

LATE

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Brianne Rico <brianneleerico@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 7:52 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642; Sharks and Rays

Aloha,

I am submitting this email from Tucson, Arizona in SUPPORT of SB2642 to ban the fishing of sharks and rays in Hawaii. I was born in Kalihi on Oahu and raised in Keaau on the Big Island and grew up with a deep admiration and respect of these creatures and strongly feel that they should be protected...especially since their existence is so vital to the ocean's ecosystem.

Though I now reside in Arizona, I fly back to Honolulu once a month to partake in various eco-tourism activities which include pelagic dives off Oahu's north shore. I do not visit alone, I often bring in friends and family from other states that also participate in these activities and they've enjoyed it so much...they've also been making it a point to keep returning. Needless to say, without sharks and rays, these pelagic dives would not exist. So I'm sure it's plain to see that banning the fishing of sharks and rays hold benefits both on a local financial level as well as a ecological planetary level.

Please, I urge you, please pass SB2642 to ban the fishing of sharks and rays in Hawaii...mahalo nui loa.

Brianne Lee Rico
808.228.9810
brianneleerico@gmail.com



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

WILDAID



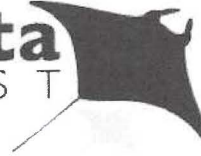
**HUMANE SOCIETY
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CENTER for
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**Manta
TRUST**



**TO: Honorable Chairs Gabbard and Keith-Agaran and Committee Members
Senate Water, Land and Agriculture and Judiciary Committees
February 10, 2016, 3:20pm**

**FROM: Inga Gibson, Hawaii Senior State Director, The Humane Society of the
United States, igibson@humanesociety.org, 808.354.3211**

RE: SUPPORT FOR SB2642; Relating to Shark and Ray Protections

On behalf of Wild Aid, Shark Stewards, the Center for Biological Diversity, The Manta Trust, The Humane Society of the United States and Humane Society International's members and supporters across Hawaii and The HSUS's international arm, Humane Society International (HSI), we urge your support of SB2642 which would prohibit the capture or killing of sharks or rays in state waters (within 3 nm) except for research purposes, under DLNR issued Special Activity Permits, the use of shark parts/products for native Hawaiian cultural purposes and at the discretion of DLNR for specific, emergency public safety reasons.

Why sharks need protection:

- 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, which has now become a global initiative, by again poising Hawaii to be a leader in shark and marine conservation. While current laws prohibit the possession or sale of shark fins or fin products there is no law preventing the capture or killing of sharks.
- Tens of millions of sharks are estimated to be killed annually for their fins. While anti-finning laws have improved shark populations, many species are still threatened and face possible extinction. Recent research from the University of Hawaii has shown that many species of shark, such as tiger and hammerhead, frequent state waters, especially the marine shelf around Maui, and are faced with numerous threats most notably humans and pollution (SEE: Hawaii Scientists Study Threatened Shark Species)
- There is no directed commercial shark fishery in Hawaii waters so this would not be expected to have a negative economic impact on commercial fishing interests. Commercial fisheries operating in federal waters reported catching 85,067 sharks and releasing 84,441 of them (SEE: http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/fmb/reports/hlreports/areport_items.php?yr=2014&type=tbl&num=1) This measure does NOT preempt or impact federal fishing laws, and only applies to Hawaii state waters (3 nm).

- With the growing number of interactions between ocean users and sharks this measure would prevent consideration of ineffective mass culling efforts and those individuals who may target sharks due to misinformation (see: Local Shark Experts Explain Shark Attacks)
- Sharks are apex predators; when they are removed our entire marine ecosystem is negatively impacted. In addition, sharks and rays are not a staple human food source as other fish species are. Below is a list of the 40 species of sharks that may be found in Hawaii waters. DLNR notes that it is difficult to distinguish between certain species of shark thus this measure applies to all sharks.

Why Rays need protection:

Current law prohibits the take of *only* Manta Ray species. This measure would extend this protection to all species of rays in state waters (listed below), including Torpedo, Stingray, Devilray and Eagleray, Manta alfredi (reef mantas) and Mobula tarapacana (sicklefin devilray).

