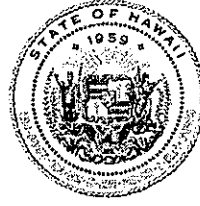
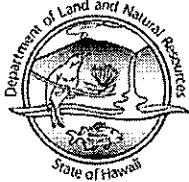


TESTIMONY
SB 2169

LINDA LINGLE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
LAURA H. THIELEN
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committee on
WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, February 3, 2010
3:00 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 229**

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

Senate Bill 2169 would amend Chapter 188, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to prohibit the sale, offering for sale, trade or distribution of shark fins. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) understands the rationale behind this measure to deter the needless slaughter of sharks. However, the bill contains some elements that make it unenforceable and outside of the boundaries of what the Department can address. As such, the Department cannot support this measure.

In particular, this measure does not distinguish between fresh caught shark fins from state waters over which the Department has regulatory authority, and imported dried shark fins from waters beyond state or even federal jurisdiction. As such, the measure would make it unlawful to sell imported products, which is beyond the scope of the Department's authority, and may also contravene federal trade laws.

Finally, the Department would note that it is currently legal to land whole shark carcasses taken in state waters, and that the current measure would lead to waste by prohibiting the sale of one particular part of the animal, forcing fishers to discard it. The Department sees no natural resource or economic benefits in mandating such practices.

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

RUSSELL Y. TSUJI
FIRST DEPUTY

KEN C. KAWAHARA
DEPUTY DIRECTOR - WATER

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

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 30, 2010 8:18 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: kowalski@hawaii.edu
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 2/3/2010 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for WTL 2/3/2010 3:00:00 PM SB2169

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Stephanie M Kowalski
Organization: Individual
Address: 148 Halaulani street Makawao, HI
Phone: 808-205-4946
E-mail: kowalski@hawaii.edu
Submitted on: 1/30/2010

Comments:

I'm certain many in support has already informed you of the necessity of sharks presents in the worlds oceans. Allow me to express that to the Kanaka maoli sharks represent our ancestors. The brutality and wastefulness of shark fining resonates through out our culture. Please pass this bill in an attempt to stem the damages being inflicted. Mahalo nui loa!

From: Catherine Goeggel [selkie@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, January 31, 2010 3:42 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: SB 2169- support

Chair Hee and Members of the Senate WTL Committee

re: SB2169
position: support

Animal Rights Hawai'i urges this committee to pass SB2169. The massive slaughter of sharks to supply the shark fin trade is unacceptable. Sharks play a vital in the ocean ecosystem and need to be protected. Hawai'i , as an ocean state, must protect ALL its marine animals, even the ones with big teeth!

Cathy Goeggel
President
Animal Rights Hawai'i

From: Joel Fischer [jfischer@hawaii.edu]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 2:23 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: SB2169; WTL; 2/3/10; 3PM; Rm 229

Importance: High

SB2169, Relating to Shark Fins
WTL; Chair, Sen Hee

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



Conservation Council for Hawaii

Testimony Submitted to the Senate Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs

SB 2169 Relating to Shark Fins
Hearing: Wednesday, February 3, 2010 3:00 pm Room 229

In support of SB 2169

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 2169, 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. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler



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

Telephone/Fax 808.593.0255 • email: info@conservehi.org • web: www.conservehi.org
P.O. Box 2923 • Honolulu, HI 96802 • Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 212 • Honolulu, HI 96814
President: Maura O'Connor * Treasurer: Kim Ramos * Secretary: Douglas Lamerson
Directors: Madelyn D'Enbeau * Maka'ala Ka'aumoana * Hannah Springer
Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 4:07 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: makaala@hawaiian.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 2/3/2010 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for WTL 2/3/2010 3:00:00 PM SB2169

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Makaala Kaaumoana
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: makaala@hawaiian.net
Submitted on: 2/1/2010

Comments:

Aloha Committee members,
My husband and I strongly support this legislation ending a horrific practice in Hawaii. For many Hawaiian's, their aumakua have been mutilated and wasted for far too long. Please pass this bill and support it through to law. Mahalo.

