



**SB 2169 SD 2
RELATING TO SHARK FINS**

House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business and Military Affairs

March 9, 2010

8:00 a.m.

Room: 312

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SB 2169, SD 2, 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 2, taking the above recommendations under consideration. Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

THE HOUSE
TWENTY-FIFTH LEGISLATURE
REGULAR SESSION OF 2010

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION BUSINESS & MILITARY AFFAIRS
Representative Angus L.K. McKelvey, Chair
Representative Isaac W. Choy, Vice Chair

Tuesday, March 9, 2010
8:00 a.m., Conference Room 312, State Capitol

SENATE BILL NO. 2169 SD2
RELATED TO SHARK FINS

Representative McKelvey, Representative Choy, and members of the committee, my name is Linda Paul and I am Executive Director for Aquatics for the Hawaii Audubon Society, Director of the Ocean Law & Policy Institute of the Pacific Forum CSIS, and International Director of the Endangered Species Program for Earthtrust. I am testifying in support of Senate Bill 2169 SD2, which would prohibit the sale and distribution of shark fins in the State of Hawaii. I am concerned, however, that the language as written may be construed as regulating both interstate commerce, a power that the U.S. Constitution reserves to Congress, and international trade, which is governed by the foreign policy powers of the President. Should this bill become law as drafted, which completely replaces current law, and should it be successfully challenged, Hawaii would have no legislation in place that restricts the practice of shark finning.

In 2000 this Legislature did a very good thing. It passed the current state law that prohibits a person from harvesting shark fins from the territorial waters of the State, or landing shark fins in the State, unless the fins were taken from a shark landed whole in the State. That bill was supported by a broad spectrum of Hawaii residents including the Native Hawaiian community who find the practice of shark finning wasteful. The Hawaiian cultural practitioners believe that if a shark is going to be harvested, all parts of the shark should be used.

The Hawaii law paved the way for the passage of the federal Shark Finning Prohibition Act one year later, which in turn paved the way for a UN General Assembly resolution and several international fisheries commissions' resolutions that condemn the finning of sharks.

It also paved the way for the increasing number of shark species being proposed for listing on the Appendices of the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species [CITES]. Shark species all over the world are threatened with extinction due to the global demand for shark fins. This month the parties to CITES meet again and eight species of sharks are being proposed for listing, including six oceanic shark species. The continued existence of all of them are being threatened by the practice of cutting off their fins to provide fin rays for shark fin soup. In China shark fin soup is served any time a host wants to impress his guests with his wealth. WildAid conducted a poll in Hong Kong not long ago and asked the question: "if you could buy a bowl of shark fin soup for \$10 instead of \$100, would you buy more, less, or the same amount?" The

answer was "less". Ironically shark fin soup is chicken soup, with a few fin rays added to it for texture. The Hawaii-based longline fleet catches about 60,000 blue sharks per year as bycatch. Up until the early 1990s, those sharks were cut loose. As China became more affluent the demand for shark fin soup increased and with it the killing of sharks for their fins only.

While Hawaii law requires that sharks be landed whole with their fins still attached, the federal law allows the fins to be cut off as long as the total weight of shark fins landed or found on board is no more than 5 percent of the total weight of shark carcasses landed or found on board. This provision has proven impossible to enforce. Currently federal law, not state law, is being enforced in Hawaii most probably because the federal law has promulgated rules and the state has not. There is now a bill before Congress, S. 850, which would make federal law more like Hawaii law in that it would require that sharks be landed whole with their fins still attached.

However, there are still large quantities of shark fins flowing into and out of Honolulu and through Honolulu by vessels that supply fuel and provisions to international longline fleets and collect fins. They don't unload the fins in Hawaii; they transfer them to other ships that take them to Hong Kong. There are also reputed to be container ships transshipping partially-processed fins through Honolulu where they are further processed in drying facilities located in Honolulu before they are flown to Hong Kong. Since they are not fishing vessels and they are operating under customs tags protection, they also conduct this activity with impunity.

The language in the pending federal bill would prevent the transport of fins into the U.S. by all vessels, not just fishing vessels. It does not, however, restrict the sale of fins from sharks that were legally landed whole with their fins attached, which this bill would do. The bill before this committee would stop the sale, trade or distribution of dried fins in Hawaii, language which could be construed as including fully processed fins that may have originated elsewhere in the U.S., and therein lies the potential interstate commerce clause problem. We would like to see an end to shark finning, not only here in Hawaii, but in all the U.S. If Hawaii could pass an even more restrictive law than it currently has, it would help make this happen, but we need to make sure that the language in this bill complies with the federal constitution and federal treaty law.

Because the State has a small commercial shark fishery based on thresher and mako sharks landed by the longline fleet fishing in federal waters beyond 50 nm, and on the high seas, the current bill would put that fishery out of business, with potential economic impacts to the State. NOAA-PIRO has previously advised the State that they would seek to invalidate any State action that prevented legitimate landings from federal waters. I would recommend amending SD2 and add a severability clause and another section that preserves current state law, which allows the landing of whole sharks with their fins naturally attached.

Thank you for giving me the opportunity to testify.
Linda Paul
ph. (808) 262-6859





**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

TO: Honorable Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Choy

COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

DATE: Tuesday, March 9, 8:00am

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2169 with Suggested Amendments; Relating to Shark Fins

Submitted by: Inga Gibson, Hawaii State Director, The Humane Society of the United States,
P.O. Box 89131, Honolulu, HI 96830, igibson@hsus.org, 808-922-9910

Dear Chair McKelvey, Vice-Chair Choy and Committee Members,

On behalf of our more than 49,315 members and supporters in Hawaii, The Humane Society of the United States strongly supports SB 2169; prohibiting the sale and distribution of shark fins, and appreciates the opportunity to provide amendments for your consideration.

Each year, up to 70 million sharks are caught, have their fins sliced off, and are then thrown back into the ocean-- dead or dying, to supply the high demand for shark fin soup. From 1991 to 1996 alone, as the price of fins doubled, the shark catch reported at Hawaii's docks jumped 22-fold: from an estimated 200,000 pounds to 4.5 million pounds. Experts note that shark-finning is a major contributing factor to the global decline of shark species. Next week, the Parties to the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) will meet to decide whether to protect three hammerhead species. Hammerheads are harvested solely for the fins throughout the Pacific and are now in serious decline.

Hawaii has been a leader in establishing strong legislation and enforcement mechanisms to prevent sharks from being finned. However, loopholes remain. For example, in 2002 the U.S. Coast Guard confiscated more than 32 tons of shark fins from the King Diamond II, a vessel operating out of Hawaii. The vessel fought this seizure in court and won its case due to an unintended loophole in the law that applies only to "fishing" vessels and not all vessels. This exposure of a serious weakness in the regulations prompted a reassessment of the existing Federal law, which relied upon an imprecise weight ratio of fins to carcasses in order to detect violations of the law.

In response to this, the National Marine Fisheries Service implemented regulations that require federal shark fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico to land sharks with their fins still naturally attached. Atlantic states followed suit. Congress is now in the process of considering the Shark Conservation Act (H.R. 81/S. 850), which has been passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate Commerce Committee, and which also stipulates that all sharks should be landed with their fins naturally attached..



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

Prohibiting the sale and distribution of all fins taken in contravention to Hawaii state law would further strengthen enforcement of a "fins-attached" policy, since it would also apply to fins imported from other States and/or transshipped from foreign vessels fishing in areas not subject to Hawaii law.

While we support SB 2169 in its current, original form, we have the following suggestions:

- As written, SB 2169 repeals the current law. We are concerned that, should this measure become law and, for whatever reason, be challenged, Hawaii may be left with no shark-finning protection. Therefore, we respectfully request that a severability clause be added to ensure that sections relating to whole shark landings and penalties, reflected in current law, be retained.
- It is our understanding that the Department of Land and Natural Resources; Division of Aquatic Resources, has requested a permitting process be added to provide exemptions for the landing of whole sharks (with fins naturally attached) ONLY for research, Native Hawaiian cultural and religious purposes or for subsistence; personal non-commercial sale or consumption. As the state enforcement agency, we do not object to a permitting process to provide exemptions SOLELY for the above stated reasons.

Thank you again for the opportunity to comment on this most important measure. We urge your support of SB 2169.



Conservation Council for Hawai'i

Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business,
and Military Affairs

SB 2169 SD 2 Relating to Shark Fins
Hearing: Tuesday, March 9, 2010 8 am Room 312

In support of SB 2169 SD 2

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 2169 SD 2, which prohibits the sale and distribution of shark fins in the State. The practice of removing fins from live sharks and throwing the sharks back into the water is wasteful and unnecessary. We have heard only 10% of the shark fins that come into the state are actually sold or consumed here, and that 90% are transported elsewhere. Therefore, this bill should not cause economic hardship on anyone here in Hawai'i.

We should not allow the sale or distribution of shark fins in our state. Nor should we wait until the federal government prohibits such fins from entering our state, or from being imported to America. Instead, we should send a strong message that we will not encourage or reward this practice in Hawai'i. Our understanding is that, although shark finning is banned in the Atlantic (including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea), shark fins currently enter Hawai'i ports (unattached to the carcasses) because of a loophole in the federal law and a federal court interpretation in the 9th Circuit that allows the fins to be transferred from a shark-fishing boat to a boat that does not contain fishing gear. Shark fins are also imported to Hawai'i and this country via non-fishing boats, such as container ships and the like.

Please pass SB 2169 SD 2. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler



Hawai'i's Voice for Wildlife – *Ko Leo Hawai'i no na holoholona lohiu*

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Affiliations

American Littoral Society
Marine Fisheries Conservation Network
ReefWatch Marine Conservation (India)
Shark Research Centre (South Africa)
Species Survival Network
Shark Alliance
University of Guayaquil (Ecuador)
United Nations

Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs

RE: Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

Dear Mr. Chairman McKelvey:

I want to take this opportunity to thank you for your help with MEASURE SB2169, SD2 which, if passed, will be the most helpful piece of legislation for the sharks, that I have seen. I want to urge you, Sir, to do whatever you can to get this measure passed, so that the law will put an end to the horrible practice of finning.

WHEN THE BUYING STOPS THE FINNING WILL TOO.

The State of Hawaii will be taking a leading role in the U.S. as far as the protection of sharks and of our oceans is concerned. Other states will follow your courageous example. Live sharks are so much more valuable than dead sharks, because they bring more tourism to your beautiful State.

I know about the special place sharks have in the hearts of the people of Hawaii. The native cultures had so much more wisdom than we have today; they knew how to deal with nature. Unfortunately, many of us have forgotten this knowledge.

Sharks are the most important animals in our oceans, because they maintain the biological balance in this very complex ecosystem. I am afraid that we will lose them all, if we don't start saving them now. On behalf of our 8,000 members I urge every member of the Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs, to vote in favor of this measure.

Sincerely,

Jupp Baron Kerckerinck zur Borg
President/Shark Research Institute



March 6, 2010

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey

Re: MEASURE SB2169, SD2 **IN SUPPORT**, Relating to shark fins

Dear Chairman McKelvey,

Shark Savers, an international organization with over 10,000 members including many in Hawaii, is delighted that a bill is pending before your Senate to decisively prohibit the trafficking of shark fins.

As the Measure so eloquently describes, sharks have a profoundly positive impact on maintaining a healthy ocean eco-system. Sharks keep other marine species in proportion and viable. Studies show that the loss of sharks can cause the loss of commercially important species further down the food chain.

No other state within our nation is as dependent on its relationship with the ocean as Hawaii. It is wise for you and your colleagues in the Senate to take this act of leadership by ensuring sharks are not being slaughtered for their fins.

The wide scale decimation of shark populations for shark fins is happening worldwide, but also in and around Hawaiian waters. This trade benefits few because it resides primarily underground. But it endangers many. Shark fins are unhealthy because they are likely to contain unacceptable levels of toxic mercury. The shark fin trade is bad for Hawaii, as the loss of sharks will disrupt commercial fisheries and the tourism that is attracted to your healthy reefs.

We thank you as you provide this Measure the serious consideration it deserves. Our members will remain very interested in your progress. Please do not hesitate to call upon us to provide any information you may need or further support for the passage of this Measure Relating to Shark Fins.

With best regards,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Michael Skoletsky".

Michael Skoletsky
Executive Director



Testimony for EBM 3/9/2010 8:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 312

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: Yes

Submitted by: Vicky Cayetano

Organization: Individual

Address:

Phone:

E-mail: Vicky@unitedlaundry.net

Submitted on: 3/8/2010

Comments:

To the Honorable Chair Angus McKelvey, Vice-Chair Choy, and Economic Revitalization, Business and Military Affairs Committee Members

Re: support for bill SB2169.

I fully support laws that prohibit acts that I consider cruelty to animals. I firmly believe 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. Sharks play an important role in the ocean ecosystem that is recognized even by people who have been victims of shark attacks. I respectfully ask you to use your position of power to see that this bill is passed.

Respectfully yours,



Vicky Cayetano

March 8, 2010

Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business and Military Affairs
Hawaii State Capital
Honolulu, Hawaii

Honorable Chair Angus L. K. McKelvey, Vice Chairman Isaac W. Choy,
Economic Revitalization, Business and Military Affairs Committee Members

RE: SUPPORT FOR SB 2169; prohibiting shark fins/finning

Tuesday, March 9, 8:00am

Every year millions of sharks are finned and left to die of painful death. This cruel practice involves cutting off fins; sharks are thrown back to the ocean and left for predators to feed on. Sharks are important to our oceans ecosystem and play a very important role to the Hawaiian culture. Shark or in the Hawaiian culture is known as Mano has been part of the Hawaiian people of long ago. Many Hawaiian ancestry have seen this creature as the aumakua or family god. If we allow these practices to continue, we allow them to destroy our culture, history, and take our ancestry beliefs away. If not stopped, they will become another endangered species.

Please support SB 2169; prohibiting shark fins/finning

Mahalo,

Gayle Puou
Resident of Kapolei

I'm writing in opposition to SB2169, which bans possession of shark fins. To put it as politely as I can, this bill is paternalistic nanny state BS, and is equivalent to the foie gras ban bill that was killed in the Senate. The reasons advanced for this bill by the proponents, and my rebuttal to those arguments:

“Sharks are a Hawaiian deity, and must be protected.”

Advancing the bill for this reason would violate the First Amendment provision saying government “shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion” – imposing someone’s religious beliefs upon others is prohibited by the Constitution.

“Sharks have a high mercury content and should not be eaten by pregnant women or young children”

By this logic, we should ban ANY food that could harm any subsection of the population. If this was the only reason for advancing the bill, the appropriate response would be to educate members of the public about the risks, and let them individually decide what level of risk they wish to assume.

“Finning sharks is inhumane.”

Killing any animal for food is inhumane, from the perspective of the animal. Are you willing to carry this reasoning to its logical conclusion, and ban all consumption of animal flesh?

“Sharks are endangered.”

No, they are not. The most common shark used in shark fin soup is from blue fin sharks, which have a healthy population.

The foie gras ban bill was killed because the people affected by it spoke up. This bill, which does something quite similar, only advanced because the people most affected by it tend to be more culturally reluctant to speak up when confronted by injustice. Their silence, however, does not mean they consent, or feel it is right – humility and a quiet reluctance to confront authority can be a virtue, and should not be taken advantage of or punished by such punitive legislation.

Jim Henshaw
649 Kanaha St.
Kailua, HI 96734

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS

Tuesday, March 9, 2010

8:00 a.m.