- With the growing interest and number of commercial tour operators involved in ray diving tours this measure would further protect all of these species.
- While the trade has not yet hit Hawaii, China and other countries have begun mass harvesting of rays for their gills/gill soup, especially since shark populations are still facing serious decline and many states and island nations now prohibit selling shark fin products. This measure would prevent any future trade in harvesting Hawaii rays as we saw recently with the mass commercial harvesting of our sea cucumbers by international companies (DLNR recently prohibited commercial harvest of sea cucumbers).
- Rays are known to be among the slowest marine species to reproduce. For example, new data on manta ray reproduction suggest that they may reproduce even more slowly than previously believed, with a *maximum lifetime reproduction potential estimated at only 5 to 15 offspring*. Such extremely low reproductive capacity shows that manta and mobula rays are far more vulnerable to exploitation than previously known, and that immediate investment in their conservation is necessary to avoid continued rapid declines (SEE: <http://www.wildaid.org/mantas>)

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

Hawaii Shark and Ray Species List: <http://dlnr.hawaii.gov/sharks/hawaii-sharks/species-list/>

Sharks

Order Orectolobiformes

Family Rhincodontidae

Whale shark, *Rhincodon typus*, VU

Order Carcharhiniformes

Family Scyliorhinidae

Sponge-headed cat shark, *Apristurus spongiceps*, DD

Family Pseudotriakidae

False cat shark, *Pseudotriakis microdon*, DD

Family Carcharhinidae

Bignose shark, *Carcharhinus altimus*, DD

Gray reef shark, *Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*, NT

Silky shark, *Carcharhinus falciformes*, NT

Galapagos shark, *Carcharhinus galapagensis*, NT

Blacktip shark, *Carcharhinus limbatus*, NT

Oceanic whitetip, *Carcharhinus longimanus*, VU

Blacktip reef shark, *Carcharhinus melanopterus*, NT

Sandbar shark, *Carcharhinus plumbeus*, VU

Tiger shark, *Galeocerdo cuvier*, NT

Blue shark, *Prionace glauca*, NT

Whitetip reef shark, *Triaenodon obesus*, NT

Family Sphyrnidae

Scalloped hammerhead, *Sphyrna lewini*, EN

Smooth hammerhead, *Sphyrna zygaena*, VU

Order Lamniformes

Family Odontaspidae

Smalltooth sand tiger shark, *Odontaspis ferox*, VU

Bigeye sand tiger shark, *Odontaspis noronhai*, DD

Family Pseudocarchariidae

Crocodile shark, *Pseudocarcharias kamoharai*, NT

Family Megachasmidae

Megamouth shark, *Megachasma pelagios*, DD

Family Alopiidae

Pelagic thresher shark, *Alopias pelagicus*, VU

Bigeye thresher shark, *Alopias superciliosus*, VU

Family Lamnidae

White shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*, VU

Short-finned mako, *Isurus oxyrinchus*, VU

Longfin mako, *Isurus paucus*, VU

Order Hexanchiformes

Family Hexanchidae

Frilled shark, *Chlamydoselachus anguineus*, NT

Bluntnose sixgill shark, *Hexanchus griseus*, NT

Order Squaliformes

Family Echinorhinidae

Prickly shark, *Echinorhinus cookei*, NT

Family Dalatiidae

Combtooth dogfish, *Centroscyllium nigrum*, DD

Kitefin shark, *Dalatias licha*, NT

Blurred smooth lantern shark, *Etmopterus bigelowi*, LC

Blackbelly lantern shark, *Etmopterus lucifer*, LC

Smooth lantern shark, *Etmopterus pusillus*, LC

Hawaiian lantern shark, *Etmopterus villosus*, LC

Pygmy shark, *Euprotomicrus bispinatus*, LC

Cookiecutter shark, *Isistius brasiliensis*, LC

Viper dogfish, *Trigonognathus kabeyai*, DD

Velvet dogfish, *Scymnodon squamulosus*, DD

Family Centrophoridae

Mosaic gulper shark, *Centrophorus tessellatus*, DD

Gulper shark, *Centrophorus granulosus*, VU

Family Squalidae

Shortspine spurdog shark, *Squalus mitsukurii*, DD

Rays

Order Torpediniformes

Family Torpedinidae

Torpedo ray, *Torpedo sp.*, DD or LC, depending on species

Order Myliobatiformes

Family Plesiobatidae

Giant stingaree, *Plesiobatis daviesi*, LC

Family Hexatrygonidae

Sixgill stingray, *Hexatrygon bickelli*, LC

Longnosed deepwater ray, *Hexatrygon longirostra*, IUCN uncertain whether separate species