From: Barbara Steinberg [h2ocolor@webtv.net]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 5:04 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: h2oColor@webtv.net
Subject: S.B.2169 Shark fin bill testimony

To Committee on Land, Agriculture, and Hawaiian Affairs,
Senator Clayton Hee, Chair, Senator Jill Tokuda, Vice Chair,

My testimony is in support of S.B. NO 2169 to prohibit sale of shark fin in state of Hawaii.

All sharks (Mano) are endangered speices and thus should be protected.

Hawaii is like a sanctuary for marine life and thus we must protect the endangered speices and sharks are on that list .

It is also inhumane to remove fins and let them bleed that way like many do .

The sharks are often worshipped in Hawaiian culture as family guardians or 'aumakua.

Shark fin removal is inhumane and must be prohibited .

Thanks you.

Barbara Steinberg

PO box 1764

Kihei HI 96753

808 8790025

From: [redacted]@gmail.com]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 5:16 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Support for SB 2169 - Ban on shark fining

Testimony

To: Committee on Water, Land, Agriculture and Hawaiian Affairs

SB 2169
February 3, 2010
3pm

Support for the ban on shark fining in the State of Hawaii.

Sharks are being annihilated from our oceans. The World Conservation Union (IUCN) has estimated that tens of millions of sharks are finned every year. Often the shark is still alive, while its fins are hacked off with a sharp knife, leaving it in agony. The shark's finless body is then dumped overboard and, being unable to swim, it drowns or dies of starvation. Shark fining targets only 2-5% of the shark's body mass and wastes the remaining 95%.

WE MUST STOP THIS!

“Right now, the oceans are being emptied of Sharks, and the scale of the problem is global” Dr. Julia Baum Scripps Institute of Oceanography as told to the American Association of Science Oct 11,2009

US House of Representatives passes the Shark Conservation Act of 2009
www.montereybayaquarium.org 3/2/ 2009

Government of Bahamas has launched petition to ban the importation of shark related items and to ban shark fishing January 18/2010
www.stopsharkfinning.net/news.html

Shark fining is illegal in the US and elsewhere, but the law is difficult to enforce. As the law stands now fishermen may land piles of fins as long as the fins weigh less than 5% of the total catch. The total catch can be other fish such as tuna.

Shark fins land much higher prices than the body due to the increased demand for shark fin soup in Asian countries. Once a shark has been “finned” it is hard to determine the identity of the species that they came from.

“A common practice is to keep all the fins they catch and fill the holds of the boat with bodies of smaller sharks,” says marine ecologist Stuart Sandin of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography in La Jolla, California.

The new rule comes into effect before the June shark-fishing season in an attempt to protect badly over fished species and to give them a chance to recover. It will only protect sharks until 2012, when fisheries managers will reevaluate the stocks. Because sharks may take 15 to 20 years to mature, the rule as it stands now simply does not go far enough. <http://hudsonvalleydivers.org/wordpress/category/wordpresssharks/>

The State of Hawaii is poised to be a leader in Shark Conservation. I fully support all efforts to ban shark fining, the transfer of any shark fins from foreign vessels, for the ban on sale of any shark fins for consumption and Killing sharks in the State of Hawaii.

I do support Shark tours and dives as they bring the education and critical awareness about the sharks endangered fate to the public.

Eradicating shark fining is humane, beneficial for sharks, for fisheries management and for all of us who depend on the health of our oceans.

Patricia Morine
81 Ahuwale Pl.
Makawao, Hi 96768
Email: kalaefarm@cs.com

From: TREVOR.WARD [TREVOR.WARD@pruhawaii.com]
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 7:17 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Shark fin harvesting in Hawaii

Dear Sir, Madame,

This is to confirm and convey my utter disgust for this unnecessary destruction of nature, it is equivalent to extracting the horn of a Rhino. Your care of the land and sea is tantamount to stop the disintegration of the world as we know it.

Sincerely

Trevor Ward.