Room 312

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SENATE BILL 2169, SENATE DRAFT 2,
RELATING TO SHARK FINS

Aloha, Chairperson McKelvey, Vice Chairperson Choy and Committee Members. My name is Jennifer Chiwa. I strongly support Senate Bill 2169, Senate Draft 2 which would prohibit cutting off fins from sharks. This is a cruel practice which leaves sharks to die a slow, painful death after they are thrown back into the ocean with their fins cut off. In addition, sharks are critical to ocean ecosystems, and their decline affects the ocean's ecology and environment. Please support this bill to show that Hawaii stands for humane treatment of animals and supports the ocean ecosystems. Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Jennifer Chiwa

From: stefanie brendl [stefaniebrendl@gmail.com]
Sent: Friday, March 05, 2010 8:42 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Cc: Celia
Subject: EBM committee hearing Tues 3/9 - SB2169

FROM: Stefanie Brendl, President Shark Allies (Hawaii non profit organization)

TO: EBM Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am

MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT (also in support of proposed amendments)

Dear Committee Chair and Members,

I am in strong support of SB2169 for the following reasons:

>> **Shark finning is a barbaric and wasteful practice** that can no longer be tolerated. More than 100 million sharks are slaughtered per year.

>> **Shark finning steals the food for millions of people.** Coastal communities that depend on sharks as their major source of protein can no longer catch sharks because fleets of long-line fishing boats have assaulted and cleaned out their waters.

>> **Shark fins alone have no nutritional value.** They are merely a status symbol, a meal served to impress. Killing sharks for fins is the same as killing rhino for their horn, groupers for their lips or elephants just for their tusks.

>> **Finning continues** at a devastating rate all over the world, even in the most pristine ocean preserves.

>> **Hawaii is a distribution point for shark products.** We have to take a stand with strong legislature that is simple, broad and all-inclusive.

Existing laws make enforcement very complicated. It is too easy to get away on a technicality. There are too many loopholes that make it possible for shark fins to enter and be shipped out of the state, and to be sold at the local market and restaurants.

>> **With this bill we are not only doing the right thing for Hawaii** and for the protection of our marine life, but we can also set an example for other states and countries to follow. Passing this bill would put Hawaii in the forefront of shark conservation world wide, being surpassed only by the island nation of Palau, which has become the first Shark Sanctuary in the world.

AMENDMENTS:

-I am in support of proposed amendments that will help protect the original statutes, should this bill be challenged in the future. (such as severability clause).

-I do not think allowing any exceptions or permits to take sharks should be allowed, because it will weaken the law and make enforcement more difficult. But if it is necessary to make some concessions to allow the taking of a few animals for research and for cultural reasons (only WITH official permit), in order to keep this bill alive, then it is a compromise worth making.

Sharkfins need to be treated just like Ivory. No possession, no sale, no trade!

The world is watching to see what your committee is going to do with SB 2169. Please help move this bill along so shark finning can be outlawed in Hawaii once and for all.

Thank you

Stefanie Brendl

stefanie@sharkallies.org 808 778-6740 www.sharkallies.org

From: dorsonstudios@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 9:46 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: MEASURE SB2169, SD 2 IN SUPPORT

MEASURE SB2169, SD 2 IN SUPPORT

From:
Edward Dorson
Director of Conservation Strategies
Shark Research Institute, USA
<http://www.sharks.org>

To:
Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am

Re: MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT
Relating to Shark Fins
Sale and Distribution of Shark Fins;
Prohibits the sale and distribution of shark fins in the State

March 7, 2010

Dear Chairman McKelvey,

I'm Edward Dorson, Director of Conservation Strategies for the Shark Research Institute, a USA-based non-profit organization. I'm representing the views of over 8,000 people in our membership in writing this letter to you. I appeal to you to enact SB2169 for the preservation of sharks and our shared oceanic heritage and to set a precedent for others to stop their slaughter worldwide.

The world's sharks are quickly vanishing and it's primarily driven by the demand for shark fins to go into a status symbol soup served at weddings and banquets. Over 100 million sharks are killed annually; a rate of three sharks killed every second. Some shark populations are already functionally extinct, having declined by as much as 99%. Obviously, any cultural excuse that enables species extinction must be denounced as totally irrational. The outcome of further inaction will soon create a vast jellyfish soup, formally known as the ocean.

Sharks targeted by finners aren't taken whole; their valuable fins (which fetch up to \$700 a kilo) are brutally hacked off and the less valuable finless shark is tossed back into the sea to sink and slowly die. That's not only despicably inhumane; it wastes over 95% of the shark that could go for consumption. The obliteration of 400 million years of evolution for some perceived social status with serving shark fin soup isn't just idiotic and cruel -- it's tragic.

A healthy ocean depends on sharks. Sharks, as apex predators, are vital to regulate species abundance and distribution necessary to maintain an intricate ecosystem full of diversity and life. The removal of sharks is causing devastating impacts with negative effects rebounding into the food chain seagrass beds, and coral reefs.

The ecological, economical, and ethical consequences of an ocean without sharks is staggering. Without exaggeration, the outcome of apex shark species going extinct rivals a massive asteroid strike in orders of magnitude. As the ocean is the very engine that runs the systems that maintain all life, this hidden holocaust will ultimately critically impact life on land as well.

Grotesque greed and indifference must be denied for the sake of the sharks and a planet that requires their continuing existence. All reasoning people must now reach the threshold that says no more to this senseless slaughter of the world's sharks for soup. Please consider the passage of SB2169 as a statement that Hawaii has reached its own tipping point on this critical issue.

Sincerely,
Edward Dorson
Director of Conservation Strategies
Shark Research Institute
Princeton, NJ, USA



Coalition to Protect Ocean Diversity

PO Box 42523, Portland, OR 97242 www.c-pod.org

March 6, 2010

To: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey

Re: Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

Testimony

Protecting sharks just makes sense. It makes sense economically and environmentally. According to economic reports "[t]ourism remains Hawaii's leading employer, revenue producer, and growth sector." Sharks are one of the key attractions that draw people here from all over the world for the chance to dive and see one. Economic reports statistically bear out that sharks are worth more alive than dead by vast amounts of tourist dollars.

They are also a key contributor to the pristine beauty that draws others, who aren't coming to see sharks per se but to enjoy the magnificent ocean beauty, coral reefs and under water wonderland. Environmentally, as top predators sharks are critical to maintaining a thriving ocean ecosystem; Hawaii's main attraction. Tourists flock to Hawaii for its breathtaking natural beauty. Studies have proven that coral reefs and other underwater jewels thrive where sharks are in natural numbers not depleted by the fin trade.

There is no benefit to Hawaii from the fin trade. The money gained through the fin trade falls primarily into the hands of black-market syndicates, creating an obscene imbalance in distribution of wealth, benefiting only a corrupt few at the cost of the many. The threat of extinction of most shark species due to finning threatens to undermine Hawaii's leading economic sector, and unleash widespread destruction of its pristine ocean environment by removing this top predator.

Hawaii can be, and should be a leader to the world with this bill. Many steps are in process around the globe to bring the necessary protections to this shark species and stem the wanton destruction of the finning industry: e.g. the EU recently passed a "fins attached" mandate for landing sharks; and the Shark Conservation Act is currently pending in the U.S. Senate to tighten regulations to actually prevent finning.

Hawaii already prohibits harvesting shark fins in State waters, or landing shark fins in the State unless the shark is landed whole with fins attached. [§188-40.5] This bill is the next logical and critical step. Hawaii is well positioned to lead the way. As a distribution point for Pacific freight traffic, Hawaii can significantly affect the end of the fin trade in many ways with this bill. I respectfully request that the Committee move this bill forward and give it swift passage into law. The world is watching.

Paula Walker, J.D.
Executive Director C-POD (Coalition to Protect Ocean Diversity)

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

Dear Chairman,

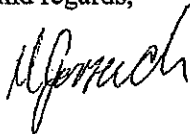
My name is Hayley Gorsuch and I am a Research Manager in Cairns, Australia. I have a background in marine science, marine tourism and marine conservation. In my current role I am involved in managing and communicating solution-based environmental projects on the Great Barrier Reef which feed into management and policy decisions. I am particularly interested in shark conservation and I believe that the trade of shark fin has been one of the biggest contributions to declines in shark numbers at a global scale.

It has been estimated that over 100 millions sharks are killed every year for their fins. Buyers are forced to explore new regions for sources of fins as local populations collapse. We don't know the full extent of the ecological impact the removal of these apex predators from the ocean has had already, but it's time to put a stop to it while we still can. We are aware of the ecological, cultural and inherent values of sharks alive, and now we are also starting to get some dollar values around what they are worth through an ever increasing shark watching tourism industry. Recent research on the Great Barrier Reef, funded through the Marine and Tropical Sciences Research Facility, has estimated that a single shark sighting at a popular shark watching dive site is worth around \$1,375 per shark per sighting to the local and regional economy.

The Hawaiian Islands hold a number of natural assets that attract visitors from all over the world, including great marine and terrestrial biological diversity. I understand the shark-watching/diving industry is gaining great interest in Hawaii as it has done in Australia and indeed world-wide. The ban of shark fin possession, sale and distribution is an important investment into the ecological and economic future of Hawaii. I have yet to visit the beautiful shores of Hawaii, but I certainly intend to and I will definitely be planning to dive with some sharks.

I am delighted to hear of the Bill to ban the possession, sale, and distribution of shark fin proposed by the Hawaii government. I applaud the Hawaiian government for leading the way in what I hope to be a global initiative of shark conservation.

Kind regards,



Hayley Gorsuch

From: Nina [vinyrael@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 11:49 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Please: Ban the Sale of Shark Fin in Hawaii

Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey Hearing

Dear Esteemed Members:

I humbly ask that you take into account the impacts of shark finning and ban the sale of shark fins in Hawaii.

The impacts are:

- Loss and devastation of shark populations around the world. Experts estimate that within a decade, most species of sharks will be lost because of longlining.
- Unsustainable fishery. The massive quantity of sharks harvested and lack of selection deplete shark populations faster than their reproductive abilities can replenish populations.
- Threatens the stability of marine ecosystems.
- Loss of sharks as a food staple for many developing countries.
- Local waters are invaded by large industrial, foreign fishing vessels that threaten traditional sustainable fisheries.
- Wasteful of protein and other shark-based products. Up to 99 per cent of the shark is thrown away.

Selling shark fins for human consumption can also be equated to selling a potentially highly contaminated product due to the elevated mercury levels found in sharks.

I am not against people consuming certain foods that are associated with their culture despite that other cultures might find those foods offensive. I am against the hubris that is rampant with shark finning industry as the majority of the shark is wasted and not consumed. Also the rate at which our oceans are being depleted of this important part of the ecosystem equation is deeply alarming.

Please, ban the sale of shark fins in Hawaii.

Sincerely,

Nina Rosas

24661 La Cresta Drive #2

Dana Point, CA 92629

USA

From: Alexandra Riggle [alexandra@adoptashark.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 12:21 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Cc: 'Laleh Mohajerani'
Subject: Comment in Support of SB 2169

Importance: High

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

To Whom It May Concern:

Iemanya Oceanica is a non-profit organization based out of California and Mexico dedicated to the conservation of sharks, rays, and their habitats. We are in support of Senate Bill 2169 to ban the possession and sale of shark fins in the state of Hawaii, and urge you to pass this bill immediately for the sake of our oceans.

Sharks play a crucial role in balancing ocean ecosystems; however, they are currently under major threat of extinction due to overfishing and "finning" (the wasteful practice of cutting off a shark's fins and discarding the body back at sea.) An estimated 100 million sharks are killed at the hands of humans every year, with a large portion killed exclusively for their fins. Shark fins are consumed primarily among those of Asian descent in the form of shark fin soup, which has long been viewed a delicacy, however shark fins themselves have no flavor and are known to contain high levels of toxins, such as mercury.

Sharks reach sexual maturity late in life and have relatively few offspring. Consequently, they cannot withstand current fishing and finning rates, and scientists already report an 85% decline in some species. Studies have shown that without sharks to balance the oceans by preying on sick and weak animals and regulating fish populations, ocean ecosystems collapse. The resulting imbalance results in greatly reduced fish stocks- food on which billions of people worldwide rely for sustenance, especially in developing nations. Sharks are worth more alive than dead as they generate revenue in the form of tourism year after year and are crucial in maintaining balance in our oceans.

The fate of our oceans depends on the collaborative efforts of nations to institute measures like SB 2169. Hawaii has an opportunity to set an outstanding example to other nations, and we trust that you will take appropriate action to ban the possession and sale of shark fins before it is too late.

Sincerely,

Laleh Mohajerani
President and CEO

Iemanya Oceanica

Laleh@iemanya.org

818.224.4250- phone/fax

WWW.OUROCEANOURFUTURE.ORG

WWW.ADOPTASHARK.COM

<http://www.myspace.com/iemanyaoceanica>

Learn about our ocean habitat & shark saving efforts via our email newsletter: Sign up free at
www.ouroceanourfuture.org.

From: Laurence PREUSS [preuss.laurence@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 12:55 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Ban Shark Fins In Hawaiï

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, ...Business & Military Affairs Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9 2010, 8 am

As I am a person very concerned by the slaughter of millions sharks around the world caused by the growing chinese demand of Sharks soup,

I am asking you to ban the shark fin in Hawaiï.

As you have sharks in Hawaiï, your local tourism depends on them as well, you must stop it.

Melle Laurence Preuss, citizen, France.

From: Julia Christine Balacko [balackojc@webmail.washjeff.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 1:24 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Public comments: shark finning

FROM: Julia Balacko, Washington & Jefferson College
TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

- Sharks are slow growing and have few young, which makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing.
- Shark finning is a brutal and wasteful fishery in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal) are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown.
- The shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture, and may pose a health hazard because of its high methyl-mercury content.
- Shark finning results in the deaths of as many as 70 million sharks a year, which is unsustainable

From: Susan Starling [diveintosharks@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 1:41 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Shark Finning

It is worthless killing with no gain. It has no flavor. It has been banned in many areas now due to the amount of sharks that are killed. I have read stories of whole ships hulls being filled with just fins. Can you imagine how many sharks it would take to fill the hull of a ship with just the fins. This practice is a waste of life that is vital to a healthy sea.

Please ban it.

Susan Starling

Signature signoff

Its never too late to be what you might have been.

A friends email

From: Joel Fischer [jfischer@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 11:11 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: SB2169; EBM; Tuesday, 3/9; 8AM; Rm 312

Importance: High

SB2169, SD2, Relating to Shark Fins
EBM; Chair, Rep. McKelvey

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: Jessica Ryle [jessica.ryle@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 11:14 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Please Ban the Sale of Shark Fins in Hawaii

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, ...Business & Military Affairs Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9 2010, 8 am

Dear Chairman McKelvey,

Please ban the sale of shark fins in Hawaii. In recent years, due to unchecked finning, shark populations have decreased by 90%. As an apex predator, sharks are necessary for the survivor of the oceans.

Thank you,
Jessica Ryle
Glens Falls, NY
Founder, Adirondack Animal Rights

From: andy norlander [andynorlander@yahoo.com]
Sent: Friday, March 05, 2010 8:32 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Shark Bill

There is no evidence that the shark tour businesses have created a greater shark attack danger for the beach going public. The shark finning business for creating sharkfin soup has decimated the shark population worldwide and potentially could cause the collapse of the ocean's ecosystem. that is a much greater danger to the public. The shark tour businesses can allow the public to see the beauty and importance of these magnificent creatures in our world's ecosystem, and oppose the wholesale slaughter of our oceans!