Family Dasyatidae

Diamond stingray, *Dasyatis dipterura*, DD

Brown stingray, *Dasyatis lata*, LC

Pelagic stingray, *Pteroplatytrygon violacea*, LC

Family Myliobatidae

Spotted eagle ray, *Aetobatus narinari*, NT

Family Mobulidae

Manta ray, *Manta birostris*, VU

Spinetail devil ray, *Mobula japonica*, NT

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Tracy <tracyam@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 7:55 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642; Sharks & rays

Aloha,

I am writing in concern for not only the future of our sharks and rays, but for the future of the oceans as a whole, and therefore our own future as well. Sharks have been studied for years and have shown significant signs that without them, there are marine ecosystem collapses. In a large study off the east coast of the United States by Ransom Myers showed that the loss of shark populations lead to the over population of cownose rays, who then destroyed the scallop population, causing fisheries to shut down. The ocean here in Hawai'i is already victim to overfishing and pollution, making what was once a thriving ecosystem, vastly wiped out. As an apex predator, sharks are the leader in trophic cascades, where losing the top of the food chain causes a snowball reaction that will destroy the balance. Sharks are not only important to the health of our ecosystems, but are not safe to consume. The EPA states that a safe amount of mercury in a diet is 0.1 micrograms per kilogram of body weight. Sharks can carry levels up to 4000 micrograms per kilogram of their weight. This means consuming even a 4oz serving of shark meat will have the person at 67 times the recommended amount from the EPA. This is poisoning the people who consume it, and the selling of it is slowly killing the consumers and unborn children who have no say in what goes into their body.

If you do not want to look at this situation from a conservative side, or for health reasons, then take a look at the economical values of sharks. Killing them and selling them could bring in money, but once the sharks are gone, how will those fishermen continue to support themselves? Embracing the ecotourism aspect, we not only support the future of sharks, but the future of the business who depend on the sharks to be around to continue to generate economical value to their community. It is widely known that shark ecotourism is going to nearly double in the next few years, but if instead those sharks are killed, there will be no ecotourism, and no sharks to fish. Creating an environment where both sharks and humans win is the most sustainable answer to healthy ecosystems, and a healthy economy. Hawaii is known for it's gorgeous waters and beaches, people come by the millions to enjoy the water and snorkel/scuba dive/cage dive/see whales/dolphins/turtles, the list goes on. Allowing that resource to be destroyed is only securing the destruction of tourism, which supports so much of Hawaii's economy.

The history of Hawaii even respects and appreciates these creatures. From traditional practices, to certain sharks being a family's 'aumakua, and stories of their powerful beings. Continuing to kill sharks and rays is a disgrace to what was once cherished in our seas. We must act now to protect these creatures and support the health of our beloved oceans. Please support this bill and in turn support our oceans and his beautiful place we are lucky to call home.

Aloha,
Tracy Mullen

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Gabriel Bork <gabe.gsp@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 8:03 PM
To: ohmtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov; WLA Testimony
Subject: Support HB1734; sharks and rays, support sb2642;sharks and rays

I am a frequent visitor to Hawaii, a diver and a property owner. I wish you would protect sharks and rays. Take the lead from places like Palau, that outlawed shark fishing years ago and now is the best place for tourists to go swim with these amazing animals.

Thanks,

Gabriel Bork

Sent from my iPhone

gabbard2 - Donna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 10:09 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: matt.htfa@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2642 on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM*

SB2642

Submitted on: 2/9/2016

Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Ross	Individual	Oppose	Yes

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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gabbard2 - Donna

From: Marie Thaarup <thaarupmarie@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 11:31 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642; Sharks And Rays

Ban Shark and Ray fishing!

BR Marie

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Sunny Yang <sunny9213@rogers.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 09, 2016 11:51 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642; Sharks and Rays

Dear Members of the Hawaii State Legislature,

My name is Sunny and I am a MBA student in Hospitality originally from Canada. In the past, I have visited Hawaii three times it has remained my favorite destinations in the world. I love Hawaii for the connection I have with your people, culture, and marine life.

I am writing to you in support of the bill to protect sharks and rays within the Hawaiian state marine waters. We are people of the earth and since our existence, we have brought many impacts to mother nature. While changes in the earth and sea are inevitable in some ways, we have the obligation to conserve and protect all that remains for simply, the longevity of our planet and its living beings.