Trevor A Ward
P.O Box 790465
Paia
Hawaii
96779
Cell : 808-385-1026
Office : 808-872-808-2462
Fax : 808-872-2461

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 01, 2010 9:20 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Cc: douglasperrine@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 2/3/2010 3:00:00 PM

Testimony for WTL 2/3/2010 3:00:00 PM SB2169

Conference room: 229
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Doug Perrine
Organization: Individual
Address: 76-223 Haoa Street Kailua Kona HI 96740
Phone: 808-329-4523
E-mail: douglasperrine@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 2/1/2010

Comments:

This bill is important to close the loophole in our anti-shark finning laws here. We pretend to make it illegal, but we allow the trade to continue and the sharks to be slaughtered by the thousands for status food. If we truly believe that this barbaric, wasteful, and unsustainable practice is wrong and an affront to Hawaiian culture, we must make it real and close the loophole. Please pass SC2169.

From: Frank Baensch [rct@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 7:56 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: SB 2169 - RELATING TO SHARK FINS

MEASURE: Relating to shark fins
DATE: Wednesday, February 3, 2010
TIME: 3:00 PM

NAME: Frank Baensch
ORGANIZATION: Reef Culture Technologies/Blue Reef Photography
SUPPORT: YES

TESTIMONY:

Shark finning is inhumane and wasteful should be banned 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.

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

There are no justifications for allowing/condoning this kind slaughter.

I am fully aware of the short term economic gain of allowing shark finning. But at what cost? Hawaii's ocean ecosystem supports a wealth of resources for local people 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.

Besides, this fishing practice involves wasting 95% of an animal and using the remaining 5% for soup.

Does Hawaii really want to be known as a State that allows this?

This bill should be passed without question.

r j

From: Bjornsen, Luther [Luther.Bjornsen@shawgrp.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 10:24 AM
To: WTLTestimony

I am in favor of this bill (Hawaii SB2169) in that it prohibits harvesting shark fins within the territorial waters of the State of Hawaii.

Furthermore I would like to see additional revisions in the future to this bill to include the following:

1. Prohibit fins from being taken from a shark landed whole in the State.
2. An administrative fine of not less than \$500,000 and not more than \$5,500,000. In addition, the violator may be assessed administrative fees and costs, and attorney's fees and costs.
3. Mandatory Imprisonment for no less than 1 year.

Luther Bjornsen
GSS.West - Honolulu Office
The Shaw Group Inc.
590 B Paiea St.
Honolulu, HI 96819
808.840.2051 direct
808.228.4371 cell
808.839-0339 fax

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<http://www.shawgrp.com>

From: Carole Crist [chorse@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 10:54 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: SB2169 Ban of Shark fins meeting Feb 3, 2010 @3:00PM

February 2, 2010

Senate Committee for bill SB2169

Dear Senators,

I encourage you to pass bill SB2169 that will ban shark fins in Hawaii. This is such an important piece of legislation. It is essential that sharks are protected worldwide and Hawaii should be the leader in this endeavor. Hawaii has an opportunity to be the roll model for environmental awareness and conservation. This bill goes hand in hand with the fact that the Northern Hawaiian Islands have been designated a National Marine Sanctuary.

The State should be committed to preserve the environment; increase efforts in education with eco-tourism; and uphold the highest standards for the rest of the world. Shark fins should never be allowed to sit in a container at Honolulu Harbor, be transported through the islands, or flown through the airport. Lets be custodians of the ocean! With out the shark, our apex predator, the ocean is doomed. Again, I beg you to pass this bill.

Most Sincerely,
Carole Crist

From: Dr. Andreas Keppeler [dr.a.keppeler@sharkproject.org]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 11:23 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Bill SB2169 Relating to shark fins

MEASURE: Bill SB2169 Relating to shark fins
DATE: Wednesday, February 3, 2010
TIME: 3:00 PM

NAME: Dr Andreas Keppeler
ORGANIZATION: Shark Project Germany
SUPPORT: YES

Dear Senators of Hawaii

we got knowledge of the introduction of your senate bill 2169!

Congratulation and highest respects from our organisation and the community of environmental protection organisations in Germany!

Your senate bill proposal explains in an obvious manner the destruction of the equilibrium in the marine ecosystem by extincing the shark populations in the ocean.
To stop finning alone, does not solve the problem of overfishing the sharks!

