

NEIL ABERCROMBIE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of
WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, AND HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

February 7, 2014
08:00 AM

Hawai'i State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2380
RELATING TO SHARK AND RAY PROTECTION

House Bill 2380 proposes to prohibit any person from knowingly capturing, harming, or killing any species of shark or ray in state waters. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) appreciates the intent of the bill and offers the following comments:**

The Department believes the scope of the bill including all species of shark is too wide. We recommend that the species of sharks included in the bill be limited to those species categorized as *Vulnerable*, *Endangered* or *Critically Endangered* according to the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) Red List of Threatened Species.

The Department also recommends the same criteria be applied to all rays in State waters.

The capture of sharks in federal waters is permitted by the Magnuson–Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act. Once the fisher in possession of a dead shark passes from federal into state waters, the proposed measure's prohibition on the capturing, harming, or killing of sharks will be difficult to enforce as proof the shark was taken within state waters will be difficult to determine.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ESTHER KIA'AINA
FIRST DEPUTY

WILLIAM M. TAM
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



To: Honorable Chair Hanohano and Committee Members
February 7, 2014
House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, Hawaiian Affairs

From: David McGuire, Shark Stewards, A Project of the Earth Island Institute
2150 Allston Way, Berkeley CA Suite 460 94704

RE: STRONG SUPPORT FOR H.B. 2380; Relating to Shark and Ray Protections

On behalf of Shark Stewards members and supporters across Hawaii and the Pacific Shark Alliance, we urge your support of H.B. 2380, based on the following:

- In 2010, Hawaii became the first state in the world to enact a prohibition on shark-finning and the sale of shark-fins or fin products. This measure would complement this existing law, again poising Hawaii to be the leader in shark and marine conservation.
- More than 70 million sharks are killed for their fins. While laws such as the above are slowly helping to improve shark populations, many species are still threatened and face possible extinction.
- This measure does NOT impact federal commercial fishing laws, and only applies to Hawaii state waters (3 nm).
- There have been numerous incidents, one most recently on the Big Island (Honokohau Harbor) where sharks were harassed and harmed for no purpose other than cruel enjoyment. This measure would prohibit the “recreational” harassment and take of sharks (see: <http://www.hawaiinewsnow.com/story/23421253/tiger-shark-captured-on-video-from-hawaii-island-sparks-controversy>)
- While we don’t currently have any large-scale shark-hunting tournaments, like those on the East Coast of the U.S., this would prohibit any future “tournaments” where sharks are taken simply as a ‘challenge’ as to who can kill the largest.
- Sharks are apex predators; when they are removed our entire marine ecosystem is negatively impacted.



- We do not object to the necessary taking of sharks for education or research or as deemed necessary by other shark experts, especially if removed non-lethally.
- We support the same protections for rays and the addition of any and all ray species present in Hawaii waters.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important marine conservation issue.

Sincerely,

David McGuire, MEH
Director, Shark Stewards

TO:
Chair Faye P. Hanohano,
Vice Chair J.K. Cullen
Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs Committee



Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2380 RELATING TO
SHARK AND RAY PROTECTION
IN SUPPORT

Dear Committee Chair and Members,

February 5, 2014

We are in strong support of HB2380 for the following reasons:

>> Most shark species are at the brink of extinction due to over exploitation and careless fishing practices

Many of the shark and ray species found in Hawaii are now extremely rare or endangered. Even when the animals are not targeted, commercial fishing practices kill millions of sharks every year as bycatch. We must take drastic steps to halt and reverse this trend. Protecting sharks and manta rays in State waters is an important step for a better future.

>> Sharks are worth more to the economy alive than dead. Killing a shark for its fins or for sport has minimal, one time economic gains. A live shark has immeasurable value for our ocean eco system. On islands that depend on dive tourism, sharks and rays are the number one attraction that will bring divers to a site. People from all over the world will travel great distances and spend their whole vacation in areas that offer diving with sharks and manta rays. Studies have shown that in Palau, a major scuba diving destination in Micronesia, a single reef shark can have a value of \$200,000 over its lifetime due to sharks and rays being one the main drivers of the dive tourism industry.

>> Live sharks are an intricate part of food security for Hawaii. They play a crucial part in the health of our oceans. Sharks and Rays are also an important link to our potential as a eco tourism destination.

Healthy ocean eco systems depend on a healthy stock of top predators. There is no doubt. Scientific data has been collected, proven and published. There is no question that a healthy reef needs healthy fish populations. Fish populations need predators to be kept in balance. Even dolphins and turtles depend on predators to keep diseases from spreading by taking out the sick and weak before they can pass on their virus to the rest of the population.

Tourists value the opportunity to see ocean life in its most natural state. Hawaii still has a chance to become a haven for marine life if the State starts to aggressively protect its resources from over fishing. Reefs will have a chance to recover, and reef fish could become abundant again. Protecting sharks and rays is an intricate part of that equation. This would not only ensure food security for the future, but it would turn Hawaii into a destination for eco tourism, which is one of the fastest growing tourism markets world wide.

>> **Hawaii is setting a great example as a State that acts with foresight and that values its natural resources.** The Hawaii shark fin ban of 2010 is still being heralded as one of the most successful measures of ocean conservation. Many States and Nations followed this ground breaking law.

>> **Cruelty to animals is no longer tolerated by the international community.** Recent videos of sharks being caught and tortured by fishermen in Hawaii went viral on the internet and the following outrage and disgust showed clearly that people do not approve of these practices any more. Protection of sharks has become an issue of highest priority in most countries, including the ones that most of our visitors come from. **Reactions to senseless shark slaughter caused a bigger outrage than shark attacks.** If you have followed the trend of how residents and visitors reacted to shark incidents in Hawaii, by internet, blogs and YouTube, you will have noticed that the outrage over the possible culling of sharks was by far greater than the fear of recurring attacks.

The media and the world is paying attention:

Take note that the Australian government's decision to cull sharks has caused mass protests of 6000 + people in Western Australia. The whole world is criticising the ignorance and short sightedness of these policies. There are countless media stories flooding the internet every day, that are following the developments in Western Australia. This is a clear message how perception has changed.

See just a few of the stories from recent days:

[World condemns Western Australian Government cull](#)

[Mexico is Saving Sharks while Australia is killing them](#)

[Is tony Abbott's Australian administration the most hostile to his nation's environment in history?](#)

[Thousands join protest against culling](#)

Passing this bill would put Hawaii in the forefront of shark conservation once again.

The world is watching to see what Hawaii is going to do with bill 2380. Please help by passing this measure out of your committee without exemptions, delays or additional language that may dilute its effectiveness.