Sincerely,

Andy Norlander

From: jaenickej [jaenickej@aol.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 1:58 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: shark finning

dear sirs.

I'm a documentary filmmaker living in California but visiting Hawaii frequently. I surf and I fish and I've shot several documentaries about sharks off the North Shore of Oahu. I totally support your progress regarding the ban on shark finning. It's a crucial move towards keeping the marine biodiversity intact, to keep fish populations healthy, and to make sure us filmmakers can keep coming to Hawaii to film what's left of our beautiful planet!

So please stop shark finning for good! Thank you and best, regards,
Hannes Jaenicke, Pelorus Jack Filmprods., 6 Coco Place, Pacific Palisades, CA 90272

From: David Shiffman [david.shiffman@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 4:56 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: SB2169 IN SUPPORT

David Shiffman
Graduate Program in Marine Biology, College of Charleston

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey

Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

I am writing to express my support of SB2169, banning the sale of shark fins in the state of Hawaii. As a marine biologist who studies sharks, I am all too aware of the devastating ecological impact that the practice of shark finning causes. Sharks are slow to grow and have few young at a time, making them particularly vulnerable to overfishing. As apex predators, they help to keep the whole food chain in check.

The practice of finning, which involves removing the fins from a still-living shark and dumping the rest of the animal overboard to bleed to death or drown, is one of the most brutal, wasteful, and unsustainable fisheries practices on earth. It results in the deaths of tens of millions of sharks each year.

The fin itself adds no flavor whatsoever to shark fin soup, only texture. Also, recent evidence suggests that some fins contain high levels of mercury.

Thank you for your consideration.

Sincerely,
David Shiffman

From: Beth Sopko [beth@tuna.net]
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 6:41 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

Beth Sopko

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

I am writing in support of the above bill against shark finning; it is an unsustainable practice that will result in the extinction of most, if not all, species of shark. It is estimated that 70 million sharks a year die for a bowl of soup. Only the fins are taken—only about 5% of the total weight—and the rest of the shark is thrown back into the water to drown

Sharks are simply not replacing their numbers to keep pace with the finning—much of it illegal—going on in the world. Hawaii needs to send a message that there is no market for shark fins on their islands.

All shark meat—including the fins—is toxic, because of the high mercury and PCB content; as apex predators, sharks are at the top of the food chain and consume all the toxins in their prey. These toxins are concentrated by the time it gets to them. Shark fins are made of cartilage, and as such are tasteless; they only add texture to shark- fin soup, which is the only reason they are harvested.

Thank you for your consideration of this important matter.

Beth Sopko
New York City

From: oliandre@skynet.be
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 6:44 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

FROM: Olivier Andre
TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

-Sharks are slow growing and have few young, which makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing.

-Shark finning is a brutal and wasteful fishery in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal) are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown.

-The shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture, and may pose a health hazard because of mercury content.

-Shark finning results in the deaths of as many as 70 million sharks a year, which is unsustainable.

Best regards,
Olivier Andre

From: Doug Perrine [perrine@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 6:45 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

Shark finning is already "illegal" in Hawaii, yet current law allows loopholes so finning and commerce in fins can actually continue. If we are honest about wanting to preserve a healthy marine ecosystem and stop the wholesale slaughter of a keystone species, we must pass this bill and start closing loopholes.

**mahalo,
Doug Perrine**

Doug Perrine
76-223 Haaia St.
Kailua-Kona HI 96740 U.S.A.
+1 (808) 329-4523

please do not send any attachments larger than 1MB without advance permission

if your e-mail doesn't go through, try my travel account:
douglasperrine@yahoo.com

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 6:56 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Cc: madb1@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 3/9/2010 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for EBM 3/9/2010 8:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Madelyn R. Barrea
Organization: West Hawaii Humane Society
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: madb1@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 3/6/2010

Comments:

TO: HONORABLE CHAIR ANGUS MCKELVEY, VICE-CHAIR CHOY AND ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

RE: SUPPORT FOR SB 2169; prohibiting shark fins/finning

Tuesday, March 9, 8:00am

· MILLIONS of sharks are finned every year; this cruel practice involves cutting off the fins and throwing the animal back in the water to die a slow, painful death, often due to starvation or predation

· Sharks are apex predators that are critical to our ocean ecosystems; their decline effects the entire ocean's ecology and environment

· Shark-finning is the leading cause of the global decline of shark species; many of which are endangered or threatened with extinction

Thank you for your support.

Madelyn R. Barrea
Executive Director
West Hawaii Humane Society

From: Cindy Moragrega [cindym@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 7:21 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Support the ban on shark finning!

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

Please support the bill that will prohibit the sale, trade and possession of shark fins and shark fin products! The current practice of finning is not only devastating the world's shark populations but has huge repercussions to the entire ocean ecosystem. It is a wasteful and immoral practice that must be stopped! By having your support of this bill we are one step closer to having Hawaii lead the way in passing this imperative legislation. Lets set a great example for our children and help protect the oceans for future generations.

Mahalo,

Cindy Moragrega
Maui District

From: Marie Levine [srilevine@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 7:39 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

Marie Levine / Executive Director / Shark Research Institute

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT”

Dear Mr. Chairman McKelvey:

The State of Hawaii is poised to take a leadership role in the U.S. by protecting sharks and prohibiting the sale and possession of shark fins. If passed, MEASURE SB2169, SD2 which, if passed, will be landmark legislation that will serve as a template for all of our country's coastal states.

Sharks need complete and rigid protection. Sharks are the keystone species of the ocean ecosystem; they maintain the ecological balance of the sea.

On the east coast of the USA we have experienced first-hand what happens when large sharks are removed from the nearshore environment. When shark populations fell, we saw a population explosion of their prey: cownose rays. The cownose rays, in turn, decimated the scallops, driving the scallop industry into collapse. Now the rays are feeding on clams and oysters. Without these bivalves to filter toxins from the water, water quality is diminishing.

Sharks are absolutely critical to a clean and healthy ocean. Speaking on behalf of our 8,000 members, I urge you to do everything possible to see that Measure SB2169, SD2 is passed.

Sincerely,
Marie Levine, Executive Director
Shark Research Institute

From: Django Manglunki [django@cern.ch]
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 8:01 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

“From Django Manglunki, physicist, France
TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs Chairman Angus L.K.
McKelvey Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT”

Thanks for passing bill SB2169. Banning the trade of shark fin is the only way to suppress their demand.

Hopefully the outcome will eventually put an end to such an inhumane, wasteful, and unsustainable practice as shark finning.

Best regards,

Django Manglunki

--

Django Manglunki, 28 Grand'rue, F-01550 Collonges
Phone: +41 22 767 2537 Phax: +41 22 766 9430
<<mailto:django@cern.ch>> <<http://cern.ch/django>>

From: Kerry Germain [cooperk001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 10:08 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Hawaii shark fin bill

Aloha,

As avid scuba divers, fisherman, surfers and sailors our ohana would like to say it has been an honor to dive with these amazing animals, although we rarely get to see them. We feel hopeful that more and more of the public will become knowledgeable as we have, of their vital importance in our oceans. A lot of what we have learned about them has come from the research and education that the company Shark Encounters (Haleiwa Harbor) has provided to us and many other divers and ocean conservationist.

I used to be afraid of them because I was in the ocean some much and was mentally scarred from the movie Jaws –something I did not want to pass on to our son who started scuba diving when he was 12 years old.

The more we learn the more we admire them and their important function in the ocean. Without them our ocean eco-system would be a mess.

We do support Representative Michael Magaoay's bill HB2483, with regard to limiting the number of tours–this could be a problem for the small harbor and attract companies who may not have the sharks best interest at heart. The tour company –Shark Encounters really does educate the public as well as brings business to our community.

Mahalo,
The Germain Ohana
Kerry, Michael and Jack

From: ggreeb434@comcast.net
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 10:14 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: stop shark finning

from: Charles Greenberg-attorney and animal activist

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"



A cow shark being finned. Photo credit: Fiona Ayerst, Marine Photobank

Dear sirs: i wanted to write you on shark finning legislation that is pending.
there are a host of reasons to stop this practice:

- Sharks are slow growing and have few young, which makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing.
- Shark finning is a brutal and wasteful fishery in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal) are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown. see picture above.
- The shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture, and may pose a health hazard because of mercury content.
- Shark finning results in the deaths of as many as 70 million sharks a year, which is unsustainable.

I applaud the state Hawaii for considering this legislation and i hope that you do the right thing and enact this legislation.

thank you, Charles Greenberg
phone: 425-774-0138

From: Michelle Marks [spaghettifish@hotmail.co.uk]
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 10:37 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: proposed ban on sale of shark

Michelle Marks. Triple M Copywriting
TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

To the committee

I fully support your proposal to ban the sale of shark fins.

Drastic reduction in numbers of sharks is leading to imminent extinction several different shark species. Shark finning is the main reason. Sharks are slow to mature and reproduce, so the destruction of 70-100 million annually for this wasteful use means their numbers are not recovering.

I applaud you for proposing this ban. Please ensure it is passed and subsequently enforced, as sharks play a vital role in ensuring health seas.

Thank you
Michelle

Michelle Marks
Chartered Marketer

e: michelle@tripleMcopywriting.co.uk
t: (0113) 289 2208
m: 0780 350 3147

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From: Carole Crist [chorse@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 12:16 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Testimony to support measure SB2169,SD2

From: Carole Crist
92-1447 Palahia St
Kaoplei, HI 96707

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2

IN SUPPORT

Dear Chairman McKelvey,

It is my great desire that you would support the effort to stop the barbaric practice of shark fining. In life there are many obstacles which might prevent the right thing from happening. Supporting this cause will require commitment, bravery, and a belief in what is right; under much resistance from peers, Westpac, Chinese business people and many others. I am sure you know how important it is to stop this practice. It is vital to our ocean environment not only for Hawaii but for the World. Please pass a bill that is solid and enforceable. I encourage you and pray that you will succeed in this endeavor.

Aloha, Carole Crist

From: Kathy Lovgren [klovgren@hotmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 2:13 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: measure SB2169, SD2

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 **IN SUPPORT**

FROM: Kathy Lovgren, MS Biology
Science Educator (retired)
Former resident of Oahu

I would like to encourage you to vote in support of this important bill for the protection of a species that is vital to the ocean ecosystem. I'm sure you are aware of the important role sharks play in ocean ecology and the senseless and inhumane practice of defining these creatures must be stopped. As a former resident of Oahu I learned a great deal about sharks and have grown to respect them a great deal. Please vote to protect them .

Sincerely,

Kathy Lovgren

Hotmail: Trusted email with powerful SPAM protection. [Sign up now.](#)

From: Luciana [betsy_0504@yahoo.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 3:09 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

Luciana Rzegocki
TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

I am writing in support of the above bill against shark finning; it is an unsustainable practice that will result in the extinction of most, if not all, species of shark. It is estimated that 70 million sharks a year die for a bowl of soup. Only the fins are taken—only about 5% of the total weight—and the rest of the shark is thrown back into the water to drown

-Sharks are slow growing and have few young, which makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing.

-Shark finning is a brutal and wasteful fishery in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal) are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown.

-The shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture, and may pose a health hazard because of mercury content.

-Shark finning results in the deaths of as many as 70 million sharks a year, which is unsustainable.

Thank you for your consideration in this matter,
Luciana Rzegocki

From: Anika Glass [anika.nui@gmail.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 4:37 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Cc: Sen. Josh Green
Subject: SUPPORT FOR SB 2169; prohibiting shark fins/finning

TO: HONORABLE CHAIR ANGUS MCKELVEY, VICE-CHAIR CHOY AND ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS AND MILITARY AFFAIRS COMMITTEE MEMBERS

RE: SUPPORT FOR SB 2169; prohibiting shark fins/finning

The idea of "finning" sharks should be repugnant to everyone and anyone who thinks about it for one moment. All for a "delicacy" - it's indelicate and inhumane.

Please approve this Senate Bill.

Anika Glass

68-1863 Ua Noe St.

Waikoloa, HI 96738

808 937 2309

From: Creativity Academies [school@jim.nu]
Sent: Saturday, March 06, 2010 9:03 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Stop shark finning

From Cathy Knowlton
teacher, Baldwin High School, Wailuku HI 96793

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs Chairman Angus L.K.
McKelvey Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

Shark finning is a brutal and wasteful fishery in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal) are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown.

From: Dom at Dive Advice [dom@diveadvice.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 12:01 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: *****SPAM***** MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

Dominick Macan, Owner Dive Advice

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

Dear sirs,

I am writing in support of the above bill against shark finning. You are no doubt aware of the brutal nature of this unsustainable practice, and the reason for it - a bowl of tasteless soup - but far more important in your discussions should be that by allowing, and that means condoning this barbaric act, you put into question the very survival of sharks as a species, and the longterm impact that will have on our oceans and their capacity to provide mankind with a future source of sustenance.

The only reason they are harvested is for their fins and with estimates from 70-100 million sharks being killed worldwide each year, sharks cannot replace their numbers and will very soon become so threatened that they cannot survive.

The fact that 95% of the shark is dumped back in the ocean after the fins are sliced off, is a wasteful practice that should not be tolerated, and for some who may argue that the way around it is by regulations ensuring that all sharks caught are kept whole when they go to the fisheries, there must be a question that as all shark meat—including the fins—is toxic, because of the high mercury and PCB content, then there is no true market for catching sharks other than for their fins - unless you want to poison your children !

On a purely moral basis, most of the shark finning takes place around the world is on an illegal level - overseen by criminal gangs who make billions of dollars in profits. Finning should be viewed with the same intolerance as illegal drugs - they harm our society and they feed crime.

More and more countries are trying to make a stand against this unchecked slaughter and Hawaii needs to send a message that they will not turn a blind eye and that there is no market for shark fins on their islands.

Hawaii can have an influence on the rest of the world in this matter, so we ask you to consider this matter with great gravity.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

Dominick Macan

Dive Advice
dom@diveadvice.com
www.DiveAdvice.com

Tel: +33 492 94 02 99
SKYPE: Dominick Macan
71 Allee des Bougainvillies
Val d'Azur
06560 Valbonne France

From: Bradley Wilcox [shemp1964@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 1:11 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

From: Brad Wilcox, Community Member Waialua, Hawaii

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 **IN SUPPORT**

PLEASE prohibit any activity that has to do with shark finning in Hawaii. Sharks are necessary for our oceans to remain healthy and finning is the foremost activity that is wiping out the population not to mention it is one of the most inhumane acts that could be done to a living creature.

Sincerely,
Bradley P. Wilcox
Waialua, HI

From: Heidi Lee [heidimlee@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 2:18 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Ban shark finning now!

From: Heidi Lee Holloway, Educator and Pacific Whale Foundation Certified Naturalist

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

It is crucial that the bill to ban the sale of shark fins not only passes, but is strictly enforced. This is only the beginning in much needed legislature to protect our oceans and a top predator.

- Sharks are slow growing and have few young, which makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing.
- Shark finning is a brutal and wasteful fishery in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal) are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown.
- The shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture, and may pose a health hazard because of mercury content.
- Shark finning results in the deaths of as many as 70 million sharks a year, which is unsustainable.

heidi leee holloway



EMAILING FOR THE GREATER GOOD

[Join me](#)

From: rainbow valley [office@rainbow-valley-ranch.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 5:28 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs

Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT”

Dear Sir,

with great concern I got informed about shark finning, which is a brutal and wasteful fishery in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal) are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown.