To stop this unspeakable killing it is necessary to generate a deep understanding of sustainable management of human actions in the nature.
It is absolutely correct to stop the sale and distribution as well as the practice of finning itself to protect these endangered species.

Why is the penalty so low? The earnings of distributors of shark fins are extremely high! On the fish market in Taipeh and Hongkong the price of one kilogram of dried shark fins is over 1.000,- USD.
So if somebody is selling 200 kg shark fins, the penalty is nothing in comparison to the profit.

How about the factual finding of proprietors of fins?

Is it unlawful to simply possess shark fins?

In Germany people would just say, I'm just the proprietor of these fins, but they are not for sale or distribution! This way they would get along without penalty...

One of the strongest arguments against the demand of shark products is the high contamination with the organic compound of mercury, the methyl mercury!
It can cause birth defects, cancer, intellectual deficits in children and adults, can cause alzheimers disease and fertility dysfunction.

To serve toxic food should be unlawful as well, so every distributor of any shark product would have to fear a lawsuit and the fine would be much higher. - Good for the oceans and the challenge to pass this living planet to our descendants.

Again our deepest tribute to this wise senate bill 2169!

Sincerely

Dr med Andreas Keppeler
president Sharkproject Germany e.V.
International initiative to protect the sharks and the marine ecosystem

--

Dr.med. Andreas Keppeler
Präsident
SHARKPROJECT Germany
Internationale Initiative zum Schutz der Haie und der marinen Ökosysteme

Frankfurter Str. 111 B
D 63067 Offenbach am Main
Germany

Tel. 0049 163 666 20 30
Fax. 0049 69 986453 30
dr.a.keppeler@sharkproject.org
www.sharkproject.org

Präsident: Dr.med.Andreas Keppeler
Vizepräsidenten: Dr. Carsten Finger und Ulrike Simon VR 5194 Amtsgericht Offenbach

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From: MICHELLE.TAKUSHI [MICHELLE.TAKUSHI@pruhawaii.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 11:58 AM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Bill SB2169 Relating to Shark Fins

MEASURE: Bill SB2169 Relating to shark fins
DATE: Wednesday, February 3, 2010
TIME: 3:00 PM

NAME: Michelle Takushi
ORGANIZATION:
DISTRICT: Mililani
SUPPORT: YES

I completely support outlawing shark fin products. The practice of finning is horrifying and is destroying the oceans ecosystem. I would like to see this bill passed in Hawaii so we can set a precedent for the rest of the world!

Michelle Takushi
Realtor-Associate
Prudential Locations LLC
95-720 Lanikuhana Avenue, Suite 120
Mililani, HI 96789
Bus 808 625-7100 Fax 808 625-3498
Dir 808 625-3448 Cell 808 230-4558
michelle.takushi@pruhawaii.com

From: Mike Coots [mikecoots@hotmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 12:00 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Mike coots testimony

To whom it may concern,

I am a surfer born and raised on Kauai, and after High school I lost my leg in a shark attack. Growing up in the oceans around Hawaii, I know the indispensable value sharks play in our marine ecosystem, and the consequences that would incur if their numbers continue to decline. One may wonder the irony of my position on this matter considering what I have gone through, but I am more afraid of a crumbling marine environment than getting attacked again. As our oceans apex predator, they fulfill many roles in balancing the health of the ocean, everything from keeping reef cover healthy, to maintaining correct oxygen levels in the water. They have a direct effect on all the sea life below them, and a reduction in numbers would throw this delicate balance off. I support this bill as it would halt the sale of shark fin soup in Hawaii, and be a model for other states and countries to follow. Thanks for your time, Mike Coots

From: Cindy Moragrega [cindym@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 12:02 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Shark Finning Ban - please pass this bill!!

MEASURE: Bill SB2169 Relating to shark fins
DATE: Wednesday, February 3, 2010
TIME: 3:00 PM

NAME: Cynthia Moragrega
ORGANIZATION:
DISTRICT: Maui
SUPPORT: YES

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!

Hawaii has the opportunity to set the incredible, positive and morally correct example for the world by passing this important bill. Lets make sure we make it happen!