Stefanie Brendl



www.sharkallies.org



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES



HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL

To: Honorable Chair Hanohano and Committee Members
House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, Hawaiian Affairs

February 7, 2014

From: Inga Gibson, Hawaii State Director, The Humane Society of the United States-Humane Society International, PO Box 891131, Honolulu, HI 96830, igibson@humanesociety.org

RE: STRONG SUPPORT FOR H.B. 2380; Relating to Shark and Ray Protections

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States' members and supporters across Hawaii and The HSUS's international arm, Humane Society International (HSI), we urge your support of H.B. 2380, based on the following:

- In 2010, Hawaii became the first state in the world to enact a prohibition on shark-finning and the sale of shark-fins or fin products. This measure would complement this existing law, again poising Hawaii to be the leader in shark and marine conservation.
- More than 70 million sharks are estimated to be killed annually for their fins. While laws such as the above are slowly helping to improve shark populations, many species are still threatened and face possible extinction.
- This measure does NOT impact federal commercial fishing laws, and only applies to Hawaii state waters (3 nm).
- There have been numerous incidents, one most recently on the Big Island (Honokohau Harbor) where sharks were harassed and harmed for no purpose other than cruel enjoyment. This measure would prohibit the "recreational" harassment and take of sharks.
- While we don't currently have any large-scale shark-hunting tournaments, like those on the East Coast of the U.S., this would prohibit any future "tournaments" where sharks are taken simply as a 'challenge' as to who can kill the largest.
- Sharks are apex predators; when they are removed our entire marine ecosystem is negatively impacted.
- We do not object to the necessary taking of sharks for education or research or as deemed necessary by other shark experts, especially if removed non-lethally.
- We support the same protections for rays and the addition of any and all ray species present in Hawaii waters.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important marine conservation issue.

cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 9:07 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: mz@conservehi.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2380 on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM*

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

HB2380

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for OMH on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marjorie Ziegler	Conservation Council for Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

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Honolulu, February 5, 2014

Chair Faye P. Hanohano,
Vice Chair J.K. Cullen
Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania St
Honolulu, HI 96813

AKIRA BIONDO
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PO BOX 22604
HONOLULU, HI 96823
UNITED STATES

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2380 RELATING TO SHARK AND RAY PROTECTION

Dear Committee, Chair and Members,

World Oceans Day Hawaii is in strong support of HB2380 for the following reasons.

I. Sharks and Rays are indispensable to the health of the ocean ecosystem and human survival:

Sharks have occupied the top of the oceanic food chain for the past 450 Million years, mastering a delicate balancing act by keeping fish populations in check, predated on the sick, the old and the weak. Without sharks, the ocean's health will continue to steadily decline.

More than 70% of the oxygen we breathe is supplied by the sea, two-thirds of the world's population relies on the ocean for their main source of protein and more than 2 billion people depend on it for income. – There is no doubt that without healthy oceans, human life on Earth becomes a significant challenge.

II. Most shark species are threatened by extinction due to overfishing:

Many shark and ray species found in Hawaiian waters are becoming increasingly rare and endangered due to destructive fishing practices, by-catch and habitat destruction. We must take consequential measures to ensure their survival. Protecting sharks and rays under HB2380 is a crucial step towards successfully managing our marine resources and safeguard the animals that call the ocean home.

Many shark populations have declined by as much as 90%. Of the 546 shark species assessed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), 110 are classified as endangered, threatened or vulnerable. Sharks now represent the greatest percentage of threatened marine species on the IUCN Red List.

III. Sharks and Rays worth more alive than dead – Benefits of ecotourism:

Scientists from the University of British Columbia have come to the conclusion that shark ecotourism generates over US\$314 million per year (a figure that could double in the next twenty years if tourism trends continue). – See figure below.

In contrast, the value of shark fisheries has been in decline in spite of increased fishing efforts and expanse. Their results suggest that if trends continue, the protection of shark species could have important economic benefits.

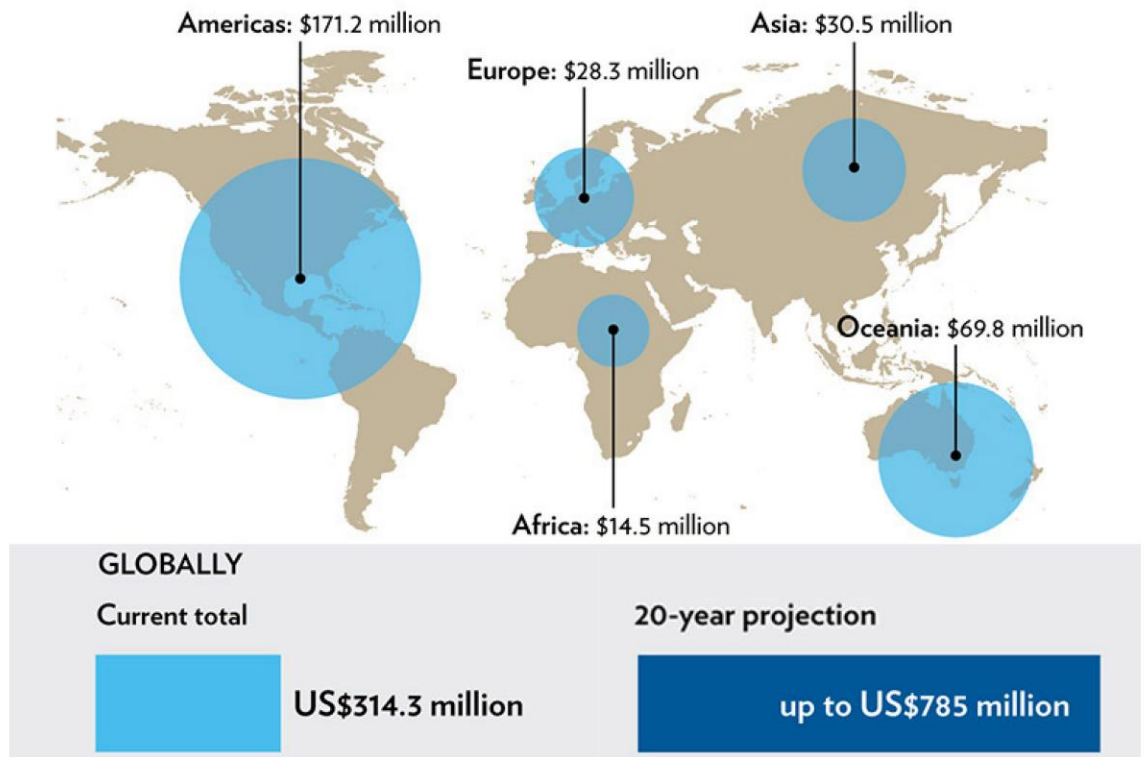
Hawai'i now has the opportunity to choose long-term sustainable development over shortsighted financial gains.

Growth of shark ecotourism

The shark ecotourism industry currently generates over US\$314 million in expenditures per year. Projections indicate that global expenditures could double in the next 20 years.