Sharks are slow growing and have few young, which makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing. The shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture, and may pose a health hazard because of mercury content. Shark finning results in the deaths of as many as 70 million sharks a year, which is unsustainable.

Please ban this way of fishing and tortouring of sharks in your country !!!!

Sincerely,

Karin Fröschl

Rainbow Valley Ranch
Szivárvány Völgye Kft.
Quarter Horse Breeding & Sales
Lapapuszta 1
H - 7465 Szentgáloskér
mob. +36 20 9260 858
www.rainbow-valley-ranch.com

From: Christopher Berry [christopherberry@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 6:08 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs

I am Chris Berry from the Dive Locker dive shop in FL and support the ban of sale of sharks fins. Sharks are slow growing and have few young, which makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing.

Shark finning is a brutal and wasteful fishery in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal) are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown. The shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture, and may pose a health hazard because of its high methyl-mercury content.

Shark finning results in the deaths of as many as 70 million sharks a year, which is unsustainable.

Cheers,
Chris

From: Corey Revoir [revoir1984@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 6:21 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: bill

- Sharks are slow growing and have few young, which makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing.
- Shark finning is a brutal and wasteful fishery in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal) are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown.
- The shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture, and may pose a health hazard because of its high methyl-mercury content.
- Shark finning results in the deaths of as many as 70 million sharks a year, which is unsustainable

From: LabsR1st@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 6:27 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: SB 2169

Cynthia St. Clair, private citizen
TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

Dear Sirs,

As a former resident of your beautiful state and a frequent visitor now, I would like to congratulate you on this wonderful bill and pray that you will pass it!

The below reasons are plenty, but as an avid diver I can tell you sharks are a HUGE part of a healthy marine ecosystem AND a HUGE reason many tourists come to your state to dive.

I'll repeat the obvious, but:

- 1)Sharks are slow growing and have few young, which makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing.
- 2)Shark finning is a brutal and wasteful fishery in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal) are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown.
- 3)The shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture, and may pose a health hazard because of its high methyl-mercury content.
- 4)Shark finning results in the deaths of as many as 70 million sharks a year, which is unsustainable.

Again, I pray that you'll pass this bill and thank you for your consideration!

Sincerely,
Cynthia St. Clair
3509 Edgewood Dr.
Amarillo, TX 79109

From: b.depaauw@hotmail.com
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 6:30 AM
To: EBMtestimony

Bob de Paauw

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT.

I am sending this e-mail from Amsterdam the Netherlands. I am sending this in this in support of the bill against shark finning in Hawaii. As Hawaiians you must understand the importance of sharks and the role they play in the oceanic eco system. Also you must be aware of the danger sharks are in as a result of shark finning and other human influences.

Please pass this bill and show the world the importance of sharks not only to the oceanic eco-system but to humanity as well.

Yours truly,
Bob de Paauw.

From: Christina Deros [kattamor1@yahoo.se]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 6:33 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Ban the sale of shark fins!

FROM: Christina Deros, Vollsjo, Sweden
TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

The shark finning must end. It is cruel and inhumane, and it's time to stop the cruelty to animals altogether. Shark finning is a brutal and wasteful fishery in which the fins, less than 5% of the shark's total weight, are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown.

The shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture, and may pose a health hazard because of mercury content.

Also, there are not very many sharks left in our oceans. They are soon to be extinct. They have lived in our oceans for hundreds of millions of years, and I for one think they deserve more respect than we are showing them today.

We must be good teachers for our children.

Stop the shark finning.

I beg of you!

Sincerely,
Christina Deros

Använder du Yahoo!?

Är du trött på spam? Yahoo! E-post har det bästa spamskyddet som finns

<http://se.mail.yahoo.com>

From: Frank Baensch [baenschf001@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 6:34 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs

MEASURE: SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT
DATE: Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
TIME: 8:00 AM

NAME: Frank Baensch
ORGANIZATION: Reef Culture Technologies, Manager

TESTIMONY:

Shark finning is inhumane and wasteful and is the reason why shark populations are endangered worldwide.

I am well aware of this practice outside of US waters but am shocked to find out that it is legal here in Hawaii.

I know that this practice is very lucrative. But at what cost?

Hawaii's ocean ecosystem supports a wealth of resources for locals as well as tourists.

Sharks play an important role in maintaining these resources.

They act on all levels of the food chain, removing sick/weak animals from the population and keeping animals from over-consuming their prey.

The practice and consequences of shark finning is rapidly becoming main stream and people worldwide are siding with the sharks.

Hawaii's position on the matter will no doubt become public.

All activity related to shark finning, including the transport of fins through Hawaii's ports should be outlawed and made a criminal offense.

From: Wolf [wisbert@gmx.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 6:49 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: SB 2169: A bill for an act relating to shark fins

Wolf Isbert
c/Dr. Fléming 3
39005 Santander
Spain

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

Dear Mr. McKelvey,

herewith I would like to ask you to support the bill banning the sale of shark fins with in your state. Considering the biological characteristics of chondrichthyes (e.g. slow growth, few pups etc.) and the current threat to shark and ray populations worldwide caused especially by fishery, acts like this are necessary to impede the loss of these species. The proposed bill could be a next important step to protect these creatures and may also act as a statement giving an example to other states and countries.

Please, support this act!

Best regards, Wolf Isbert

From: Robin Culler [blueskyrc@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 6:56 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: possession, sale, and distribution of shark fins

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to state my feelings on the proposed legislature regarding shark fins. In today's world we are responsible for declines in many animal populations. The sharks play an essential role in the ocean ecosystem. It is not only a humane issue but an environmentally necessary issue. If we are to maintain a healthy balance in our oceans, we need to take more direct action to protect the sharks that remain in it. As over 100 million sharks are being slaughtered each year, we are looking at the very possible extinction of this species in years to come. Many are already on the endangered list and many more should be.

I am in full support of Hawaii passing this bill. It will be a positive step in the right direction. I will look forward to hearing good news.

Sincerely,
Robin Culler
Shark Finatics

From: John Haydock [haydockj@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 7:04 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Support of Shark Finning Ban

FROM: John Haydock - Concerned Citizen and supporter of the Shark Research Institute

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs

Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey

Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am

MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

Please support the measure which would ban the harvesting and sale of shark fins in Hawaii. As a sport fisherman, scuba diver and conservationist, I am opposed to the the current destructive practice of finning sharks for consumption. Sharks are a critical apex predator and are critical to maintaining balance in the ocean ecosystem. Sharks are slow growing and have few young, which makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing. Shark finning is a brutal and wasteful fishery in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal) are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown. The shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture, and may pose a health hazard because of its high methyl-mercury content. Shark finning results in the deaths of as many as 70 million sharks a year, which is unsustainable.

Please support the ban.

Sincerely,

John Haydock

216 Turtleback Crossing

Chapel Hill, NC 27516

From: scubadiver@hvc.rr.com
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 7:13 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: ban on shark fining

I would hope you see the importance of this ban. Sharks are an important key to balance of life in the oceans. Once we disrupt this balance we may never be able to recover. Please help by keeping this ban in place .

Thank You for you time
Richard Wright

From: Hajji Davis [dragonball500@aol.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 7:15 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: It's imperative that the sale of shark fins be banned

I'm all for this bill

Hajji

Sent from my iPhone

From: georgia.tarnesby@novartis.com
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 7:48 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

FROM
Dr Georgia Tarnesby
Vice President, Global Scientific Affairs
Novartis Oncology
Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation
180 Park Avenue, Building 105
Florham Park, NJ 07932-0675
USA

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

Shark finning should be banned and any group that bans shark finning or the sale of shark fin products is to be commended

- Sharks are slow growing and have few young, which makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing.
- Shark finning is a brutal and wasteful fishery in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal) are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown.
- The shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture, and may pose a health hazard because of its high methyl-mercury content.
- Shark finning results in the deaths of as many as 70 million sharks a year, which is unsustainable

Dr Georgia Tarnesby
Vice President, Global Scientific Affairs
Novartis Oncology
Novartis Pharmaceuticals Corporation
180 Park Avenue, Building 105
Florham Park, NJ 07932-0675
USA
Phone: +1 862 778 6986
Fax: +1 973 781 3014
Cell: +1 917 609 3923
Email : georgia.tarnesby@novartis.com

From: ericka [dogdaze@mindspring.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 7:56 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

We are losing our sharks, who have a valued role in the marine ecosystem, through the particularly cruel and pointless activity of finning. This practice is criminal, and therefore should be criminalized, starting by making it difficult, and then impossible, to profit from it.

Ericka Hamburg
travel writer/photographer

From: Tim [jusdoit@cox.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 8:03 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: TO: Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey / Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs

Attention: Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey

Tim Turansick
Vice President South Maui Diving Club

I am writing regarding the current legislaton to ban the sale of shark fins (SB2169).

We are disgusted by the practice of catching sharks, cutting off the fins, and dumping the live animal back in the the ocean to drown. This is the equivilent of cutting off the legs of a cow and leaving it to bleed to death. Additionally, sharks have very slow reproductive cycles.

Please bann the sale of shark fins!

Thank you

From: Mo [modivin1@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 8:04 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Comments on shark fin bill

To whom it may concern,

Please be the first of many states to come to pass a bill protecting the remaining shark population. 75 million sharks are slaughtered every year. As you already stated, Nature has a built in population control for the shark species. That is until man came along. I've read that in Asia, where shark fin soup is a popular delicacy, the name of the soup is translated to fish fin soup. The fin, with no flavor, tastes like noodles. What is the point?

I'm sure if many were educated fully and came to the understanding that consuming shark fin soup will lead to the destruction of the oceans, they would stop. With 70% of the world relying on fish as their protein source, the fish population will no longer be with how things are going currently. It is up to us to set limits/laws on fishing only sustainable and healthy fish. Sharks are clearly not either of these. Full of mercury and population dwindling, I believe 44 species of sharks are on the endangered list.

The other issue is how sharks are captured. Long-line fishing ends up destroying more than sharks, but the delicate ocean environment as well. With dead coral, the ocean dies since it ends up losing needed oxygen levels. No sharks, no coral, no fish. The world relies on a stable oceanic environment. If you have seen the movie, "The Day After Tomorrow," that is a very real and possible scenario. As you see, everything is linked together.

I have already written to Congress in regards to a bill they have on the floor that is to protect sharks and the finning process. By Hawaii passing this bill, it will help reinforce the bill in D.C. Do the right thing.....protect the sharks from being slaughtered. We, as a planet, need them in the oceans swimming, not in a bowl of soup or GNC bottle.

Maureen Leahey

NAUI Diver . Investor . Triathlete in Training
Independent USANA Associate

Mobile: 847.858.2577
Chicago burbs, IL

Contact Me 

--- @ WiseStamp Signature. [Get it now](#)

From: Beth Kane [kanebeth@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 8:19 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: PLEASE have some common sense and compassion regarding our sharks!

Dear authority figures,

I am writing to you because I am seriously concerned about the welfare of our sharks, oceans, and planet. If you're not already aware, let me inform you that the practice of shark finning is brutal, unnecessary and detrimental to the health of the world's seas. When sharks are finned, they perish. Their fins are chopped off and they are dumped back into the ocean to drown or bleed to death. Their fins, which are considered a delicacy, are high in mercury.

Sharks themselves are very important to the oceans' ecosystem. Because they are at the top of the food chain, they control fish populations and maintain ecological balance.

I would also like to debunk a myth out there about these creatures: they do not pursue humans for food! Every year, because of mistaken identity, they accidentally kill about 7 of us, while we purposely kill over 100 MILLION of them. Almost all species of sharks are already endangered or critically endangered. Please do not let this slaughter continue.

I ask you in your political career to make decisions in sharks' best interest, including your vote on SB2169.

Sincere thanks,
Elizabeth Kane
518-445-5575

From: Neil Hammerschlag [nhammerschlag@rsmas.miami.edu]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 8:38 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

I Strongly urge you to ban shark finning in Hawaii waters!!

-Sharks are slow growing and have few young, which makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing.

-Shark finning is a brutal and wasteful fishery in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal) are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown.

-The shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture, and may pose a health hazard because of its high methyl-mercury content.

-Shark finning results in the deaths of as many as 70 million sharks a year, which is unsustainable

Thank you,

--

Neil Hammerschlag, Ph.D.

Research Assistant Professor,
Rosenstiel School of Marine & Atmospheric Science (RSMAS) & Leonard & Jayne Abess Center for
Ecosystem Science & Policy

Director, RJ Dunlap Marine Conservation Program

University of Miami
4600 Rickenbacker Cswy, Miami, Florida, 33149

E-mail: nhammerschlag@rsmas.miami.edu
O: 305.421.4356 F: 305.421.4675 C: 954.815.0920

Personal Website: <http://www.neilhammer.com>

Dunlap Program: <http://www.rjd.miami.edu>

The information and opinions presented in this email do not necessarily reflect those of any affiliate organizations.

The information contained in this e-mail message, together with any attachments or links contained herein, is confidential and intended only for the use of the recipient named above.

From: S A SCHROTH [saschroth@msn.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 8:54 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs

Sandra Schroth
Edward Sauer
Watering Life Productions & Design,

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

Dear Mr Chairman,

How uplifting to hear about MEASURE SB2169, SD2. PLEASE, PLEASE PASS THIS MEASURE!
Our suggestions are to increase the fine to \$50,000 or more and seizing their ship or boat, using any money from sale of scrap metal for the enforcement of this law.

For those dealing in shark fins a mere \$15,000 would be just added into the cost of doing business.

As avid scuba divers and underwater videographers we have seen the numbers of sharks dwindle and we have video of what can happen to the vital reef system. After all, the planet is 75% water. Are we so greedy and willing to take the risk of upsetting the balance of nature in that sensitive eco system when it could ultimately kill us as well? I would hope not! However it seems some are unaware.

Sincerely
Sandra Schroth
Edward Sauer

From: Mickey Rosenberg [mickeyrosenberg@cox.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 9:06 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: SB 2169

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

Dear Sir: For the future health of the oceans and your Grandchildren, I urge you to support SB 2169.

Dr. Michael Rosenberg
*Clinical Assistant Professor
Family Medicine

335 Hope Street
Providence, R.I. 02906
401-272-1832

Michael_Rosenberg@brown.edu

*Teaching appointee of



BROWN
Alpert Medical School

From: shawn gould [bluedog4@mac.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 9:06 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: SB 2169 PLEASE PASS ATTN: Angus L. K. McKelvey

To: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L. K. Mc Kelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010 *AM
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

From: Shawn Gould
Former Vice President, Native Animal Rescue
Santa Cruz, Ca. 95060

Dear Chairman McKelvey,

I fully support this bill banning the sale of shark fins. Sharks are particularly vulnerable to overfishing because they are so slow to mature and reproduce, In addition this shark finning is extremely cruel and wasteful. I encourage Hawaii to take a stand against this practice and set an example to the rest of the world.

Thank you for your consideration.
Sincerely,
Shawn Gould

From: Will Noble [will@wnoble.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 9:08 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: In Support of SB 2169: A bill for an act relating to shark fins

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

I am urging you to pass this bill and help reserve this wonderful animal. I have had the pleasure of photographing sharks many times since I began diving but in the last few years its been harder and harder to see them. Please pass this bill so our children will not be deprived of this wonderful creature.