From: Ann Hall [Ann@dmtc.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 12:04 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: MEASURE: Bill SB2169 Relating to shark fins - YES

MEASURE: Bill SB2169 Relating to shark fins
DATE: Wednesday, February 3, 2010
TIME: 3:00 PM

NAME: Ann Hall
SUPPORT: Yes

Thank you so much for contemplating this legislation. I strongly support this bill and urge you to do the same. Not only is shark finning a horribly inhumane process, this indiscriminate slaughter is an unsustainable process. Many species are being pushed to the edge of extinction, which tremendously threatens the health and balance in our oceans. Please support this bill and take an important step towards conservation.

Ann Hall
858-344-5018

From: Tamara Tatreau [tamara@dmtc.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 12:13 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Support of SB2169

MEASURE: Bill SB2169 Relating to shark fins

DATE: Wednesday, February 3, 2010

TIME: 3:00 PM

NAME: Tamara Tatreau

SUPPORT: Yes

I strongly support SB2169 and urge you to do the same. Shark finning is a horribly inhumane process and this indiscriminate slaughter is an unsustainable process. Many species are being pushed to the edge of extinction, which tremendously threatens the health and balance in our oceans. Please support this bill and take an important step towards conservation. Thank you very much for your consideration of this bill.

Tamara Tatreau

619-318-0407

From: Alex Reinprecht [alex@zon3.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 12:21 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Bill SB2169 Relating to shark fins

MEASURE: Bill SB2169 Relating to shark fins
DATE: Wednesday, February 3, 2010
TIME: 3:00 PM

NAME: Alexander Reinprecht
ORGANIZATION: Ocean Paddler TV
DISTRICT: Kailua 96734
SUPPORT: YES

Dear Legislators,

we are keenly aware of the devastating ecological effects the over-fishing of sharks in the Pacific and around the world is having on our oceans.

Passing this bill in Hawaii, would put our Island State in the headlines as being a pro-active State, concerned with the future of our Oceans and future generations.

Myself and my organization are in strong support of thi bill.

Alex Reinprecht
Tel: (808) 256-3993
Fax: (808) 732-7383
www.HawaiianX.com
www.OceanPaddler.tv

From: Megan Bryden [m.s.bryden@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 12:28 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: MEASURE: Bill SB2169 Relating to shark fins

MEASURE: Bill SB2169 Relating to shark fins
DATE: Wednesday, February 3, 2010
TIME: 3:00 PM

NAME: Megan Bryden
SUPPORT: Yes

I am writing to say I am strongly in support of this legislation. Shark finning is a barbaric practice that has no place in our modern and educated world. Hawaii has an opportunity to lead the way forward away from shark finning, showing the rest of the country, and world, how this can be done. I urge you to please support this bill.

Megan Bryden
760-685-2940

From: Carole Thomas [carole.thomas@ilisagvik.cc]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 12:39 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Shark Fin
Attachments: image001.gif; image004.jpg

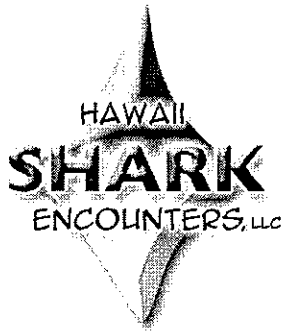
To Whom It May Concern:

I encourage you to pass bill SB2169 that will ban shark fins in Hawaii.

Thank you!

Carole 'Kaaruurag' Thomas
Assistant to the Dean of Instruction and Workforce Development
Ilisagvik College, P.O. Box 749, Barrow, Alaska 99723
907.852.1825 / 800.478.7337, ext. 1825 / 907.852.1751 - fax
Alaska's First and Only Tribal College





Testimony in Support of SB2169 Relating to Shark Fins
Date: February 3, 2010 Time: 3:00 PM

TO: COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AGRICULTURE, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS
FROM: Stefanie Brendl
Owner "Hawaii Shark Encounters"
President "Shark Allies"

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** has grown into such a lucrative industry that it **continues whether it is legal or not.** The practice continues at a devastating rate all over the world, in even 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.

SB2169 is a much more effective bill than House Bill HB1959, which allows fins to be landed as long as there is a corresponding amount of bodies. Who is going to check and how can it be proven where the sharks were caught?