BY REGION

Current Annual Expenditures (in US\$)



Pew Ocean Science Division of The Pew Charitable | www.PewEnvironment.org/research-programs

IV. Hawai'i: An international champion for the Oceans

By protecting sharks and rays, our state can continue to be a champion for the oceans, at the forefront of shark conservation. Following the groundbreaking 2010 Hawai'i shark-fin ban, which encouraged states across the nation to stand up for sharks, Hawai'i now once more has the opportunity to prioritize environmental stewardship and sustainability for current and future generations.

While Australia is executing a shark cull as you read these words, Palau's President Tommy Remengesau announced today (February 5, 2014) that the island nation would become a 100% marine sanctuary, banning all commercial fishing. – He states: "It's our livelihood, it's our culture, it's our economy - I always say the economy is our environment and the environment is our economy."

My question for you is: "Isn't it ours, too?"

Please help by passing HB2380 out of your committee without exemptions, delays or additional language that may weaken its effectiveness.

Mahalo nui for your consideration,



Akira Biondo
Project Coordinator



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UNITED STATES

Honolulu, February 5, 2014

Chair Faye P. Hanohano,
Vice Chair J.K. Cullen
Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania St
Honolulu, HI 96813

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB2380 RELATING TO SHARK AND RAY PROTECTION

Dear Representatives Hanohano, Cullen and Committee Members:

PangeaSeed, a locally based ocean conservation organization, strongly supports the passage and implementation of HB2380 RELATING TO SHARK AND RAY PROTECTION, as written and posted this date for public comments.

I. For the sake of preserving cultural heritage for generations to come:

Through our educational activities, we connect and collaborate closely on a daily basis with members of the local Hawaiian community, both young and old alike. – And I see first-hand the importance and cultural significance of sharks and oceans to the Hawaiian people. Through story telling and personal experiences passed down through generations, the human connection to sharks and oceans is undeniable in Hawaii – and one that is truly unique and inspiring.

II. Sharks and manta rays are worth more to the local economy alive than dead:

Killing shark for their fins or for sport and manta rays for their gills has a very limited one time economic benefit. Where as a live shark or manta ray provides immeasurable value for the health and balance of our quickly depleting oceans. The United Nations estimates that global fish stocks could be in complete collapse by mid-century if the current destructive fishing practices continue.

Studies have shown that a single reef shark in Palau, Micronesia can have a value in the hundreds of thousands of dollars over its lifetime due to sharks and manta rays being top sought-after animals for scuba divers.

The dive industry is a multi-billion dollar industry with individuals and families planning entire vacation budgets around interactions with the marine animals such as sharks and manta rays. These people seek out locations considered rich in ocean biodiversity - with Hawaii being at the top of the list of destinations. These tourism dollars help to sustain

otherwise limited island economies that depend on the health of our oceans for its short and long term survival.

Manta ray tourism in the Hawaiian Islands is hailed as world-class – with the Kona coast being a top destination for divers the world over. The manta ray tourism industry in Kona is extremely profitable and essential to the wellbeing of the local community. By taking steps now to protect manta rays, you are investing in the sustainability and health of Hawaii's natural resources for generations to come.

III. Sharks and manta rays play a critical role in the health and balance of our oceans:

Scientific data has been collected, proven and published focusing on how sharks being top apex predators are controlling agents and play a critical role in the balance of our oceans in ways other fish do not. Global fish populations depend on these top predators to be kept healthy and in balance. Without sharks and rays balancing the fragile ocean ecosystem, sick and diseased fish will have no natural predators posing a massive threat to food security in Hawaii and the world. While species lower on the food chain will boom in population causing a spiraling cascade of catastrophic consequences.

With our planet's human population now over 7 billion – and estimated to reach 9 billion by mid-century, the issue of food security threatens us all. The oceans are the life support system of our planet providing 70% of the oxygen we breathe, regulate weather & climate change, feed and provide jobs for over 2.5 billion people on the planet. Taking away vital marine animals of such importance can and will result in catastrophe. Healthy oceans need healthy shark and ray populations.

IV. An estimated 100 million sharks are killed each year to satisfy the global trade in shark fins:

Sharks and rays have inhabited our seas for hundreds of millions of years but humans know comparatively little about them. However we do know, like humans, most large sharks and rays are long-lived, late to mature and produce few offspring which means they can not handle the pressures of overfishing. Though the IUCN (International Union for Conservation of Nature) estimates that many sharks species have declined by as much as 90% due to unregulated and illegal fishing practices fueled by the demand for shark fin in Asia.

Many of the shark and ray species native to Hawaii are now considered rare and endangered in other parts of the world. Even though these shark and ray species might not be the target of commercial fisheries, they are caught and killed in the millions annually as by-catch. We must take this rare opportunity to put in place and secure laws and regulations that help to protect oceans and marine species for the benefit of ourselves and for future generations.

V. The tides are changing and Hawaii's future is in your hands:

In 2010 the state of Hawaii made global headlines with its lawmakers banning the sale, trade and possession of shark fins. The pioneering decision kick started a trend and continues to make waves around the world persuading other states and island nations to realize the importance of protecting sharks and oceans. By supporting HB2380, you have the rare opportunity to add to this legacy and continue to lead the global movement to sustain our seas. Passing this bill would once again place Hawaii at the global forefront of ocean conservation.

All eyes are on Hawaii - and the world is watching to see what choice you will make regarding the outcome of HB2380 – sustainability or destruction. Please take into consideration the current situation in Western Australia: as I type this testimony, the government's recklessly continues to catch and kill large sharks (including protected species) – which has resulted in a global media backlash with a massive international online movement criticizing this ignorant and unsustainable policy.

Though in the western pacific, President Remengesau announced yesterday during a United Nations oceans conference that the island nation of Palau will ban commercial fishing and its 200 nautical mile Exclusive Economic Zone will become a 100% marine sanctuary. Mr. Remengesau said, "We have no choice - the ocean is our way of life." "It's our livelihood, it's our culture, it's our economy - I always say the economy is our environment and the environment is our economy."

There are countless positive reasons why you should support and pass HB2380 without hesitation – many of which have been mentioned in the testimony above. We ask of you, the committee, to continue to champion for our sharks, manta rays and our oceans. Please support and pass this wonderful and inspiring legislation for the health and sustainability of Hawaii's future.

Mahalo for your consideration,



Tre' Packard
PangeaSeed Founder & Managing Director

cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 1:57 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: leonard.yamada@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2380 on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

HB2380

Submitted on: 2/6/2014

Testimony for OMH on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Leonard K Yamada	Aiea Boat Club	Oppose	No

Comments: For the last several bottom fishing seasons an abundance of 4 to six feet long grey reef or Galapagos sharks have been plaguing us bottom fishers on Penguin Banks. More shark attacks have been occurring. It is very unwise to protect all sharks just because some species are supposedly overfished. They are in competition with humans for the oceans seafood resources. It is wise management to allow culling of some sharks as we are harvesting some of their food supply possibly creating an imbalance of predator prey ratios.