Thank you,

Will Noble
Phone: (218) 296-6253
Fax: (619) 684-3992
email: will@wnoble.com

From: Elissa Hanson [elissahanson@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 9:12 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Public Comment on Shark Fin Ban

-Elissa Hanson
Artistic Director of YETIP/evihans Productions

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

Hawaii is a stunning example of the delicate beauty of nature. The ocean plays a huge role in Hawaiian culture and conduct, that alone should be reason enough to secure the lasting condition of our oceans. Not yet do we understand the full repercussions of our actions, yet we know how vital each organism is to the larger scheme. Being a top predator, sharks have prodigious effect on the way things work in the deep blue. They deserve our respect, the mindless slaughter must stop. This bill is a step in the right direction. Preserve our oceans and our species. The illogical killing of sharks has gone on too long; we have raped these animals of their birthright to be able to grow to full maturity, reproduce, and sustain their genus. Countless sharks have been brutally drowned, eaten alive, and left for dead so that soup can have a certain touch? That is a despicable display of human privilege. This earth is a gift, I will no longer watch people act as insolent brutes towards it. Please pass this bill, and adhere to it closely. This is more important than we know.

Elissa Hanson

From: megalodon45@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 9:15 AM
To: EBMtestimony

PLEASE, PLEASE PASS THIS BILL! SAVE THE SHARKS!

Thank you,
Tracie

From: Katie Logan Richardson [kloganrichardson@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 9:21 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: vote FOR SB 2169 S2=save the sharks

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

Hello;

I am currently overseas on a non=querty keyboard so please excuse the ackward writing. I strongly urge the state of Hawaii to ban the sale of shark fins; primarily used for shark fin soup. Despite their unfair image; sharks are killed by humans at a rate that has landed several on the endangered species list: the ocean needs its top predators to maintain its balance.

Furthermore, the act of finning is cruel as the animal is alive then dumped rudderless back into the sea to die. Finning is also a very wasteful practice. Please heed the knowledge of marine biologists; environmentalists: and the American people=ban the sale of shark fins=VOTE FOR this bill.

Thank you for your time
Katie Logan Richardson; LCSW
Little Rock Arkansas

From: bdbrown@optonline.net
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 9:44 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: SB 2169: A bill for an act relating to shark fins

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

I completely support a ban on shark fin sales. Shark finning is a brutal and wasteful fishery in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal) are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown. This is completely unacceptable and must be stopped.

Donna Brown
Concerned citizen

From: MMMMahalo2000@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 9:46 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: SUPPORT FOR SB 2169 3/9/0 8AM

Aloha Chair McKelvey and committee: Testimony in support of SB 2169 on 3/9/10 at 8 AM

Conference room: 312

Testifier position: support

Testifier will be present: No

Submitted by: Mike Moran

Organization: Individual

Address: Maui, HI

Phone:

E-mail: mmmmahalo2000@aol.com

Submitted on: 3/7/2010

Comments:

Please pass this bill to stop this barbaric dangerous process. Mahalo

From: William W Spurlock [krinlock@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 9:50 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Measure SB2169, SD2

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business and Military
Affairs

Chairman Angus L K McKelvey
Hearing on March 9, 2010, 8AM
MEASURE SB2169 IN SUPPORT

This is an important Bill - probably the first of it's kind in the United States. It is long over due. The fishing vessels that catch these sharks for their fins, cut the fins off

while the sharks are still alive and throw them back in the ocean. What a horrible way to die, not to mention the imbalance to the ocean environment with the continued loss of shark populations.

You might think that I am a misplaced tree hugger. That is not the case at all. My son spent 7 years out on the fishing boats in the Pacific. It is not nice. Ask any Micronesian or Pacific Islander what has happened to all the sharks around their island waters.

Not very long ago the Republic of Palau caught 2 fishing vessels illegally fishing in their waters. The boats were full of shark fins. The Government confiscated the vessels, BURNED THE SHARK FINS as a reminder to other nations of Palau's zero tolerance for this kind of thing. Palau could have sold those fins for big bucks on the asian market. They chose instead to set an example.

I thank you for taking the time to read this letter.

Respectfully,

Marilee Krinitt
Puna District, Big Island

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 10:24 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Cc: kailuaangel@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 3/9/2010 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for EBM 3/9/2010 8:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: ginger westerman
Organization: Individual
Address: pob 44 kailua
Phone: 808 386-6544
E-mail: kailuaangel@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/7/2010

Comments:

Very cruel acts against innocent creatures. Please pass this bill in the shark's favor.

From: C. Ellsworth [olpoke@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 10:50 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Measure SB2169, SD2 In Support

Callie Ellsworth, student of Marine Biology, former resident of Hawai'i
TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

As a former resident of Hawai'i and a Marine Biology student with plans to specialize in sharks, I urge you to support this bill. The shark finning industry is cruel, wasteful, destructive, and has no worthwhile purpose.

Sharks are taken from the water, their fins are sliced off, and then their finless bodies are tossed back into the ocean to drown. The fin weight accounts for less than 5% of the shark's total weight. We also must consider that sharks will not typically reach sexual maturity until 25 years of age and they have few young. This industry claims the lives of more than 70 million sharks annually, and for what purpose? The fins are used to make shark fin soup. However, the fins are primarily cartilage and do not flavor the soup in any way. This purpose of the soup is one of social status only. The fins are also used in a variety of supplements, even though scientists have proven time and time again that there are no health benefits to consuming shark fins/meat. Rather, sharks have a high mercury content in their bodies which poses a health risk to any who eat them.

Sharks are intelligent, beautiful animals, not mindless killing machines. I strongly urge you to support this bill. Thank you for taking the time to read my message and hear my voice for the sharks.

Sincerely,
Callie A. Ellsworth
(808) 206-1016
olpoke@yahoo.com

From: Shiloh Pyne [shipyne177@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 10:58 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Shark Finning

FROM: Shiloh Pyne - concerned citizen/ocean life supporter

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

Please, PLEASE take into consideration the following points when making your choice.

Hawaii, along with a number of other places is a favorite ocean spot for many different varieties of sharks. Sharks are slow growing and have few young, which makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing. Currently, many sharks lose their lives to accidentally being caught in giant commercial lines that not only kill many ocean animals, but also so much ocean vegetation (which I realize is an entirely different subject). There are sharks that have already become extinct in places that they used to be found in bountiful numbers.

Shark finning is a brutal and wasteful act in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal) are removed while the shark is still alive, and the "less-valuable" rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown. If these were another endangered animal, such as tigers or polar bears, would we sit aside while poachers removed their claws and teeth so that they could slowly die as well? The fact that sharks are feared seems to make their lives less valuable to so many. Finning is still an extremely cruel and disgusting way to treat another creature, regardless of fear of that animal.

As far as adding the fin to soup (which I find ridiculous) the shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture, and may pose a health hazard because of its high methyl-mercury content.

Shark finning results in the deaths of as many as 70 million sharks a year, which is unsustainable. What people fail to realize so often is that sharks are a very important part of the very fragile cycle of life in the ocean... and that what happens in the ocean, directly effects what happens on land. If cycles are out of balance in the ocean, it will WITHOUT A DOUBT effect life on land. Sharks are at the top of the food chain in the ocean and help to maintain balances of life in the ocean. Without them, many populations grow substantially and cause imbalance in the ocean.

Please think of the ocean as a wildlife reserve. Humans are by far the most devastating effect on many different lives in the ocean and out of it. Don't make this decision out of fear, but rather out of concern for another creature that is just as important as us in the great circle of life. This issue is SO important -- please be a leader in stopping this gruesome act of cruelty!

Thank you for your time,
Shiloh Pyne

From: Rosemary Karlsson [rosemarykarlsson@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 11:01 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: SB 2169 Shark Finning

Please make shark finning a felony. It is a horrible form of abuse.

Rosemary Karlsson
PO Box 492266
Keeau, HI 96749
808-966-6589

From: herbert kollmann [herbert.kollmann@gmx.at]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 11:34 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: *****SPAM***** MEASURE SB2169

Herbert Kollmann, Marine Biologist

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

Dear Mr. Mc Kelvey,

Though my wife and I are not residents of Hawai, but as previous visitors to Hawai and as concerned and passionate scuba divers, we would like to express our support for the discussed bill SB 2169 regarding shark finning. The facts below are well known and as a Marine Biologist I can only stress the fact that sharks are decimated over the last decade in a frightening speed- shark finning is one of the main reasons.

- Sharks are slow growing and have few young, which makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing.
- Shark finning is a brutal and wasteful fishery in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal) are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown.
- The shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture, and may pose a health hazard because of its high methyl-mercury content.
- Shark finning results in the deaths of as many as 70 million sharks a year, which is unsustainable

Thank you in advance for a wise decision which puts Hawai well in advance of other states and countries world wide!

Kindest Regards

Herbert Kollmann & Simone Gareis

From: cdemott@mauiprep.org
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 11:49 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Measure SB 2169, SD2 - IN SUPPORT

FROM: Carrie DeMott - Science and Math Teacher, Maui Preparatory Academy

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

Aloha,

I am a science educator and member of the Maui community. I have just returned from Oahu with our states 1st place winners of the State Science Olympiad, Division B tournament. We will be representing Hawaii at the national competition this spring. Our school is very active in the community and tries to instill a sense of community service and responsibility in our students.

Banning the sale of shark finning is a necessary step in promoting stewardship on our ocean planet. As the only US state that resides in the center of the Pacific, we should be role models. Here, we are the first to see the damage that has been done to our ecosystems through careless consumption of ocean animals and senseless pollution.

Shark finning is cruel and harmful to our ocean environment. Destroying these predators weakens our fish populations. I have witnessed the mess of shark finning first hand in the Galapagos and Costa Rica. When I lived in Costa Rica the illegal shark finning industry was brought to light through video. These videos showed fisherman pulling in sharks, cutting off their fins, and tossing their living bodies back into the water to die. When the people of Costa Rica realized what was happening many politicians lost their jobs. The people lost trust in the individuals they elected to lead their country.

I teach a marine science class to students on Maui and we studied the disgusting and wasteful practice of shark finning this past fall. The students were outraged to learn that businesses on Maui sold shark fin products. We have boycotted restaurants that they sell shark fin soup. Our high school students had one question, "Why do they allow it in Hawaii?" They could not believe that it was legal in our state! Our children assume that we are making responsible decisions for them. When they learn otherwise we have lost their trust.

Please stop the ignorant, destructive, cruel, and wasteful practice of shark finning by making it illegal to sell or purchase shark fin products in Hawaii. It will not stop Japanese tourism. If anything, it may earn Hawaii the respect that it deserves. How can we call ourselves an ecotourism destination and promote the beauty of our oceans when we actively take part in their ultimate destruction? Please take this small step. The residents of this state will support you. It is the right thing to do.

Mahalo,

Carrie DeMott
Science and Math teacher
Maui Preparatory Academy

From: Anthony Earthen [unsted@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 12:08 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: SB 2169

From : Anthony Earthen, concerned citizen of the United States
TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

To whom it concerns:

I would like to wholeheartedly offer my praise for SB2169 and the state of Hawaii's efforts against shark finning. Several facts are in agreement with the bill...

- Sharks are slow growing and have few young, which makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing.
- Shark finning is a brutal and wasteful fishery in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal) are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown.
- The shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture, and may pose a health hazard because of its high methyl-mercury content.
- Shark finning results in the deaths of as many as 70 million sharks a year, which is unsustainable

Once again, I look forward to this bill passing. It is a step in the right direction to save the depleted populations of sharks. The next step will be to ban shark fin soup.

Thank you for your efforts,
Anthony Earthen
4039 Brant St, Apt D
San Diego, CA 92103

From: Paula Moreno Laborda [paulitamoreno@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 12:29 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: SB 2169: A bill for an act relating to shark fins

Paula Moreno

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

- Sharks are slow growing and have few young, which makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing.
- Shark finning is a brutal and wasteful fishery in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal) are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown.
- The shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture, and may pose a health hazard because of its high methyl-mercury content.
- Shark finning results in the deaths of as many as 70 million sharks a year, which is unsustainable

From: Jo [siula.grande.peru@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 12:40 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: SB 2169: A bill for an act relating to shark fins

- (Jo Adams - Diver)
- TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
- Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
- MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

To all committee members:

Sharks are slow growing - it takes 25 years for them to reach sexual maturity. They spend their first 7 to 8 years of life at deep depths in shark nursery's fending for themselves until they are mature enough to leave. They have few young, which makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing.

Please, you have the power to protect them, use it wisely. Without sharks, life in the oceans will alter irretrievably and so too will life on land.

Thank you.

From: Courtney Box [courtbox@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 12:42 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: SB 2169

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

From: jill linta [kerrouac@msn.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 12:57 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Shark Finning Ban

Please ban shark finning and shark fin products. It is fantastic that your state is taking the lead on this issue!

Jill Linta, shark advocate
Harrisburg, Pennsylvania

Your E-mail and More On-the-Go. Get Windows Live Hotmail Free. [Sign up now.](#)

From: aimee wilmette [aimeewilmette@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 1:01 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: SB 2169

Aimee Wilmette
Entrepreneur/Wife and Mother of three/Concerned citizen
To: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
Measure SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

To whom it may concern,

I am writing you on behalf of bill "SB 2169" which will ban the sale of shark finning within your state. In doing so you will be making a statement to the world that you will not tolerate this senseless practice that kills as many as 70 million sharks a year.

Sharks are slow growing and do not have many babies, which makes them vulnerable to overfishing. Also, the finning itself is a horrific act. The fisherman cuts off the fins while the shark is still alive and then dumps the shark overboard where it bleeds and drowns to death. Not only is this very cruel, but it is a waste.

The shark fin itself is made of cartilage which adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup and even poses a health hazard because of its high methyl-mercury content. Also, it is sold at such a high price that only the very rich can afford to buy it.

The sharks are the top predators in the ocean and control our entire ecosystem. Two-thirds of our planet is water. At the rate that they are killing these sharks, what will happen to our oceans and our planet?

We need to stop shark finning before its too late, for us, for the sharks, and for all of our future.

Thank you for taking the time out to read this. I pray for your continued support to stop shark finning by passing bill "SB 2169."

Be blessed and be a blessing,

Aimee Wilmette
858-531-2745
www.mymonavie.com/wilmette

From: H Douglas Falls [h_falls@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 1:16 PM
To: EBMtestimony

Shark finning is a horrendous action, that not only will result in the total devastation of precious creatures and resources, but will have long-term negative consequences on the health of entire marine ecosystems, as sharks are apex predators. Please enforce a ban on this myopic crime.

H. Douglas Falls
Research scientist
Abbott Laboratories
Abbott Park, IL.

From: Thompson, Brad [Bradley.Thompson@ca.weatherford.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 1:37 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

I am writing to express my support for Bill "B 2169: A bill for an act relating to shark fins".
Thanks for taking the lead in banning the trade in shark fins. I believe that the legal trade in shark fins encourages the
cruel and wasteful practice of shark finning. Your bill is a brave step towards maintaining healthy ocean ecosystems.
Sincerely,

.....
Brad Thompson
MWD Supervisor
Weatherford Directional Services
.....

=====
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This message is intended for the individual or entity addressed herein.
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From: Barbara Beck [Barbara.K.Beck@gsk.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 1:52 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey, Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am, MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

From: Barbara Beck

Concerned citizen

Dear Mr McKelvey

Please support the measure (SB2169)to ban the sale of shark fins in Hawaii.