>> **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.

>> You will find many testimonials and statements coming in from around the world. Every shark and ocean conservation group, the Humane Society, Cousteau Society etc is rooting for this bill to pass.

The world is watching to see what Hawaii and your committee is going to do with bill 2169.

Suggestion for amendment/clarification text:

I have been in contact with Shark Research Institute, the advisors for CITES in shark related issues. (Convention of International Trade of Endangered Species) The have recommended a small change in the wording of the bill to close any possible loopholes that would allow shark fin soup and other fin products to be sold or traded.

Ben Fackler, attorney for the Board of Trustees Shark Research Institute suggests the following:

The bill leaves discretion to the department to adopt rules, and rules could take a different interpretation.

If we want it to be specific here, I would recommend, at the end of clause (a), the addition of a clarifying text along the following lines ".....or distribute shark fins, as defined in section 188-40.5, including, without limitation, any products or foodstuffs derived from or containing shark fin".

No one should be able to sell to a restaurant shark fins to include in a soup.(although a restaurant could in theory purchase them outside of Hawaii and ship them for its own use and thereby get around the rules without this clarifying change).

Please feel free to contact me if you have questions or need further information:

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

From: Colin MacDiarmid [colin@docmagic.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 1:15 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: MEASURE: Bill SB2169 Relating to shark fins - YES

MEASURE: Bill SB2169 Relating to shark fins
DATE: Wednesday, February 3, 2010
TIME: 3:00 PM

NAME: Colin MacDiarmid
SUPPORT: Yes

Thank you so much for contemplating this legislation. I strongly support this bill and urge you to do the same. Not only is shark finning a horribly inhumane process, this indiscriminate slaughter is an unsustainable process. Many species are being pushed to the edge of extinction, which tremendously threatens the health and balance in our oceans. Please support this bill and take an important step towards conservation.

Colin MacDiarmid
562-826-3200

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From: WTLTestimony
Subject: FW: Bill sb2169

From: derek broussard [mailto:derek.broussard@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 1:29 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Bill sb2169

MEASURE: Bill SB2169 Relating to shark fins
DATE: Wednesday, February 3, 2010
TIME: 3:00 PM

NAME: Derek Broussard
DISTRICT: Honolulu
SUPPORT: YES

Selling of shark fins has been decimating the shark population, and need to stop. Sharks are vital for the sealife in the ocean.

From: William W Spurlock [krinlock@hawaiiantel.net]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 1:41 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Bill SB2169 Relating to Shark Fins

MEASURE: Bill SB2169 Relating to Shark Fins
DATE: Wednesday, February 3, 2010
TIME: 3:00

NAME: Marilee Krinitt
DISTRICT; Puna, Big Island
SUPPORT; YES YES YES

This Bill is truly an incredible first. This is an important Bill. It will probably lead to other states and areas around the world following suit.

This measure is long overdue. Thank you.

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From: Ray Hollowell [rayhollowell@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 1:49 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Shark Finning Ban Support letter

MEASURE: Bill SB2169 Relating to shark fins
DATE: Wednesday, February 3, 2010
TIME: 3:00 PM

NAME: Ray Hollowell
ORGANIZATION: PlanSEA.org
DISTRICT: Waikiki
SUPPORT: YES

To whom it may concern,

Our organization, PlanSEA.org, strongly supports the bill that will prohibit the sale, trade and possession of shark fins and shark fin products.

Sincerely,

Ray Hollowell
Founder/PlanSEA.org

Ray Hollowell
Tel: 808-384-4447
ray@plansea.org
www.PlanSEA.org

This e-mail is confidential and may contain privileged information.
If you are not the intended recipient please notify us immediately.
This e-mail should not be copied or re-transmitted or used for any purpose nor its contents disclosed to any other person without the expressed written consent of the author.

Never underestimate the power of a small group of committed individuals to change our marine environment for the better.