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cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 1:13 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: mehana.consulting@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2380 on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM
Attachments: Impacts of Shark removal Ruppert et al. 2013.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

HB2380

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for OMH on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
megan lamson	Mehana Consulting	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, E kalamai (sorry) I could not be there in person but I live on Hawai'i Island. However, I wanted to provide written testimony and share that I strongly SUPPORT bill HB2380! According to a recent IUCN study (1), more than a quarter of the world's sharks and rays are at a risk of extinction. Here in Hawai'i, sharks and rays are currently being afforded little to no protection (save for the new West Hawai'i Rules Package that since Dec 2013 has protected nine species for West Hawai'i waters only). In fact, some fishermen are still culling sharks because they are a nuisance for their business! And this is legal :(However, sharks are a keystone species within coral reef ecosystems, and their protection is of utmost importance to the health of our marine resources (2,3,4). I have attached a very relevant study by Ruppert and colleagues (2013) for you to review and provided the websites for the rest of the articles for further research. Again, I wholeheartedly support this bill (HB2380) in it's entirety, as it would prohibit the take of any shark or ray species in State waters. Thank you for your time and support in making this bill an act! Please contact me directly should you have any further questions. Me ka mahalo, Megan Lamson
References cited: (1) <http://www.npr.org/2014/01/22/264579513/ancient-and-vulnerable-25-percent-of-sharks-and-rays-risk-extinction> (2) Ruppert JLW, Travers MJ, Smith LL, Fortin M-J, Meekan MG (2013) Caught in the Middle: Combined Impacts of Shark Removal and Coral Loss on the Fish Communities of Coral Reefs. PLoS ONE 8(9): e74648. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0074648 (ATTACHED) (3) <http://www.economist.com/news/science-and-technology/21586806-sharks-it-seems-are-necessary-ecological-health-coral-reefs-sea> (4) <http://conservationmagazine.org/2013/09/shark-fishing-damages-coral-reefs/>

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February 5, 2014

Chair Faye P. Hanohano,
Vice Chair J.K. Cullen
Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs Committee
Hawaii State Capitol
415 South Beretania St.
Honolulu, HI 96813

Re: Testimony in Support of HB 2380 RELATING TO SHARK AND RAY PROTECTION

Dear Representatives Hanohano, Cullen and Committee Members:

WildAid strongly supports the passage and implementation of HB 2380 RELATING TO SHARK AND RAY PROTECTION, as written and posted this date for public comments.

Peer-reviewed scientific research over the past decade reveals that because many of Hawaii's shark species are apex predators their full protection can help support healthy reefs, sustain fish biodiversity, and even enhance local subsistence and small-scale fisheries. Additionally, iconic and culturally important species such as **niuhi** (tiger shark; *Galeocerdo cuvier*) are listed as *near threatened*, globally, on the IUCN's (International Union for the Conservation of Nature) Red List of Threatened Species, making their local protection urgent and valuable.

Given our current understanding of the plight of many ray species, globally, this proposed bill's protection of rays is to be commended. Divers and eco-tourists seek-out and value interacting with both large and small rays; and with Kona already recognized as a world-class destination for manta rays, Hawaii may benefit from increased economic development around diving with more protected rays. Our current and on-going research reveals that manta and mobula ray populations are under increasing threat globally as the market for their gills in China continues to grow; their protection is now urgent.

With the passage of HB 2380, following Hawaii's precedent-setting 2011 shark fin ban law, Hawaii will continue to be recognized as a global leader in shark, and now ray conservation, setting a positive example for additional states and nations to also protect valuable chondrichthyan (shark and ray) populations.

Thank you for accepting our testimony and for your work to protect Hawaii's marine resources.

Yours sincerely,



Samantha Whitcraft
Conservation Biologist

cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 2:04 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: scuba@maui.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2380 on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM*

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
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HB2380

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for OMH on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erik Stein	Extended Horizons	Support	No

Comments:

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cullen2

From: Ginger Towle <towle@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 12:23 PM
To: omhtestimony
Subject: Please support HB2380 to protect Hawaii's sharks and rays

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

West Hawaii Humane Society strongly supports HB2380. Our whole ecosystem is damaged when these animals are killed.

Ginger Towle, President, WHHS
Box 1208, Kailua-Kona, Hi 06740

cullen2

From: mary & robert <rmkona@hawaiiantel.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 1:04 PM
To: omhtestimony
Subject: Please support HB2380 to protect Hawaii's sharks and rays

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Aloha,

Please support HB2380 which prohibits the killing of sharks or rays in Hawaii waters.

Sharks are apex predators, when they are killed our entire marine ecosystem is negatively impacted. Many shark species continue to be on the verge of extinction due to years of harvesting for their fins. This bill would prohibit cruel and unnecessary shark-hunting tournaments and recreational killing.

In 2010, Hawaii became the first state in the world to prohibit shark-finning. This bill would again make Hawaii the global leader in shark conservation.

These are sacred animals for many native Hawaiians. These important magnificent creatures need our continued protection.

Mahalo,

Mary Menacho
Secretary/Treasurer
West Hawaii Humane Society

cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 1:37 PM
To: omhstestimony
Cc: ahuntemer@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2380 on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

HB2380

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for OMH on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angela Huntemer	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Thank you so much to the forward-thinking legislators that introduced this bill. Given the HUNDREDS OF MILLIONS of sharks and rays that that are killed every year, I am so proud that my home state of Hawaii could be the one to provide exemplary protection of these ancient and largely unresearched creatures. Please support this bill. I expect that people from around the world will weigh in on this issue and again, I am excited that we would provide leadership on this important ecological issue. Mahalo, Angela Huntemer.

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cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 1:39 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: octopus@maui.net
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2380 on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM*

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

HB2380

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for OMH on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rene Umberger	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 1:49 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: victoriamartocci@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2380 on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM*

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

HB2380

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for OMH on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
victoria martocci	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 4:45 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: douglasperrine@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2380 on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

HB2380

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for OMH on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Douglas Perrine	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Elasmobranchs (sharks and rays) are slow-growing, late maturing fish with very low reproductive rates, making them extremely susceptible to any level of artificial mortality. To maintain their vital role in the marine ecosystem, these animals should receive complete protection.

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cullen2

From: Margaret Sueoka <feathers03@me.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 8:10 PM
To: omhtestimony
Subject: Please support HB2380 to protect Hawaii's sharks and rays

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please support this bill and protect these beautiful animals.