The practice of shark finning is brutal, inhumane, and is depleting the populations of sharks to dangerously low levels. It is an unsustainable, brutal fishery, costing in the ballpark of 70 million sharks a year and has caused and will continue to cause deleterious effects to the ocean ecology.

Thank you

Regards,

Barbara Beck

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 1:59 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Cc: selkie@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 3/9/2010 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for EBM 3/9/2010 8:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Catherine Goeggel
Organization: Animal Rights Hawai'i
Address:
Phone: 808 7214211
E-mail: selkie@hawaii.rr.com
Submitted on: 3/7/2010

Comments:

Please support this bill- the practice os shark finning is cruel, wasteful and deleterious to our ocean environment.

With aloha,
Cathy Goeggel
President
Animal Rights Hawai'i

From: David Fleetham [dfleetham@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 2:16 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

David Fleetham
professional photographer
www.davidfleetham.com

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

Aloha Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey,

I am a professional underwater photographer based on Maui where I have lived for the past 23 years. I have photographed sharks through out the world including Hawaii, South Africa, Australia, Mexico, Bahamas, Palau, Chuuk, Yap, Thailand and Indonesia.

For over thirty years I have had the good fortune to be able to document the life in our planets oceans and sadly watch the unwitting decay and deterioration of our marine resources first hand. The situation is dire for sharks as they are being emptied out of our oceans and into bowls of soup at an alarming rate. Sharks have been slaughtered in astonishing numbers to the point where several species are now considered completely wiped out in some areas with little hope of them ever being found there again. A combination of misinformation from Hollywood depicting sharks as blood thirsty killers and ignorance has brought these calm, careful, cautious and magnificent creatures to their collective knees.

A great majority of mankind are unaware of how essential the oceans are to our planet and it's functions. Day to day life, for many of the earth's residents, is too great a struggle to be able to be concerned. There is an unspoken responsibility for those of us who are lucky enough to spend time in the liquid side of our world. We must do our utmost to bring attention to this dire track that we find ourselves on. No effort is too small.

As we lose biodiversity in the oceans we come closer to collapsing ecosystems that the entire planet depends upon its existence. Sharks are incredibly important to the oceans and the need to protect them has been around for quite some time now. We must act soon. This bill is a wonderful step in the right direction. If you have any questions please feel free to contact me. -

--

David Fleetham
david@davidfleetham.com

From: lindian@ite.net
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 2:35 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

Linda Tatreau
Marine Biology Teacher
Marine Mania, Advisor
George Washington High School
Mangilao, Guam

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs Chairman Angus L.K.
McKelvey Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

I have been teaching my students to respect and value sharks for 20 years.
400 million years of evolution.

Apex predators.

Many species now endangered.

Other populations drastically reduced.

What will the oceans be like without sharks? We don't know. For millions of years ocean life has survived in a balance. Now humans are rapidly removing the top of the food chain—mainly for soup, a food with little taste or nutritional value. Sharkfin soup is a fad food eaten as a status symbol. Are people ignorant or do they just not care?

I am thrilled that Hawaii is taking action to help stop the practice of shark finning.

Please continue to support this bill. Hawaii can be an example for the rest of the United States and the World. I hope Guam can follow your example in the near future.

I read dozens of letters submitted to the Senate on this bill. Every letter was in support.

Thanks for caring, Linda

From: Craig & Sue Grube [grube@cox.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 2:42 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: SB2169

Craig Grube, Board of Trustees, Virginia Aquarium and Marine Science Museum

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

I urge support for SB2169, sharks of many types are being finned to near the point of extinction. Finning is a horrible wasteful process as well as a brutal one. Please support a bank on the sale of shark fins in Hawaii.

Thank you,

Craig Grube

From: Sandra Critelli [ale.ncp@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 2:55 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Shark finning

FROM : Sandra Critelli ,
Designer, Nature Photographer

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

Shark finning is a brutal and wasteful fishery in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal) are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown.

The shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture, and may pose a health hazard because of its high methyl-mercury content.

Shark finning results in the deaths of as many as 70 million sharks a year, which is unsustainable

--
Sandra Critelli
ale.ncp@gmail.com

SAVE PAPER - Please don't print this e-mail unless necessary

From: zhara.mahlstedt@gmail.com on behalf of Hawaii Shark Encounters
[reservations@hawaiiisharkencounters.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 2:56 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Measure SB2169 SD2 IN SUPPORT

From: Zhara Mahlstedt, Hawaii Shark Encounters

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

Please help protect the sharks. This is an extremely important measure for a vast amount of reasons including that **sharks are a vital component to our ocean ecosystem**. Shark finning is contributing to the DECIMATION of the shark population. **Over 100 million sharks per year die!** Taking care of sharks, apex predators who keep the oceans healthy, is a necessary step in taking care of the oceans as a whole.

Sincerely,

--
Zhara Mahlstedt
Hawaii Shark Encounters, Inc
Phone: 808-351-9373, Fax: 808-637-9757
P.O. Box 400
Haleiwa, HI 96712
www.hawaiiisharkencounters.com

From: Zhara Mahlstedt [love.inspires@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 3:03 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

FROM: Tavia Wilcox, Community Member of Waialua, HI

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

Please protect the sharks. The inhumane practice of shark finning is wiping out the shark population at an alarming rate. The consequences of this practice going unchecked is undoubtedly going to cause havoc to the health of the oceans. You can not remove an apex predator from any environment and not have serious consequences to the rest of the environment.

Thank you for your consideration in helping protect the sharks and the world's oceans.

Sincerely,

Tavia S. Wilcox
Concerned Community Member
Waialua, Oahu

From: classychef1@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 3:13 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

Please support a full ban on shark finning. Shark finning is a destructive practice wasting 95% of the shark. Sharks have a slow reproductive cycle, making them vulnerable to overfishing.

From: Corrie Sjoblom [casjoblom@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 3:21 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: SB2169 In Support

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

I am writing to express my support for Bill "B 2169: A bill for an act relating to shark fins".

Thanks for taking the lead in banning the trade in shark fins. I believe that the legal trade in shark fins encourages the cruel and wasteful practice of shark finning. Your bill is a brave step towards maintaining healthy ocean ecosystems.

Sincerely,
Corrie A Sjoblom

From: lisa naumann [misanoel@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 3:57 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

From: Lisa Naumann, US citizen and registered voter
TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

I want to express my support for the ban on shark-finning.

The current assault on the oceans' apex predators threatens to disturb delicately-balanced marine ecosystems. The following quote is from an April 25, 2005 article entitled Without Sharks, Food Chain Crumbles

"When sharks are overfished, the carnivorous fish they feed on increase in number. The carnivorous fish, in turn, prey on parrotfish, which normally graze for plant life on the reef. Since there are less parrotfish to eat the algae off the coral, the entire identity of the reef changes from coral to algae dominated, according to the authors. Thus overfishing of sharks may contribute further to the loss of resistance of coral reefs to multiple human disturbances."

The full text of the article can be found at
http://www.livescience.com/imageoftheday/siod_050425.html

Please do your part to maintain healthy shark numbers, thereby ensuring the health of the world's endangered coral reefs.

VOTE TO BAN SHARK-FINNING!

From: BoopFish@aol.com
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 4:45 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

Bette Zirkelbach
TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

To Whom it May Concern:

I am writing to express my support of measure SB2169, SD2

Sharks are slow growing and have few young, which makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing. This measure is much needed to help protect our shark populations.

Thank you for your consideration in this very important matter.

Sincerely,

Bette Zirkelbach

From: Marie Ferguson [tatazina@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 4:49 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Testimony IN SUPPORT of Bill SB2169, SD2

Testimony of Marie Ferguson

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

Dear Chairman McKelvey,

I'de like to start off by mentioning that I would like to be at the hearing in person to state my testimony but am unable to due to my participation on a marine science research cruise in American Samoa. As such, my involvement in marine science over the past 10 years and conducting intensive field work along several tropical and temperate reef ecosystems throughout the Pacific has been essential and invaluable in exposing the real threats the marine environment faces, primarily due to human impact. And one of the obvious and most prominent examples of these human induced threats I experience and see while conducting research is a degradation of the overall shark population in areas directly and indirectly affected by humans.

Most often the reefs that we visit which are isolated and not impacted by human pressure do, in fact, have a healthy ecosystem in tact and you do see a "normal" prominent shark population. Sharks are an extremely important part of an ecosystem as they are a 'keystone' species and at the top of the food chain (meaning they maintain a healthy balance to the overall ecosystem and food chain). But when their population declines, the ecosystem experiences a drastic increase or decrease in other species' populations, disrupting the healthy balance within that ecosystem. And, when we visit reefs that are affected by human pressure, it is rare to see sharks. And it deeply saddens me to see this apparent disruption because it is obvious that without sharks the rest of the ecosystem will be negatively affected.

Sharks have little if any protection within law or management. This is something I have never understood as science proves over and over again the importance of sharks within ecosystems. Reports and data show that shark populations are declining worldwide due to human pressure (ie- exploited for their fins, bycatch in commercial fishing nets, etc.) yet, we as people, do nothing about it.

I strongly believe that bill SB2169,SD2 should be passed for several reasons. Passing this bill would be a huge step in shark conservation. Hawaii has an opportunity to set a precedent for other coastal states to follow and implement and be THE example to follow. The marine environment plays a vital role in the Hawaiian community and maintaining the health of this ecosystem as a whole for future generations is not only our responsibility but it is essential.

I can't help but feel that it is our responsibility and duty to care for the marine environment that we are a part of . We must set an example for our children. Passing Bill SB2169,SD2 would be a huge step in this direction. Thank you for your time and consideration in hearing this testimony.

Marie Ferguson

From: Pamela Gamble [pamela.gamble@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 5:17 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Bill "B2169" Support

Pamela Gamble
Educational Assistant
Spruce Grove Composite High School

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

I am writing to express my support for Bill "B 2169: A bill for an act relating to shark fins".

Thanks for taking the lead in banning the trade in shark fins. I believe that the legal trade in shark fins encourages the cruel and wasteful practice of shark finning. Your bill is a brave step towards maintaining healthy ocean ecosystems.

Sincerely,

Pamela Gamble

Live connected with Messenger on your phone [Learn more.](#)

From: Peter Lyddon [peter.lyddon@q.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 5:39 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Shark Finning

From: Peter Lyddon, Owner, Gobe Divers, Littleton, Colorado
To: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

As a dive shop owner, travel agent and frequent traveller, I ask for your support of this measure. I think it important to recognize that the vitality of our oceans is inextricably linked to survival of the sharks, which is also linked to the continued survival of my business and the desirability of Hawaii as a dive destination for my clients.

Thank you for your consideration and support of Measure SB2169, SD2

Peter Lyddon

From: MARIANA ALMEIDA [selvaeco@panchonet.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 5:55 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: RAINFOREST-Life Without Frontiers Foundation (Fundacion SELVA-Vida Sin Fronteras)

Importance: High

Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

Dear Mr. Angus L.K. Mckelvey.

We wish to congratulate the decision of the government of Hawaii for the proposed bill banning the sale of shark fins within their state. "SB 2169: A bill for an act relating to shark fins"

As for sure you know Mr. Mckelvey, sharks play a vital role as a top predators of the oceans, keeping marine ecosystems healthy and in balance by managing populations of other marine species. That predation in turn keeps the populations of lower-tier marine creatures in check. Unfortunately, shark populations globally are being devastated by the demand of the Asiatic markets.

We kindly request you to take into consideration the following points of view as part of our adhesion to the bill banning the sale of sharks fins within your State.

Sharks are slow growing and have few young, which makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing. Shark fining is a brutal and wasteful fishery in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal) are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown. The shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture, and may pose a health hazard because of its high methyl-mercury content. Shark fining results in the deaths of as many as 70 million sharks a year, which is unsustainable

Yours sincerely,

Fundación SELVA-Vida Sin Fronteras
Mariana Almeida
Executive President
www.selvaeco.org

From: Ana Cosio [scubamom1234@hotmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 6:05 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: sharks

From: Ana Cosio..... shark lover, scuba diver, ocean lover, elementary school teacher

To: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169,
SD2 IN SUPPORT

Please.... Shark finning is a brutal and wasteful practice, in which the fins are removed while the shark is still alive, and then dumped overboard to bleed to death and drown. Please help us keep our oceans alive with these invaluable, gorgeous , and mysterious creatures.

Thank you for your consideration,
Ana Cosio

Hotmail: Powerful Free email with security by Microsoft. [Get it now.](#)

From: Marg [boxcar2some@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 6:18 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: MEASURE SB2169, SD2 - IN SUPPORT

To: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs, Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey

Re: Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am; ban the sale of shark fins.

Congratulations to a forward thinking and humane State; we have no doubt this ban will pass. May the rest of the world recognize and follow your lead in banning shark finning.

Not only is this a major cause of the alarming decline in shark population, which is endangering the fragile ocean balance; it is an abhorrent and incredibly brutal torture of an amazing animal. And for what? The claim that the shark fin has any 'powers' has been proven to be a totally myth, and this, incredibly, is the only reason misguided people drink shark fin soup; it doesn't even add any flavour!

What an absolute waste of life and destruction of a species.

Thankyou, thankyou, thankyou. One more reason to continue to tell everyone who will listen – Hawaii is the best!

M & R Woolley, Vancouver, Canada – frequent Hawaii visitors for many years

From: Diana McPherson [dimcp40@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 7:40 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: SB 2169

Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

My family & I love to visit Hawaii. One of the many treasures of the Islands is the variety of shark species. I've been up close with the Galapagos sharks in particular several times. They are one the many majestic creatures in the ocean. I have swam with and photographed numerous species of sharks in various locations. This most horrific act placed upon this beautiful creature is a travesty and must be stopped. Please don't allow the purchase and possession of their fins. Hopefully with no market, the fishermen will stop harvesting. And, hopefully, before it's too late.

Diana McPherson

F.I.N. Photography (Friends In Nature Photography)

From: Stephanie Baccarella [sbaccarella@gmail.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 7:45 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: In SUPOPRT of MEASURE SB2169, SD2

Dear Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey,

My name is Stephanie Baccarella. I am a graduate student conducting shark and stingray research at the University of New South Wales, Australia. My citizenship is with the USA, though I think this issue goes beyond US waters and concerns.

Shark finning is unexcusable. If it were performed on land, with land animals, people would be horrified. Less than 5% of the animal is used during shark finning. The fins are removed while the shark is alive. The shark is then dumped overboard where they bleed to death or drown. It is a horrible thing that we do to these beautiful animals.

Sharks need our help. They mature late in life, which means that we need to leave them in the waters for at least 20 years until they can produce offspring that will replace them in the foodchain. Unfortunately, overfishing of sharks- through shark finning- greatly reduces the number of sharks that reach maturity and bear young. Thus making shark finning unsustainable.

Please support this issue at the hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010.

Thank you and enjoy this beautiful day!