Change is difficult and I understand that. This bill would be a strong step towards a more positive future.

Kindest Regards,

Sunny

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Nat L. <matuscha@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:27 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642 ; SHARK AND RAYS

My name is Natalia Lopez and i support shark conservation and the Bill:SB2642 , Please help the state of Hawaii protect our ocean and precious Predators currently in Danger , help us to maintain our species in healthy numbers by banning shark fishing in the state of HAWAII , please let's set the example for the world by passing this Bill .

whoever is reading this , i assume is been informed by scientific facts of the future repercussions for our fragile ecosystem if not Protected ,Sharks and Rays Protection is immediately NECESSARY.

Please help us to maintain a healthy reef system and preserve the Hawaiian Islands unique Biodiversity , let's all do our job .

we trust the intelligence , capacity and common sense of our Legislators to rule in favor of conservation and protection of our Marine Life.

Mahalo.

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Paolo Caruso <pcaruso22@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:10 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642; Sharks And Rays

Dear Government Officials,

The bill regarding administrative penalties for any person who knowingly captures, kills, or takes any shark or ray within the state marine waters is an absolute necessity. Sharks are unfortunately declining in numbers and without healthy populations the entire marine ecosystem could suffer. It would be a tragedy if sharks are lost, and this bill is a step in the right direction when it comes to conservation. These animals are feared because we understand so little about them and killing them out of fear is a cowardly act. It is their ocean and not ours, how can we just walk into someone else's home and destroy them. From a purely objective point of view, it will only hurt the world without sharks and therefore will hurt humans as well. There is a reason that they have survived for so long and what gives us the right to intervene? This bill is very important and is a great method to help shark and ray populations, not just in Hawaii, but globally.

Thank you,

Paolo Caruso

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Marina Woieni <jtmnature@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 2:53 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: support SB2642; sharks and rays

Dear friends! I ask you to help save sharks and rays in our ocean by placing a ban on fishing on them. Its not much left... Please, help save our planet healthy, we are all connected! Keeping them life, you save the life of all of us. The Earth will thank you.

Choose life! What goes around comes around!

Regards,
Marina Kulakova

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Cassandre Paumard <cassie.paumard@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 7:17 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays

Aloha,

As a proud wildlife defender and activist, I, and the rest of my organization at Saving Wildlife Project, support the bill towards added shark conservation. We believe sharks are extremely detrimental to the oceans health and without oceans, the rest of the world will not survive. Please pass this law for a better ocean future!

Mahalo and good luck,
Cassie Paumard (President of Saving Wildlife Project) and Saving Wildlife Project Team

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Mike Nakachi <mikenakachi@hawaii.rr.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 7:21 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SB2642

Aloha Kakahiaka Chairs Gabbard and Agaran and members of the Senate,

I am in FULL support of SB2642. As I testified last year on a similar bill at the capitol. The Mano, Hihimanu & Hahalua are our Alii's of the sea and they belong in the Moana. They have been here for 350 Million plus years and in the last couple hundred years we as humans have killed millions of Mano, pushing several species of sharks to extinction, Gone! no more! It is time we as humans take the time to preserve the little that we have on this precious Planet Earth.

Please protect our Aumakua NOW! They are important to me, My Ohana, my lineage, my culture and it is our rights at Kanaka Maoli to speak our Manao on something as special as Mano!

Mahalo nui loa, Malama Mano, Mike

Mike Nakachi
Moana Ohana
mikenakachi@hawaii.rr.com
cell 808-640-3871

gabbard2 - Donna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 7:56 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: gregorynielson@hotmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2642 on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM*

SB2642

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Gregory Nielson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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gabbard2 - Donna

From: Kaikea Nakachi <knakachi2011@my.fit.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 8:19 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642

Aloha Chairs Gabbard and Keith-Agaran,

My name is Kaikea Nakachi and I support SB2642 and the creation of penalties for the unlawful killing of a shark or ray in state waters.

As a Hawaiian I've been taught the important role sharks play in Hawaiian culture and in the marine ecosystem. Beyond that, I personally interact and take care of my 'aumakua in the ocean. I have a deep affection for my 'aumakua and nothing boils my blood more than seeing one of my family members killed by the ignorance or greed of a malahini. Just this week an immature tagged female tiger shark was killed on Oahu. It is time now to act; never before have I been so concerned for the future of our oceans.