Margaret Sueoka
6295 Olohena Road
Kapaa, HI 96746

cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 8:27 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: mmmmahalo2000@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2380 on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

HB2380

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for OMH on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mike Moran	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this measure in your committee. Worldwide shark populations are drastically reduced. We can't fix the world but we can fix Hawaii. Mahalo,

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cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 04, 2014 9:23 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: mjellings@hawaii.rr.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2380 on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM*

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

HB2380

Submitted on: 2/4/2014

Testimony for OMH on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carl M Jellings Sr	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

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cullen2

From: Jennifer Chiwa <bjcmd808@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 6:54 AM
To: omhtestimony
Subject: SUPPORT HB2380 TO PROTECT SHARKS AND RAYS

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Aloha, Members of the Ocean Marine Resources and Hawaiian Affairs Committee. Please support HB 2380 which would prohibit the killing of sharks and rays in Hawaii waters. Sharks and rays are an important part of the ocean's ecosystem. Furthermore, sharks are aumakua, sacred animals in the Hawaiian culture. Passage of this bill would make Hawaii a global leader in the preservation of sharks and rays. Mahalo.
Jennifer Chiwa

cullen2

From: Nancy Hitzemann <nhitz@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 7:32 AM
To: omhtestimony
Subject: sharks

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

SUPPORT HB2380

This bill would prohibit cruel and unnecessary shark-hunting tournaments and recreational killing.

- In 2010, Hawaii became the 1st state in the world to prohibit shark-finning. This bill would again make Hawaii the global leader in shark conservation
- Sharks are sacred animals, aumakua, for many native Hawaiians. These important, magnificent creatures need our continued protection.

Nancy Hitzemann
75-668 Koiula Place, Kailua Kona, HI 96740

cullen2

From: Anita Wintner <anitabanana@hawaiiintel.net>
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 9:02 AM
To: omhtestimony
Subject: Please support HB2380 to protect Hawaii's sharks and rays

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I support HB2380. Shark finning is the most barbaric deed and for what! So some person can eat shark fin soup. Sharks are part of the ecosystem and are needed for healthy, balanced reefs. Mahalo, Anita Wintner Maui

cullen2

From: Priscilla Grunauer <grunauer@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 10:08 AM
To: omhtestimony
Subject: Please support HB2380 to protect Hawaii's sharks and rays

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

To Whom it May Concern:

I am in support of HB2380:

Sharks are apex predators and when they are killed, our entire marine ecosystem is negatively impacted. Many shark species continue to be on the verge of extinction due to years of harvesting for their fins. This bill would prohibit cruel and unnecessarily shark-hunting tournaments and recreational hunting.

In 2010, Hawaii became the 1st state in the world to prohibit shark-finning. This bill would again make Hawaii the global leader in shark conservation. '

Sharks are sacred animals, aumakua, for many native Hawaiians. These important, magnificent creatures need our continued protection.

Thank you for your consideration

-Priscilla Grunauer

cullen2

From: Victoria Anderson <vanderso@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 10:37 AM
To: omhtestimony
Subject: Please support HB2380 to protect Hawaii's sharks and rays

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Marine Resources and Hawaiian Affairs Committee:

Despite our global leadership in prohibiting shark- finning in 2010, shark species are still perilously endangered, which affects the entire ocean ecosystem. Please prohibit "recreational" and other inhumane killing of sharks, and instead, strengthen protections for sharks.

Mahalo nui,

--
Victoria B. Anderson
Associate Professor of Linguistics
University of Hawai`i at Manoa
vanderso@hawaii.edu, 808-956-8602

cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 10:51 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: brendarc@hawaii.edu
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2380 on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

HB2380

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for OMH on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brenda Clark	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Not only are these animals considered sacred by many in Hawaii, but they are part of a fragile ecosystem that we have not right to destroy.

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cullen2

From: Dixon Smith <dixoninhawaii@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 11:11 AM
To: omhtestimony
Subject: Please support HB2380 to protect Hawaii's sharks and rays

Sharks are apex predators: when they are killed our entire marine ecosystem is negatively impacted. Many shark species continue to be on the verge of extinction due to years of harvesting for their fins. This bill would prohibit cruel and unnecessary shark-hunting tournaments and recreational killing.

- In 2010, Hawaii became the 1st state in the world to prohibit shark-finning. This bill would again make Hawaii the global leader in shark conservation
- Sharks are sacred animals, aumakua, for many native Hawaiians. These important, magnificent creatures need our continued protection.

Mahalo
Dixon Smith

cullen2

From: Laurie Pottish <pottishl001@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 12:17 PM
To: omhtestimony
Subject: Please support HB2380

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Aloha:

Please support HB2380 to protect Hawaii's sharks & rays. Sharks are apex predators: when they are killed our entire marine ecosystem is negatively impacted. Many shark species continue to be on the verge of extinction due to years of harvesting for their fins. This bill would prohibit cruel and unnecessary shark-hunting tournaments and recreational killing. In 2010, Hawaii became the 1st state in the world to prohibit shark-finning. This bill would again make Hawaii the global leader in shark conservation. Sharks are sacred animals, aumakua, for many native Hawaiians. These important, magnificent creatures need our continued protection.

Mahalo for your time in reading this.

Sincerely,
Laurie Pottish
Pukalani, HI

cullen2

From: Kristen Tovar <ktovar@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 12:41 PM
To: omhtestimony
Subject: Please support HB2380 to protect Hawaii's sharks and rays

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Committee,

I am a marine biology student at UH and have had hands on experience working with sharks and rays. Sharks are apex predators: when they are killed our entire marine ecosystem is negatively impacted. Many shark species continue to be on the verge of extinction due to years of harvesting for their fins. This bill would prohibit cruel and unnecessary shark-hunting tournaments and recreational killing.

- In 2010, Hawaii became the 1st state in the world to prohibit shark-finning. This bill would again make Hawaii the global leader in shark conservation
- Sharks are sacred animals, aumakua, for many native Hawaiians. These important, magnificent creatures need our continued protection

Thank you,

Kristen Tovar

cullen2

From: Elizabeth Profita <eprofit@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 12:41 PM
To: omhtestimony
Subject: Please support HB2380 to protect Hawaii's sharks and rays

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Hawai'i is all about preserving its roots and conservation. Since we are the first state to ban shark finning, we should continue to set the example. Sharks affect the entire marine ecosystem. They do not actively attack people, they mistake them for prey. Perhaps the reason they are trying to eat more obscure objects is due to the fishery industry depleting the shark's normal source of food.

Thank you,
Elizabeth Profita

cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 1:13 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: kara@konacpr.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2380 on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

HB2380

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for OMH on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kara	Individual	Support	No

Comments: The most recent IUCN study states(1), more than a quarter of the world's sharks and rays are at a risk of extinction. Although sharks and rays just gained some protection in West Hawaii as many of these species travel inter-island full state water protection is needed and overdue. Sharks are a keystone species within coral reef ecosystems, and their protection is of utmost importance to the health of our marine resources (2). I wholeheartedly support this bill (HB2380) in it's entirety, as it would prohibit the take of any shark or ray species in State waters. Thank you for your time and support in making this bill an act!