From: Joe Doyle [dr.joedoyle@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 1:53 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Bill SB2169 Relating to shark fins

MEASURE: Bill SB2169 Relating to shark fins
DATE: Wednesday, February 3, 2010
TIME: 3:00 PM

NAME: Joseph Doyle

SUPPORT: YES

Dear Senators:

I urge you to pass this important legislation. Hawaii must take the lead in ensuring the health of ocean resources. Bill SB2169 - and our marine environment - deserve your enthusiastic support.

Thank you,

--

Dr. Joe Doyle, PMP
Dr.JoeDoyle@gmail.com

1

From: David Fleetham [dfleetham@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 2:06 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Bill SB2169 Relating to shark fins

MEASURE: Bill SB2169 Relating to shark fins
DATE: Wednesday, February 3, 2010
TIME: 3:00 PM

NAME: DAVID FLEETHAM
ORGANIZATION:
DISTRICT: MAUI COUNTY
SUPPORT: YES

Aloha,

I am a professional underwater photographer based on Maui where I have lived for the past 23 years. You can see more about myself and my work by going to <http://www.davidfleetham.com>. 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. The world's carbon emissions are now above the 'worst case' scenario predicted by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC). Rising acid levels are already proving destructive to some forms of plankton and shellfish, not to mention the oncoming global warming. Add the assault from over-fishing, toxic pollution and disease to this mixture and we find many forms of marine life that are unable to withstand this growing list of stresses. Past geological ages are divided by marked sudden losses of species. If our course of action does not change we may be on our way to entering a new age. One that may, or may not, include mankind. For some the oceans are a massive mystery, too great to comprehend. 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: Jacob Ramey [rameyjacob@gmail.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 2:09 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: MEASURE: BILL SB2169 relating to shark fins

MEASURE: BILL SB2169 relating to shark fins
Date: 03FEB2010
Time 3:00 pm

Name Jacob Blaiz Ramey
Organization (if any)
District: Maui County
SUPPORT: YES

From: Paradise Air [paradiseair@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 2:22 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF BILL SB 2169

MEASURE: Bill SB2169 Relating to shark fins
DATE: Wednesday, February 3, 2010
TIME: 3:00 PM

NAME:
ORGANIZATION:
DISTRICT:
SUPPORT: YES

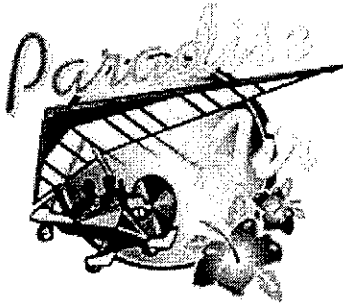
To whom this may concern:

I am writing in support of SB2169 Relating to Shark Finning. The practice of shark finning is inhumane, brutal, and only motivated by money. I find it shameful that we as humans allow this activity to legally occur.

PLEASE pass this bill and ban the practice of shark finning.

Thank you for your time~

Denise Sanders



www.ParadiseAirHawaii.com
Phone: 808-497-6033
Fax: 808-356-0281
E-mail: paradiseair@hawaii.rr.com
P.O. Box 369
Haleiwa, HI 96712

From:
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 2:22 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: BILL SB2169 relating to shark fins

BILL SB2169 relating to shark fins
Date: 03FEB2010
Time 2:21 pm

Name: Ian Holyoak
District: maui
SUPPORT: YES

I freedive with sharks, and i have noticed alot less sharks now, as opposed to a few years ago.
i fully support this bill, and will do anything to help protect sharks being killed and finned.
They are beautiful creatures, and deserve more respect than they are getting.

f

From: Tom Sanders [tomsanders@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Tuesday, February 02, 2010 2:39 PM
To: WTLTestimony
Subject: Shark Fin products being sold

MEASURE: Bill SB2169 Relating to shark fins
DATE: Wednesday, February 3, 2010
TIME: 3:00 PM

NAME: Tom Sanders
ORGANIZATION: self
DISTRICT: North Shore, Oahu
SUPPORT: YES

It is time that this unacceptable conduct be stopped.

I can give you thousands of reasons why shark finning and selling shark fin products should be stopped if you care to hear them and not one reason why it should be permitted.

Please pass this bill to prevent this unacceptable activity.

Tom Sanders

TESTIMONY
SB 2169
(END)