Regards,
Stephanie

From: Senor Pescado [info@senorpescado.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 8:06 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs

we violently oppose any and all shark finning any where in the world
and it is now illegal in El Salvador and will be strictly enforced

and any and all illegal asian or other boats fishing in our waters off central america
violators will be met with force on MY part...

you folks corrupt, stupid, or just bought off, by chink or jap interests INCREDIBLE the GREED

decorum is not one of my fine points I am a surfer waterman 45 years
wake up fools
I am amazed this is allowed to even be considered
Viva El Frente/Verde
Viva Capn. Paul Watson and Greenpeace

MICHAEL W. JOHNSON
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FAX 859.406.4650 World
Cell: 503.7397.6105 El Salvador
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Commercial Sites
www.senorpescado.com
www.coastalcarolinaseafood.com

Social Sites

www.dolphindynasty.org
www.fairtradefish.org
www.fishermensculturalsociety.org
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From: Sarah Fisk [sarahfisk@mac.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 8:32 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: in defense of sharks and legitimate shark tourism

FROM: Sarah Fisk, PhD
Consultant/Psychologist

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

Dear Chairman McKelvey,

I understand there are some decisions to be made regarding the welfare and "use" of sharks in U.S. waters and that you will be a part of these decisions. I am a scuba diver, and passionate about biodiversity - especially in the oceans. Sharks are an integral part of the ocean community, and an indicator of the health of an ecosystem. They are one of the most ancient forms of life, and so beautiful to see. I spend time in the Hawaiian Islands and in the Fiji Islands and I know how important sharks are to the cultures of these two island groups.

I respectfully ask you to act on behalf of sharks in your decisions. A healthy shark population is no danger to humans and in fact is a great boom to the economy of Hawaii. More and more people are interested in seeing sharks instead of believing the misconceptions that they are some kind of blood-thirsty monster.

In addition I would ask that take whatever steps you can to ban the barbaric practice of shark finning. To cut body parts off a living creature and leave it to die a slow torturous death is morally wrong.

Many thanks,

Sarah Fisk

Sarah Fisk, PhD
510-915-1453
sarahfisk@mac.com

From: Diana [diana@odorofpears.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 8:51 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Support SB 2169, SD2

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

Dear Senator McKelvey,

Please support this bill banning shark finning.

As you may know, shark finning is a horrible practice. The fins, comprising less than 5% of the shark's weight, are sliced off without anesthetic while the animal is still alive. Then the shark is dumped back into the ocean to die a slow, painful death. As many as 70 million sharks die from finning every year. Sharks mature slowly and produce few offspring, so this wasteful butchery could well drive sharks to extinction.

Shark fin soup gains no flavor from shark fins. The fins add texture to the soup, along with mercury. Surely we can live without shark fin soup.

Please protect these magnificent animals. Nature needs sharks.

Yours truly,
Diana Blackwell

From: annmarie@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 8:57 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Cc: Rep. Angus McKelvey; Rep. Isaac W. Choy
Subject: SUPPORT FOR SB 2169; Prohibiting shark fins/finning

Testimony in Strong Support of SB 2169 Relating to Shark Fins
House Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business and Military Affairs Committee Members
March 9, 2010 8am

Aloha to the Economic Revitalization, Business and Military Affairs 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 *ali'i*, 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.

From: Richard Turgeon [richard_turgeon@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 9:22 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Stop shark finning NOW

Richard Turgeon, author (www.richardturgeon.com)
TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

- Sharks are slow growing and have few young, which makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing.
- Shark finning is a brutal, cruel, immoral and completely wasteful fishery in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal) are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown.
- The shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture, and may pose a health hazard because of its high methyl-mercury content.
- Shark finning results in the deaths of as many as 70 million sharks a year, which is unsustainable
[Info via Shark Research Institute: <http://www.sharks.org>]
For more action alerts, visit: <http://www.neilhammer.com/shark-conservation.html>

Thank you.

- Richard

From: Alec Connah [alec.connah@virgin.net]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 10:26 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Ban on sale of shark fins.

Brutal and wasteful industry – please implement a ban.

Best regards,

Alec Connah [UK].

From: patricia finney [finneypat@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 1:28 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

O: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey

Monday Mar 8, 2010

Dear Mr. McKelvey: I am writing in support of Bill SB 2169 "a bill for an act relating to shark fins". This important piece of legislation would help stop the wasteful, cruel and unnecessary harvesting of shark fins for human consumption. The finning of sharks results in the painful death of many millions of sharks each year and is not a sustainable fishing practice.

Please note this letter of support for Bill SB 2169.

Thank you,

Patricia Finney, Editor, Port Rowan Good News, Port Rowan, Ontario, Canada

From: Richard Pain [rpain@tpg.com.au]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 1:43 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: In support of SB2169



Richard Pain
Writer/Director
+61 (0) 415 819 421
rpain@tpg.com.au

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

Dear Mr McKelvey,

I write in support of passage of the bill SB 2169, one step Hawaii can take to end the barbaric practice of shark finning.
I draw your attention to the following:

This practice, responsible for the deaths of up to 70 million sharks a year is unsustainable, particularly as sharks reproduce and grow slowly. It uses less than 5% of the animal's weight, removing the fins while the animal is alive then dumping it to either bleed to death or drown. Added to this, the cartilagenous shark fin adds no flavour to soup, only texture and may be hazardous due to its high methyl-mercury content.

I urge you to pass a bill that sets a humanitarian example for the rest of the planet.

Kind regards,

Richard Pain

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 2:00 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Cc: g2@hokua.org
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 3/9/2010 8:00:00 AM

Testimony for EBM 3/9/2010 8:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 312
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Ginny Tiu
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: g2@hokua.org
Submitted on: 3/8/2010

Comments:

To the Honorable Chair Angus McKelvey, Vice-Chair Choy, and Economic Revitalization, Business and Military Affairs Committee Members, re: support for bill SB2169.

I am in full support of prohibiting the possession of sharks'fins and shark finning. It is a brutal and heinous act of extreme cruelty, to subject a living creature to die a slow and agonizing death. At the Senate hearing, a young man whose leg was bitten off by a shark, still testified in support of the bill because he realized the important role the shark plays in maintaining a balance in our ocean. I respectfully ask you to use your position of power to do the right and humane thing, and see that this bill is passed.

Sincerely,
Ginny Tiu

From: Truda Palazzo & Associates [brazilian_wildlife@terra.com.br]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 3:13 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Support for the Shark Fin Ban Bill SB 2169

Importance: High

Dear Sirs/Madams,

As a Brazilian diver who has been many times to Hawaii, I wish to offer my full support for Bill SB 2169 which bans the sale of shark fins in your State.

The growing international diving tourism is also growing in awareness, and seeking locations where not only marine life is abundant, but also where appropriate conservation policies are in place. I have no doubt that the adoption of this Bill will once again highlight Hawaii as a major dive destination globally and attract further support for your diving/marine tourism.

Many thanks for considering my opinion while debating this Bill.

Yours,

José Truda Palazzo, Jr.
24 de outubro 1000/2301
90510-000 Porto Alegre, RS, Brazil

From: Lina Botero [linisima@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 3:15 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: shark finning bill

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

You are free to write whatever you want, but here are some talking points.

- Sharks are slow growing and have few young, which makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing.
- Shark finning is a brutal and wasteful fishery in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal) are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown.
- The shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture, and may pose a health hazard because of its high methyl-mercury content.
- Shark finning results in the deaths of as many as 70 million sharks a year, which is unsustainable

sincerely yours,

Lina Botero

From: Nic Bean [nicolabean@hotmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 3:16 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Banning the sale of shark fins

Dear sirs,

As I am sure you are very aware the shark fin industry is one of the more brutal practices of our time. Sharks are slow growing animals that produce few young and are thus incredibly susceptible to overfishing.

As a diver I have seen these incredible creatures in their natural habitat and am awed by their beauty and grace every time. Sharks have received a bad press following films like JAWS, however my argument would be would you dress as an antelope and run across the African Savannah? Of course not, but when a shark (usually mistakenly) bites a human it is seen as a viscous attack!

This negativity has led to people often believing that killing sharks is acceptable and even a latent acceptance of the terrible methods employed by the fin fishermen, cutting off the sharks fins while they are still alive, then returning their mutilated bodies to the ocean to bleed to death or drown.

Not only is this barbaric, the fishermen don't discriminate between the size of shark they take, so the young are killed as much as the old as all fins are valuable to the fishermen.

Aside from the barbarism of this method of fishing, there are the other effects - the loss of up to 70 million of the ocean's top predators per year, the effects on the oceanic ecosystem are alarming.

I implore you to ban the sale of shark fins on Hawaii and to take a stand against this horrific industry that is damaging our planet and is morally abhorrent.

Yours faithfully,
Nicola Bean MA

Help the worlds orphaned children: visit www.soschildrensvillages.org.uk

Not got a Hotmail account? [Sign-up now - Free](#)

From: Mary & Diderot [dgicca@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 4:24 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Measure SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs,
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday March 9, 2010 8am
Measure SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

Dear Sir,

I'd like to strongly state my support for SB2169, SD2.

I am a Scuba Dive Instructor and Boat Captain who grew up in the Caribbean and spent 11 years living and working in tourism in the Pacific. I can tell you that without question, the number one reason why most people want to learn to dive is to "see sharks!" Once they are certified, their reasons for diving change somewhat, to include the bigger picture of ocean conservation, and support of species diversification, but you can never take away the thrill of interacting with the big pelagics in their environment.

I have certified numerous divers, worked in travel TV shows, and taken thousands of people boating and always, the question comes back to, "will we see any sharks?"

This bill must be supported for so many reasons, but particularly now as it helps to support the tourism related economy critical to America's revitalization.

Eating a shark feeds someone today and that's it! A life is over in minutes and it will take years to replace that life. Shark finning is the ultimate waste of a life for a gourmet delicacy.

Please support this bill!

Mary Radcliffe-Gicca

From: Canto Ecológico [cantoecologico@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 4:25 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Bahia,Brazil

**"Sharks are slow growing and have few young, which makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing
-Shark finning is a brutal and wasteful fishery in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal)
are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to
bleed to death or drown.
-The shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture,
and may pose a health hazard because of its high methyl-mercury content.
-Shark finning results in the deaths of as many as 70 million sharks a year, which is unsustainable"**

We do agree with all this and we support your work to ban the sale of shark fins.... worldwide.
Your good example is precious to rest of the world.

Thank you!!

Carlos,Gaby and Mel

Bahia,Brazil

www.cantoecologico.org

--

"if we can save our oceans,we have a real chance of saving ourselves" Wyland

From: jennifer.zabawa@gmail.com on behalf of Jennifer Zabawa [jen@sharkwater.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 4:28 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs

Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

Dear Chairman McKelvey,

Please accept this letter in support of the ban of sale of shark fin in Hawaii. Sharks are the head of the ocean's ecosystem have shaped life in the seas. Without sharks, the oceans suffer, and by condoning the sale of shark fin, we are contril the decline of the health of the oceans - which generate 70% of the oxygen on earth - the oxygen we need to survive.

The shark fin trade is extremely damaging. It wastes 95% of the animal, and allows fishermen to pillage the seas filling their boats with fins, a stark reminder of the destruction they have caused. Shark fishing is NOT sustainable. are tasteless and the meat is toxic. The finning industry breeds corruption and causes irrecoverable damage to the oc

Hawaii is in a position to stand up as a leader against this barbaric and destructive practice. I implore you to have the courage to step forward as a trailblazer for the conservation of the oceans. Please join countries such as Palau and m RIGHT move to save the sharks, save the oceans, and ultimately, save humanity.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Zabawa

Jennifer Zabawa
Sharkwater Productions
Office: (416) 445-0544 ext 143
Office Mobile: 416-897-0457
Personal Mobile: 416-841-1330

www.sharkwater.com
Twitter @teamsharkwater
www.facebook.com/SharkWater
www.myspace.com/sharkwater
www.facebook.com/robstewartsharkwater

From: Sam Harrison [sjah@comcast.net]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 4:29 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Shark finning is unacceptable

Please ban shark finning in your state. It is a barbaric practice that diminishes shark populations and very cruel. Sharks are important part of our eco system and require our protection.

Thank you,
Sam Harrison

From: Mary & Diderot [dgicca@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 4:37 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Measure SB 2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday March 2010, 8am
Measure SB 2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

Dear Sir,

I would like to encourage your backing of Measure SB2169, SD2 which I strongly support.

I am a commercial Airline Pilot who has lived and worked in the Caribbean and Pacific for the past 30 years, and seen firsthand the impact of tourism on the economies of many nations.

I am also a biologist who previously worked with the US Fish & Wildlife service in areas of manatee and turtle conservation throughout the Caribbean and Gulf of Mexico.

It is important to preserve healthy shark populations to help maintain balance of the ecosystem.

Please support bill SB 2169, SD2.

Diderot F. Gicca

From: carmen matthews [matthews.carmen@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 4:42 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

FROM: Carmen Matthews, concerned citizen
TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

Chairman McKelvey,

I am very concerned about the amount of sharks needlessly killed every year. I often wonder if I will ever be able to take my child scuba diving to enjoy the wonderful underwater scenery in all of its splendor. Once major predators are gone, the entire ecosystem becomes unbalanced which is bad for ALL of the animals, not just the predators.

Please take the following facts into account when voting on this bill.

- Sharks are slow growing and have few young, which makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing.
- Shark finning is a brutal and wasteful fishery in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal) are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown.
- The shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture, and may pose a health hazard because of its high methyl-mercury content.
- Shark finning results in the deaths of as many as 70 million sharks a year, which is unsustainable

Thank you for your time,
Carmen Matthews

From: Deborah Fazackerley [dfazack@mac.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 5:00 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Please Ban the Sale of Shark Fins

To:
Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs Chairman Angus L.K.
McKelvey Hearing on Tuesday, March 9 2010, 8 am

Dear Chairman McKelvey:

Please stop the sale of shark fins in Hawaii. The senseless cruelty that sharks suffer at the hands of careless fishermen must stop. The loss of sharks in the oceans will have deadly effects on the sea's ecosystems, and ultimately, the health, safety and food supply of humans.

Thank you.

deborah fazackerley

writer: photographer: filmmaker

<http://www.walleyepress.com>

From: Thomas Schmitt - Niagara [tom@niagara.com.br]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 5:01 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Measure SB2169

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

Please take this into consideration before voting this bill.

- Sharks are slow growing and have few young, which makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing.
- Shark finning is a brutal and wasteful fishery in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal) are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown.
- The shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture, and may pose a health hazard because of its high methyl-mercury content.
- Shark finning results in the deaths of as many as 70 million sharks a year, which is unsustainable

Help stop shark finning.

Best regards,
Thomas Schmitt
President
ABTL-Associação Benef. Trilha da Luz
São Paulo, Brazil.

From: Elias Miziara [ejmiziara@yahoo.com.br]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 5:14 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

Elias Miziara, São Paulo - Brazil

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

Sharks are slow growing and have few young, which makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing.

Shark finning is a brutal and wasteful fishery in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal) are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown.

The shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture, and may pose a health hazard because of its high methyl-mercury content.

Shark finning results in the deaths of as many as 70 million sharks a year, which is unsustainable.

Att.

Elias

Veja quais são os assuntos do momento no Yahoo! + Buscados: [Top 10](#) - [Celebidades](#) - [Música](#) - [Esportes](#)

From: Stockwell, Gretchen [gretchen@ti.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 5:17 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Ban Shark Finning

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

I would like to add my support for the passage of a bill to ban shark finning.