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cullen2

From: Diana Crow <yayah@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 4:21 PM
To: omhtestimony
Subject: HB2380 Support- please vote YEA

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please pass HB238 and end shark and ray killings in one tiny part of the ocean. They are being decimated most everywhere else and are of utmost importance in ecosystem balance.

Mahalo,
Diana Crow
Ulupalakua, Maui

cullen2

From: John Davies <maui_underwater@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 8:05 AM
To: omhtestimony
Subject: prohibit the killing of sharks or rays in Hawaii waters

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I support the opposed bill to prohibit the killing of sharks or rays in Hawaii waters.

--

John Davies
Lethbridge, AB
<http://johnsearth.com>

cullen2

From: M Markl <ahimsam9@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 4:23 PM
To: omhtestimony
Subject: Please support HB2380 to protect Hawaii's sharks and rays

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please support HB2380. Unfortunately there are human beings where anything goes to make a buck including murdering species out of extinction which is why your job makes the difference between life and death and why laws are created to protect against hearless people. Please make Hawaii a humane rather than an inhumane model for their creatures to the world. The land and the feeling creatures need the protection that only you can authorize. Please help them. Thank you.

cullen2

From: Rosemary Karlsson <rosemarykarlsson@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 6:19 PM
To: omhtestimony
Subject: Please support HB2380 to protect Hawaii's sharks and rays

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

No one needs to eat shark fin soup to survive, please outlaw the killing of sharks. Sharks and rays should be protected from so-called 'sport' killing, hunting tournaments, or being killed for any reason. I have been a scuba diver for many years, it is their ocean, not ours.

Rosemary Karlsson
PO Box 492266
Keaau, HI 96749
808-966-6589
rosemarykarlsson@gmail.com

cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 7:56 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: jessicamitchell51@yahoo.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2380 on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM*

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

HB2380

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for OMH on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Mitchell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 8:23 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: shannonkona@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2380 on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

HB2380

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for OMH on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Rudolph	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Support.

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cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 8:50 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: karlcapt@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2380 on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM*

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

HB2380

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for OMH on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Karl J. Faivre	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 8:55 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: maliadamon@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2380 on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM*

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

HB2380

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for OMH on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Malia Damon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 05, 2014 11:29 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: jmccay@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2380 on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

HB2380

Submitted on: 2/5/2014

Testimony for OMH on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
James McCay	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha! Thank you for leading the way for aquatic protection with HB2380. I urge you to support HB2380 and would like to recommend that the initial fine be increased please. I would hope these killings happen rarely so we should ensure the penalty serves as a severe deterrent. Maybe \$2500 first time, \$5000, second, \$10000 third+ Much Aloha, James McCay 2957 Kalakaua Ave Honolulu HI 96815

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cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 5:37 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: david.j.maddox@juno.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2380 on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM*

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

HB2380

Submitted on: 2/6/2014

Testimony for OMH on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Jack Maddox	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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cullen2

From: Pamela <alaska_pam@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 8:30 AM
To: omhtestimony
Subject: SUPPORT HB2380

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Prohibit killing of sharks or rays in Hawaii waters

Pam Wolf
490 Awalau
Haiku HI 96708

Pamela



"You must be the change you wish to see in the world"
- Gandhi

cullen2

From: Tina Bounds <care4petservices@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 9:40 AM
To: omhtestimony
Subject: Please support HB2380 to protect Hawaii's sharks and rays

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

I STRONGLY support HB2380 (protect Hawaii's Sharks & Rays).

Sharks are vitally important to our marine ecosystems.

Pleaaase support HB2380 and protect Sharks & Rays in Hawaii water.

Tina Bounds

cullen2

From: Layla Rohde <laylacr@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 9:42 AM
To: omhtestimony
Subject: Please support HB2380 to protect Hawaii's sharks and rays

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Aloha Marine Resources and Hawaiian Affairs Committee,

Please pass HB2380!

Sharks are apex predators: when they are killed our entire marine ecosystem is negatively impacted. Many shark species continue to be on the verge of extinction due to years of harvesting for their fins. This bill would prohibit cruel and unnecessary shark-hunting tournaments and recreational killing. The ocean is so important to any island community, and we need to protect it and all its life. In 2010, Hawaii became the first state in the world to prohibit shark-finning. Let Hawaii, as the state most encompassed by the sea, continue to be a global leader in shark and ocean conservation.

Mahalo,
Layla Rohde

cullen2

From: Mary James <felinitous@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 11:44 AM
To: omhtestimony
Subject: Please support HB2380 to protect Hawaii's sharks and rays

I support the protection for sharks in HB2380. Please pass it so it can continue on and pass the Legislature this year.

LATE



HB2380
RELATING TO SHARK AND RAY PROTECTION
House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, & Hawaiian Affairs

February 7, 2014

8:00 a.m.

Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following **COMMENTS** on HB2380, which would prohibit the capturing, harming, or killing of any shark or ray species in state waters.

OHA supports the intent of this measure, in seeking strong protections for culturally important species that also serve critical ecological functions. OHA appreciates the recognition in this bill of the cultural significance of Hawai‘i’s shark and ray species to Native Hawaiians. For example, sharks and rays are recognized as kinolau for Kū and Kanaloa, and certain individuals and species can be regarded as ‘aumakua by some families. Sharks and rays are used for traditional and customary practices, including in the crafting of implements, weapons and ceremonial objects; their meat also serves as a source of food. Sharks and rays are also featured in mo‘olelo, ‘ōlelo no‘eau, and other cultural narratives that inform the Hawaiian understanding of the world and our natural environment.

OHA further understands that the ecological services provided by apex predators such as sharks also promote a healthy ocean environment, which is necessary for the continuation of Native Hawaiian cultural and subsistence practices.

