. Brian Taniguchi; Sen. Dwight Takamine
Subject: Testimony in Strong Support of SB 2169 Relating to Shark Fins - Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010 Room 016

Testimony in Strong Support of SB 2169 Relating to Shark Fins
Senate Committee on Judiciary and Government Operation
Tuesday, Feb. 23, 2010 Room 016

Aloha to the Judiciary and Government Operations Committee,

The sacredness and power of the *mano*, the shark, is found in *mele*, songs, *mo'olelo*, stories, and in the *mo'oku'auhau*, genealogical lines, of numerous Hawaiian families.

Mano are 'aumakua, personal family gods for many Hawaiian families, for it is believed the spirit of a family member who dies can possess a *mano* or turns into a *mano*. 'Aumakua protect and watch over their family for generations.

Mano were taken by Hawaiians for use in our culture. For example, teeth of *mano* were used in war implements, the skins of *mano* were used for the tops of drums and woven into some of the patterns of *alii*, royal, capes were the symbols of *mano* teeth. Always respect and reverence for the gifts of what *mano* could give were, and are, respected and revered.

Mano are to be respected and revered by all.

Shark finning is completely disrespectful to Hawaiian spiritual and cultural beliefs.

I am writing today in strong support of SB 2169 Relating to Shark Fins which makes it unlawful for any person in the state to possess, sell, offer for sale, trade, or distribute shark fins in Hawai'i.

The horrific practice of shark finning must end, but not only because of the stated cultural reasons, but because it is inhumane and unconscionable how these sacred and beautiful creatures are brutally handled and killed in shark finning.

The *mano* are captured, their fins are sliced off to sell or trade, and then the *mano* bodies are dumped back into the ocean, many times while they are still alive, like discarded rubbish. It is unfathomable to think this can happen in the ocean waters of Hawai'i and the affect this horrific practice has on our ocean eco-system.

Respect the *mano*. Protect the *mano*. As they are guardians for numerous Hawaiian families in the sea, I ask you become their guardians on land by passing SB 2169.

Mahalo for your consideration.

Aloha,
Ann Marie Kirk

Livable Hawai'i Kai Hui, Cultural and Natural Resource Committee

Livable Hawaii Kai Hui is a non profit (501c3) community organization dedicated to upholding the integrity of the East Honolulu Sustainable Communities Plan as well as protecting and celebrating our cultural and natural resources. Serving all of East Honolulu since 2004.

Testimony of Vicky Cayetano in Support of S.B. No. 2169, Relating to Shark Fins

February 3, 2010

My name is Vicky Cayetano and I am testifying as an individual in support of this measure. I have always been an advocate for laws that prohibit acts that I consider cruelty to animals. As set out in the preamble of this bill in Section 1, the practice of shark finning, where a shark is caught, the fin cut off, and the shark returned to the water to drown or otherwise die a slow death is a form of cruelty to animals that I am against.

This measure makes it unlawful for any person to sell, offer for sale, trade, or distribute shark fins. I would like to suggest that the terms "possession" and "use" be also added to the provision in Section 2 of the bill in order to make it more practical to enforce.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 10:37 AM
To: JGO Testimony
Cc: robertms@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Robert Stephens
Organization: Individual
Address: 19 E. Kawili St. Hilo, HI
Phone:
E-mail: robertms@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 2/22/2010

Comments:

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 11:49 AM
To: JGO Testimony
Cc: yalarab@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Yasamin Alarab
Organization: Individual
Address: Halenani Wailuku, HI
Phone: 808 2425036
E-mail: yalarab@aol.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2010

Comments:

Please pass this bill. It is so cruel and wasteful to fin sharks. Thank you.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 12:16 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Cc: ilovelehuaandcricri@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Marie Alohalani Brown
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: ilovelehuaandcricri@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/22/2010

Comments:

I support SB 2169, which makes it unlawful for any person in the state to possess, sell, offer for sale, trade, or distribute shark fins in Hawai'i. Shark finning involves catching a shark, slicing off its fins, and discarding the shark (often still alive) at sea for subsequent distribution and sale. Most of the shark fins currently landed in Hawai'i are shipped to the mainland or elsewhere. This bill will not affect the economy here. Shark finning is wasteful, it may have a significant negative affect on marine ecosystems, it is disrespectful to some families, and it should stop.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 22, 2010 1:54 PM
To: JGO Testimony
Cc: Sea_Reina@yahoo.com.au
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for JGO 2/23/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 016
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Katie Drager
Organization: Individual
Address: Honolulu, HI
Phone:
E-mail: Sea_Reina@yahoo.com.au
Submitted on: 2/22/2010

Comments:

I am writing in support of SB 2169, which makes it unlawful for any person in the state to possess, sell, offer for sale, trade, or distribute shark fins in Hawai'i.