- Sharks are slow growing and have few young, which makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing.
- Shark finning is a brutal and wasteful fishery in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal) are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown.
- The shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture, and may pose a health hazard because of its high methyl-mercury content.
- Shark finning results in the deaths of as many as 70 million sharks a year, which is unsustainable

Regards,
Gretchen Stockwell
6300 Blackstone Drive
McKinney, TX 75070

From: Roy Jarrett [rejarrett1956@sbcglobal.net]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 5:19 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: SB2169

From: Roy E. Jarrett, Attorney at Law

To: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman: Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

I am writing to express my concern about the brutal practice of shark finning. It is a practice that decimates the shark population and is barbaric.

SB 2169 would move Hawaii further in extinguishing this horrible and cruel attack on the shark population.

Sincerely,

Roy E. Jarrett

(714) 952-3275
(714) 952-2948 FAX

From: Kendra Becker [kendravos@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 5:52 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: BAN the sale of shark fins NOW!

Kendra Becker: Public Health

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9 2010, 8 am

Shark finning is one of the most destructive practices on this earth. We rely on sharks and big predators to keep our oceans healthy. Humans rely on a clean and healthy ocean for survival. Our shark population has been decimated by 99%. Please do something NOW and ban the sale of shark fins. These animals need us to stop this cruel practice for survival. We do not need shark for food, which would be harmful considering their mercury content, but only for luxury. This needs to end!!!!

From: Erika Marchino [erika@dorsalfriends.org]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 5:55 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: MEASURE SB2169 - Testimony

Erika Marchino/ Director - Dorsal Friends

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

As the Director of a Los Angeles based shark conservation group, I am painfully aware of the consequences that shark finning has had on our marine ecosystem. The devastation that this unsustainable practice has caused to our shark populations is jaw dropping, and some species have declined by 98% in the past 30 years. Shark finning is wasteful, inhumane, and most importantly illegal in the U.S. The sale of these fins is an obvious contradiction to the progress this country had made in terms of shark conservation and protecting our most precious resource, the ocean. With over one billion humans relying solely on seafood as their only source of protein, we need sharks in the oceans. Without them the fragile ecosystem will crumble, weakening our fish stocks, and essentially transforming our oceans into desolate wastelands.

Shark fins are non-nutritional and are also a health risk, containing methyl mercury levels that exceed the recommendations of the FDA as well as varied toxic chemicals used as bleaching agents. Hawaii is now presented with an opportunity to set an example for the rest of the U.S. and internationally. If passed, this bill would only affect a small minority, but has the potential to protect so much. This is a critical time in which we must change the way we view sharks and start respecting the balance of the marine ecosystem.

I strongly encourage you to support SB 2169 for the health of sharks, our ocean, and ultimately our future.

Respectfully,

Erika Marchino
Director
Dorsal Friends

From: derek broussard [derek@bluewaterdreamz.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 5:56 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: SB2169, sd2 IN SUPPORT

Derek Broussard

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 **IN SUPPORT**

I am in heavy support of sb2169.

Shark finning is detrimental to the oceans well being. As well as insanely disrespectful and cruel to the shark.

As residents whose lives are so connected to the ocean it is vital that we set the example on how to treat and care for the ocean.

From: Stef [stef51@tampabay.rr.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 6:09 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Shark fin

Please ban shark fin sales in your state. It is an awful procedure and killing is unnecessary and evil.
Thank you!

From: Josh A [j.rocksteady@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 6:23 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Please Stop Shark Fin Sales in Hawaii

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization,
Business & Military Affairs Chairman: Angus L.K. McKelvey Hearing on Tuesday,
March 9 2010, 8 am

The Shark Fin, industry is detrimental to our environment. Not only is it disgusting, but we should not be allowed to call ourselves a civil society for as long as we allow it to continue. Longline fishing for sharks kills not just sharks, but turtles, swordfish, and any other type of sea animal that happens to come along. All are wasted and destroyed. They get stuck on the line a drown. Sharks are pulled aboard, stripped of their fin and tossed overboard to drown. This is our land being raped. And poachers are making a financial killing. STOP SHARK FIN SALES, NOW. Or aid in the destruction of our wonderful endangered oceans. It's your choice.

- Josh Archambault

From: Brown, Cyrus D CIV PORTS, 246 [cyrus.brown@navy.mil]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 6:24 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Comments on Shark finning bill

Cyrus Brown
Electrical Engineer
Portsmouth Naval Shipyard
Portsmouth, NH 03801

To: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am Measure SB 2169

Hi, I wanted to express my disapproval for the practice of shark finning and my hope that the state of Hawaii, of which I am both a former and a planned future resident, will help fight against this terrible practice by banning shark fin sales.

As an avid scuba diver I have gained an appreciation for sharks and their role in governing the marine ecosystems that we depend on for survival. Anyone who doubts the role that sharks play in maintaining healthy oceans should look at the East coast of the continental United States to see examples of shark over-fishing and the resultant state of the waters. From a cage off the North Shore a few years ago I watched beautiful Tiger sharks swim around. Years later I was privileged to dive out in the open with reef sharks and then with bull sharks. I can't imagine how these fish can be hunted just for their fins and then thrown overboard while sometimes still alive, but with shark fins going at about \$300 a pound, it does sort of make sense. After all, for the right amount of money, humans can justify doing almost anything.

Shark fins are mostly consumed for vanity only. Historically, emperors consumed shark fins to demonstrate their wealth and power. As many Asian countries have seen fast economic growth in recent times, resulting in a rising middle class, the demand for shark fins at weddings and special occasions has grown. Everyone wants to prove that they can now afford the emperor of long ago's dish. Now, instead of having a small handful of sharks sacrificed for an emperor's ego boost, over 70 million sharks are slaughtered world wide, driving the majority of shark species to near extinction. The shark finning industry is one of the most potent machines of destruction ever created by humanity. Besides the numbers, the other big difference between the men who hunted the sharks for the emperor centuries ago and those of us today who are either doing something about it or are consenting to shark finning by our failure to act is that they can claim ignorance, while we cannot.

Humans at our population levels cannot survive without the presence of sharks in the ocean in numbers large enough to control the marine life. I personally believe we have dipped below the number of sharks we need and are headed for dangerous territory, but proper conservation measures applied and enforced worldwide can help shark populations recover (albeit it will be a slow process) and prevent the collapse of sea life as we know it and depend for our survival.

And I haven't even touched upon the cruelty element of how shark fins are normally acquired but I hope that this is also taken into consideration.

I'm hoping that Hawaii, a place I love and care about, will stand on the side of right in this important issue.

Sincerely,
Cyrus D Brown

From: German Mendez [geracropora@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 6:30 AM
To: EBMtestimony

Dr German R. Mendez
Marine Biologist

www.vc-hs.org

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

Sharks are slow growing and have few young, which makes them particularly vulnerable to overfishing.

- Shark finning is a brutal and wasteful fishery in which the fins (less than 5% of the weight of the animal) are removed while the shark is still alive, and the less-valuable rest of the shark is dumped overboard to bleed to death or drown.
- The shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture, and may pose a health hazard because of its high methyl-mercury content.
- Shark finning results in the deaths of as many as 70 million sharks a year, which is unsustainable

From: Alain Holderer [alain@teebaud.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 6:37 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: SHARK FINNING

Dear Mr. McKelvey,

As a member of the Shark Research Institute and as a shark lover, I want to express to you my support to the bill SB 2169 with respect to the ban of sale of sharks' fins in the State of Hawaii. Sharks are essential animals in the marine ecosystem. As top predators, they are very slow growing and have fewer pups. Shark Finning is a stupid, brutal and useless practice exercised by Asian countries who claim that sharks fins enhances the flavor of their soups. Such a practice results in the death of as many as 70.000.000 sharks per year. This is simply unsustainable.

Public officials and decision makers at every level of government must understand that, we the people want to keep and enjoy sharks in our oceans. It took close to 450 millions years for these creatures to reach the state of perfection that they display today. We cannot let a tradition, greedy crooks or organized mafias wipe out such a creature of our seas. If we don't act now, sharks species will be extinct within 20 years. The consequences would be disastrous for the oceans and the fishing industry everywhere.

I, therefore hope that you will take all the necessary measures in your power to ensure that Bill SB 2169 become a reality in the very near future.

Sincerely,

Alain Holderer

From: Catherine Hone [catherine.hone@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 6:42 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Please stop the sale of Shark Fins

Dear Committee on Economic Revitalization, ...Business & Military Affairs Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
(Hearing on Tuesday, March 9 2010, 8 am)

I feel that supporting the sale of shark fins is irresponsible to our environment. It encourages the finning trade, which is destroying the ecosystem in our oceans, and affecting global oxygen supplies. Please move to stop this practice by banning the sale of shark fins.

Sincerely,

Catherine Hone
Health Canada

From: Jason Hicks [jason@h9i.net]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 6:55 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs
Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT"

Dear Sir,

I have been very concerned about this issue for a number of years. It is cruel, inhumane, and incredibly wasteful of resources. Shark populations have been in a terminal decline for decades as the predations of uncontrolled fishing fleets continue to decimate the populations for this barbaric trade. I urge you to take a stand and ban this practice.

Sincerely yours,

Jason Hicks
Denver, Colorado
jason@h9i.net

From: Dana Dallabetta [danad54321@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 7:00 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: please ban shark fins

All you need to do is watch the movie "Sharkwater" and you will understand why.

Thank you

Dana Dallabetta

From: steve bennett [kinetics1@earthlink.net]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 7:04 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Committee on Economic Revitalization

NO SHARK FINS, NO SEAL SKINS, NO WHALE PRODUCTS! When are humans going to show themselves as intelligent, empathetic beings...instead of the virus they currently are! Economic excuses are a cheap, cowardly reason for irrational behaviour-impooverished people can find other options for sustainable existence if local government steps up and makes an effort to help. Please stop killing sharks!! Take a stand for once, this is so much more important in the long term than any short term monetary gain. Thank you for your attention, Stefan Bennett

From: Michael McCrystal [michael@mccrystal.net]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 7:04 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Ban on sale of shark fin products

FROM: MICHAEL MCCRYSTAL

TO: COMMITTEE ON ECONOMIC REVITALIZATION, BUSINESS, & MILITARY AFFAIRS;
CHAIRMAN ANGUS L.K. MCKELVEY

RE: HEARING ON TUESDAY MARCH 9 8AM, MEASURE SB2169, SD 2 IN SUPPORT

A ban on the sale of shark products is long overdue. Sharks are apex predators that play a vital role in balancing the health and biodynamics of a wide variety of marine ecosystems. Harvesting practices are scientifically documented to be unsustainable and harmful for consumption due to levels of methyl-mercury in the edible products. Shark products are not essential to nutrition and sustain the livelihoods only of a limited number of merchants and wholesalers. Even the casual observer can see that the practice is wasteful and cruel. These facts make a ban appealing on moral, economic, and plain common sense grounds.

I urge you to pass the ban on the sale of shark fin products: such a law will help similar legislation in other states find new life and help us begin to reduce the unsustainable demand for this non-essential food/cosmetic product.

Sincerely,

Michael McCrystal
Resident of San Francisco
Born/Raised in Kailua, Oahu

From: Melody Owens [melody@ikatu.us]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 7:25 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Ban on Shark Fin Sale

Dear Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey,

My name is Melody Owens, and I'm an avid shark diver and enthusiast. It has been brought to my attention that HI is proposing a ban on the sale of shark fins. I am hugely supportive of such a ban. The shark finning industry is the cause of upwards of 100 million shark deaths each year.

If Hawaii were to ban the sale, this would set a huge precedence for other areas to do the same. Sharks play a vital role the ocean ecosystems, and without them to keep other species' numbers in line, the delicate balance is thrown off and bigger problems will exist.

Please BAN the sale of shark fins in Hawaii!

All the best,
Melody Owens
7691 Oakmont Drive
Lake Worth, FL 33467
P: 561-373-3882
E: melody@ikatu.us

From: Ryan Nickel [anemia_boy@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 7:52 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: Shark Fin Sales

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey
Hearing on Tuesday, March 9 2010, 8 am

Greetings,

As a scientist from California, I am concerned to hear that the state of Hawaii is allowing the continuing sale of shark fins on their soil.

With over 30% of shark species around the world now threatened with extinction, it is now arguably immoral to continue offering shark products, including shark fins. The IUCN (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) has recently added the Great Hammerhead (*Sphyrna mokarran*) and Scalloped Hammerhead (*Sphyrna lewini*) to the endangered species list. It just so happens that these sharks are among the most popular for shark fin soup dishes. Since cooks and chef's have no way to identify the particular species of shark fin they are preparing, serving endangered animals can never be condoned, and I hope Hawaii ends the sale of shark fins immediately. In addition, the EDF (Environmental Defense Fund) has classified shark fin soup as an "Eco-Worst Choice" food.

Today we live in a world that often places the interests of people far above those of the majority of other creatures that share planet Earth with us. The negative impact seen in our world's oceans through the ruthless slaughter of sharks for nothing more than their fins has been well-documented. It is a practice that has been long identified with organized crime not to mention the inhumanity towards the sharks as well as the enormous impact to our oceans and therefore to our world.

As a state that depends on tourism, Hawaii plays a particularly important role in the community. You can help make a difference in maintaining healthy oceans and therefore a healthy world through the simple act outlawing the sale of shark fins.

Thank you for taking the time to read this letter. I would be grateful if you could let me know how you plan to address these concerns.

Ryan Nickel
Criminalist III
Sacramento, CA

From: Rachel Menge [rachel_menge@yahoo.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 8:16 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: SUPPORT FOR BAN OF SHARK FIN SALES IN HAWAII

Attention Committee:

I am writing in urgent support of the **ban of shark fin sales in Hawaii**. Let this ban help Hawaii show it's respect for ocean life and culture, as well as demonstrate an important understanding of the crisis facing sharks as they are wastefully (and cruelly) harvested for their fins.

Thank you for your consideration on this extremely important issue.

Rachel Nickel, M.A.
Consultant
Sacramento, CA

From: Sarah Fisk [sarahfisk@mac.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 07, 2010 8:32 PM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: in defense of sharks and legitimate shark tourism

FROM: Sarah Fisk, PhD
Consultant/Psychologist

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

Dear Chairman McKelvey,

I understand there are some decisions to be made regarding the welfare and "use" of sharks in U.S. waters and that you will be a part of these decisions. I am a scuba diver, and passionate about biodiversity - especially in the oceans. Sharks are an integral part of the ocean community, and an indicator of the health of an ecosystem. They are one of the most ancient forms of life, and so beautiful to see. I spend time in the Hawaiian Islands and in the Fiji Islands and I know how important sharks are to the cultures of these two island groups.

I respectfully ask you to act on behalf of sharks in your decisions. A healthy shark population is no danger to humans and in fact is a great boom to the economy of Hawaii. More and more people are interested in seeing sharks instead of believing the misconceptions that they are some kind of blood thirsty monster.

In addition I would ask that take whatever steps you can to ban the barbaric practice of shark finning. To cut body parts off a living creature and leave it to die a slow torturous death is morally wrong.

Many thanks,

Sarah Fisk

Sarah Fisk, PhD
510-915-1453
sarahfisk@mac.com

From: André Rodrigues [andrerod@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, March 08, 2010 9:03 AM
To: EBMtestimony
Subject: STOP SHARK KILLING

TO: Committee on Economic Revitalization, Business & Military Affairs Chairman Angus L.K. McKelvey Hearing on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, 8am
MEASURE SB2169, SD2 IN SUPPORT

-The shark fin itself is made of cartilage and adds no flavor whatsoever to the soup. It only adds texture, and may pose a health hazard because of its high methyl-mercury content.

Mr. Rodrigues, Andre / Petrobras