OHA urges the committee to consider providing some pathway for the continuation of Native Hawaiian traditional and customary or subsistence practices that may involve the taking of sharks or rays, to the extent that such practices may be continued without threatening the continued existence of these creatures, or the critical ecological services they perform. Insofar as some shark and ray species found in Hawai‘i may still be considered as having a “lower risk” of extinction, as species either “near threatened” or of “least concern,” OHA believes that limited exceptions to the general take prohibition for sharks and rays may be possible. In the interest of perpetuating Native Hawaiian culture and the cultural connection between Native Hawaiians and the natural ocean environment, OHA urges the committee to provide some reasonable avenue for the continued exercise of cultural or subsistence practices, should it decide to move this measure forward.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**



**HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**

LATE

To: Honorable Chair Hanohano and Committee Members
House Committee on Ocean, Marine Resources, Hawaiian Affairs

February 7, 2014

From: Inga Gibson, Hawaii State Director, The Humane Society of the United States-Humane Society International, PO Box 891131, Honolulu, HI 96830, igibson@humanesociety.org

The following organizations have co-signed this testimony: *Center for Oceanic Awareness, Research and Education (COARE), Earthtrust (Kailua), Shark Defenders, Defenders of Wildlife, Shark Angels, Shark Friendly Marinas Initiative and The Pegasus Foundation*

RE: STRONG SUPPORT FOR H.B. 2380; Relating to Shark and Ray Protections

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States' members and supporters across Hawaii and The HSUS's international arm, Humane Society International (HSI), we urge your support of H.B. 2380, based on the following:

- In 2010, Hawaii became the first state in the world to enact a prohibition on shark-finning and the sale of shark-fins or fin products. This measure would complement this existing law, again poising Hawaii to be the leader in shark and marine conservation.
- Up to 73 million sharks are estimated to be killed annually for their fins. While laws such as the above are slowly helping to improve shark populations, many species are still threatened and face possible extinction.
- This measure does NOT impact federal commercial fishing laws, and only applies to Hawaii state waters (3 nm).
- There have been numerous incidents, one most recently on the Big Island (Honokohau Harbor) where sharks were harassed and harmed for no purpose other than cruel enjoyment. This measure would prohibit the "recreational" harassment and take of sharks.
- While we don't currently have any large-scale shark-hunting tournaments, like those on the East Coast of the U.S., this would prohibit any future "tournaments" where sharks are taken simply as a 'challenge' as to who can kill the largest.
- Sharks are apex predators; when they are removed our entire marine ecosystem is negatively impacted.
- We do not object to the necessary taking of sharks for education or research or as deemed necessary by other shark experts, especially if removed non-lethally.
- We support the same protections for rays and the addition of any and all ray species present in Hawaii waters.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important marine conservation issue.



HOUSE COMMITTEE ON OCEAN, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

February 7, 2014, 8:00 A.M.
(*Testimony is 1 page long*)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HB 2380

Aloha Chair Hanohano and Members of the Committees:

The Sierra Club of Hawai'i, with over 12,000 members and supporters, **supports** HB 2380. We concur with the findings of this bill regarding the importance of sharks and rays in ocean ecosystems; their significance in Hawaiian culture; and the need to afford them special protections.

Manta rays, listed by the International Union for Conservation of Nature and Natural Resources (IUCN) as a threatened species worldwide, are already protected under Hawai'i law. Expanding protection to include all ray species in Hawai'i would afford similar protection to the spotted eagle ray, which the IUCN lists as a "near threatened" species with a declining population worldwide. This species is protected by law in Florida state waters, in part to raise public awareness of the need for extensive conservation action. By protecting these rays in Hawaiian waters, we would be sending a similar message for the need for conservation in the Indo-Pacific region, a message that would also be appreciated by the many visitors to our waters fortunate enough to have seen this graceful creature during one of their dive trips.

We are pleased to see that this bill reflects an awareness among lawmakers of the need for an ecosystem approach to fisheries management, one that recognizes the roles species play in ecosystems and accords them worth beyond their possible economic value as a source of food or sport for humans. We urge you to pass this bill.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Aloha House,

As a fisherman, I have some concerns about HB2380. I know there have been some recent abuses of both rays and sharks. My specific concern is about sharks. I did see the YouTube video of those young men that abused the tiger shark at the mouth of Honokohau harbor recently. What they did was disgusting and should be against the law. In fact, when they went to the tackle shop to buy the equipment to do the dirty deed, they were told that it wasn't illegal but they were also advised by the tackle shop owner and another fisherman that was in the shop not to do it.

As I stated, I'm a fisherman. In fact, I catch and release more sharks than any other charter boat captain in Kona and possibly even the state of Hawaii. I do big game bottom fishing and was the top tag and release captain in the whole state when it came to the tagging program for Kahala and Ulua. To top that off, I'm the one credited with the discovery of Almaco Jack (*Seriola rivoliana*) in Hawaii. That's the fish that Kona Blue (now Kampachi Farms) is raising. I'm the one that turned them on to that particular fish. These fish along with gray snapper and sharks are my main target for my customers to fight.

With that said, the language of the bill worries me. First, the word "knowingly" Capturing or harming a shark. That word is subjective. If I am bottom fishing in an area where I know there is a likelihood of catching a shark, could that be identified as "knowingly" by enforcement? I had a conversation with Dr. Bill Walsh one time and he told me that as defined, the word "take" in the laws concerning undersized fish of certain kinds that are illegal, that by hooking it and bringing it up to the boat (even though I usually don't even know what is on the other end of the line) that would be considered "taking" and I would be breaking the law. Can you see how absurd that is?. That brings me to the word "captured" in the bill. If I hook a shark and bring it to the boat, isn't that the same thing even though I fully intend to release it? I am "catching" it. Also the word "harms". That word is also subjective. If I hook a shark and my angler fights it up to the boat for release, couldn't that be interpreted as "harmed" just because I hooked it? One thing the House should know is that "cutting the line" on a shark is the absolute worst thing you could do. While the shark is swimming, the line dragging through the water keeps tension on the hook making it almost impossible for the shark to shake out the hook and the line might also get hung up in some coral. If you bring it to the boat, you can get almost all the line off but usually can't get the hook back. I have caught many sharks over and over and it really doesn't take them long to get rid of a hook. I have rescued many sharks that have line attached to the hook from encounters with other fishermen and when I catch them and I'm usually able to get the line off and even the hook sometimes. Definitely more healthy for the shark.

Another concern I have is a well known practice done here in Hawaii that when a shark is harassing you while fishing (this is especially true when night fishing), that you tie a small float to a line and hook and feed it to the shark. The shark is now towing the float and is distracted from eating all of the fish you are trying to catch. It works well and the shark is later able to swim "at" the float, get slack in the line and shake the hook out. When Kampachi farms was being harassed by a very big tiger shark several years ago, that was the exact advice they were given by DAR to take care of their problem. Under HB2380, wouldn't that practice be illegal?

I understand the good intentions of people wanting to discourage the deliberate harming of sharks but there must be a way to also protect us fishermen from breaking the new law during the course of just doing what we do. Fish.

I sincerely hope this statement is of help to the House,

Capt. Jeff Rogers

cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 3:18 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: metroben@me.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2380 on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM*

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Completed

HB2380

Submitted on: 2/6/2014

Testimony for OMH on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ben Robinson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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LATE

cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 4:48 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: mdevenot@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2380 on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM

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Flag Status: Flagged

HB2380

Submitted on: 2/6/2014
Testimony for OMH on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Devenot	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please pass this bill, Sharks and Rays need all the protection and help they can get from us!

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cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 6:49 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: susankellam@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2380 on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM

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HB2380

Submitted on: 2/6/2014
Testimony for OMH on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Susan Kellam	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha! I strongly support this measure. It is extremely important that our sharks and rays are protected. However, without enforcement and consequences, the rules and laws are meaningless. Please support this important measure. Thank you.

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LATE

cullen2

From: Alice Saul <alicesaul@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 7:36 PM
To: omhtestimony
Subject: Please support HB2380 to protect Hawaii's sharks and rays

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Please vote in favor of HB2380 to prohibit the killing of sharks or rays in Hawaii waters. These animals have been hunted to the point of near-extinction to satisfy the shark fin trade and require protection for the opportunity to recover. This is our responsibility.

Aloha,
Alice Saul
Honolulu, Hawaii

LATE

cullen2

From: EJ <ej@hawaiiintel.net>
Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 7:57 PM
To: omhtestimony
Subject: HB2380

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

Dear Chair Hinohino and Committee,

Please support this important bill which protects sharks and rays.

Thank you.

LATE

cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Thursday, February 06, 2014 10:46 PM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: claudiarice25@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2380 on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM*

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

HB2380

Submitted on: 2/6/2014
Testimony for OMH on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
claudia rice	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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Lewis Edward Aarin Jacobs
(360) 608 – 6013, ljacobs@my.hpu.edu

Testimony of
L. E. Aarin Jacobs

Before the House Committee on
OCEANS, MARINE RESOURCES, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Friday, February 7, 2014
8:00 am
Hawai'i State Capitol, Room 325

IN SUPPORT OF
HOUSE BILL 2380
RELATING TO SHARK AND RAY PROTECTION

Sharks and rays are vital to the health of not only Hawai'i's waters, but to the health of our oceans, ourselves, the Hawai'ian culture, and our economy.

Most sharks and rays, being apex predators, are key in the health of the ocean's ecosystems; they keep the population of lesser fish species in check so that species numbers stay balanced in a given area. Invasive species are also likely to be consumed by these predators, keeping the native ecosystem functioning normally. Sick and diseased are also easily consumed by sharks and rays, making it less likely to pick up these fish in nets or on lines and placing them in markets to be sold to restaurants or the general public. Sharks especially, have great significance in Hawai'ian culture, having high places in mythology along with symbolism to the native people. Ecotourism industries such as shark cage outings and dive companies bring in a great percentage of money to our economy here on the islands. Manta rays and whale sharks are considered "must-sees" among many tourists, and many are willing to pay to see these magnificent creatures in their natural environment.

If anybody knowingly removes sharks and rays from the water, not only are they disrupting the ecosystem, but they are inadvertently putting other human beings at risk by increasing the probability of sick and diseased fish being caught and sold as food for people when they normally would have been removed naturally by predators. Anyone removing sharks and rays are also allowing invasive species to get a foothold, since the predators are not around to consume them. People killing sharks or rays are also desecrating an important aspect of the Hawai'ian culture and taking business away from those running ecotourism outings by eliminating the essential sights to their dives.

Overall, I am in support of bill HB2380. I am in agreement with most of the administrative penalties proposed in this bill; however, I personally believe heavier fines should be imposed for violating section 2 of this bill, being: Exactly \$1000 for each shark harmed, taken, or killed on a first offense; and exactly \$5000 for each shark harmed, taken, or killed on a second offense.

cullen2

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 07, 2014 7:03 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: smucha123@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2380 on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM
Attachments: PLOS ONE Combined Impacts of Shark Removal and Coral Loss on te Fish Communities and Coral Reefs.pdf

Follow Up Flag: Follow up
Flag Status: Flagged

HB2380

Submitted on: 2/7/2014

Testimony for OMH on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sarah Mucha	Individual	Support	No

Comments: February 7, 2014 Ms. Sarah E. Mucha 12 Cantera Circle Greenville, SC 29615 Attention: Records Officer Subject: HB 2380 – Sharks; Rays; Poaching and Commercial Fishing Prohibited Dear Sir or Madam, My name is Sarah Mucha, and I am submitting this comment on behalf of myself as an individual US citizen. This bill focuses specifically on creating administrative penalties for any person who knowingly captures, harms, or kills sharks and rays within state marine waters. I fully support this bill. Sharks are important balance keepers of ocean ecosystems. Please see the attached PLOS ONE paper Caught in the Middle: Combined Impacts of Shark Removal and Coral Loss on the Fish Communities of Coral Reefs for more detail. As a frequent traveler to the state of Hawaii for eco-tourism I highly recommend approving the bill HB 2380. Sharks and rays have a much higher value alive for tourism, then dead for consumption or sport. From an article by Live Science: “Currently, shark ecotourism brings in \$314 million annually worldwide, and this sector is expected to continue growing. Surges in shark tourism are particularly evident in the Caribbean and Australia, the researchers said. ‘That figure is projected to double to over \$700 million per year within the next 20 years,’ Cisneros-Montemayor told LiveScience.” Shark populations have been shown to be in decline by up to 90% due to the shark fin trade and over fishing. Due to the drastic decline in shark and ray populations I strongly urge you to protect them and prosecute violations to the fullest extent of the law. Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this proposed bill. Sincerely Sarah E. Mucha

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cullen3

LATE

From: tibbs@hawaii.rr.com
Sent: Friday, February 07, 2014 7:43 AM
To: omhtestimony
Subject: Please support HB2380 to protect Hawaii's sharks and rays

- Sharks are apex predators: when they are killed our entire marine ecosystem is negatively impacted. Many shark species continue to be on the verge of extinction due to years of harvesting for their fins. This bill would prohibit cruel and unnecessary shark-hunting tournaments and recreational killing.
- In 2010, Hawaii became the 1st state in the world to prohibit shark-finning. This bill would again make Hawaii the global leader in shark conservation
- Sharks are sacred animals, aumakua, for many native Hawaiians. These important, magnificent creatures need our continued protection

Mahalo,
Paul Tibbetts



From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 07, 2014 8:54 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: fairylanternlily@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2380 on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM

HB2380

Submitted on: 2/7/2014

Testimony for OMH on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jacquelyn	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support HB2380 - sharks and rays help keep our oceans alive and clean!

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cullen3

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From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 07, 2014 11:29 AM
To: omhtestimony
Cc: scoleman@surfrider.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for HB2380 on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM

HB2380

Submitted on: 2/7/2014

Testimony for OMH on Feb 7, 2014 08:00AM in Conference Room 325

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stuart Coleman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: My name is Stuart Coleman, and I am in strong support of HB2380. I'm a resident of Honolulu (McCully) and currently in CA for work, but I wanted to send in this late testimony to show my support. This bill is important to protect the biodiversity of our ocean ecosystem and prevent the devastation of these species. Mahalo.

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