The proof is right before our eyes. Increased shark bites, overfishing, shark finning, el niño, ocean acidification, climate change, coral bleaching, etc. They are all connected and they all have humans as the root of the problem. This bill is such a small step, but it is a needed step in the right direction. Let's start by protecting the chiefs of the sea before its too late, and we'll be one step closer to saving our oceans. Afterall, the oceans are what gave Earth life and they continue to give us oxygen, food, and recreation. Hawaii especially depends on the ocean for tourism, food, and identity.

E lauhoe mai na wa'a, i ke kā, i ka hoe; i ka hoe, i ke kā; pae aku i ka 'āina.

Everybody paddle the canoe together; bail and paddle, paddle and bail, and the shore is reached.

We must work together to get to where we want to be. Our poor practices thus far has let a lot of water enter our canoe. With this bill, we can bail some water and begin a little forward momentum.

Mahalo nui loa,
Kaikea Nakachi

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Lei Kamahele-Beeck <lkamahele@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 8:41 AM
To: omhtestimony; WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT HB1734 & SB2642; SHARKS AND RAYS

Aloha, I am in support of the ban of harm, capture, and killings of sharks and rays in Hawaii and in support of penalties for being caught doing so. As a native to the islands, I believe these creatures deserve respect and carry lots of mana, spiritual meaning, and sheer splendor. Spirituality aside, the Eco-structure of our oceans depend on a healthy shark population, as they are the apex predators and regulators of the sea. Sharks hunt the weak, dying, or sick fish, leaving healthy ones to reproduce and keep our oceans thriving. Over-fishing, warmer waters, and more people in the water than ever before has brought on more encounters this past year. All these factors are from human influence. Some feel that hunting or killing sharks will reduce the amount of encounters, but this will only devastate the ocean's natural balance and natures intent. I'd like to see consequences for those who harm sharks, rays (and all nature, for that matter), for reasons sensitive to both Hawaiian culture, and preservation/conservation efforts.

Mahalo,
Leiha'aheo Kamahele-Beeck

Sent from my iPhone

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Annika Young <oceankeiki@icloud.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 8:41 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642; Sharks And Rays

In order to pursue/maintain a peaceful coexistence among our fellow citizens, we are governed under a standard set of laws and principles.

Should not the same be done to maintain a healthy coexistence among our oceans and sea life.

The human race is responsible for causing an extremely detrimental decimation of shark species all over the world. Hawaii must not join the other ignorant states and countries who find murdering sharks to be a wonderful hobby or profitable career.

Sharks are essential to maintain a healthy marine ecosystem and for the health of all of us. Whether or not you feel you have any connection to the ocean, we are all universally connected to the ocean. A large percentage of the air we breathe is provided by the sea, so you would think we would want healthy oceans. And what maintains a healthy ocean? Sharks.

Being a state filled with citizens who are connected to, and respectful of, our oceans and sea life, it is only right to support who supports us... the sharks.

They have a very limited chance of survival in other parts of the world because of finning and inhuman practices, but we can stop that in Hawaii. It is beyond special that we have the opportunity to PROUDLY protect them.

I think it is time we pursue a peaceful coexistence with these creatures and pass the law to ban shark fishing in Hawaii.

-Annika Young

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Briana <smithbriana89@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:02 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Sb2642

I am expressing my concern for the welfare of our oceans and its sharks. Through my research I've found that 90-95% of sharks have been eradicated from our seas. These apex predators hold importance to the health of our ocean's sustainability. Please pass this bill where no shark can be taken from US waters. Populations could recover and even eco tourism could benefit local communities. I hope that this bill is taken seriously for the future of our country's oceans.

Thank you,
Briana Smith

Sent from my iPhone

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Adam Short <ashort0055@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:04 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642; SHARKS AND RAYS

SHARKS PLAY A BIG ROLE IN THE ECOSYSTEM, WE NEED TO SAVE/PROTECT THEM. All the way from VA.

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Alanna Palma <rojo_sirenita@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:30 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SupportSB2642;Sharks & rays

Please support SB2642 Our valuable species of sharks & rays are bordering extinction from human beings killing them for sport and profit of their body parts. Not only will they become extinct but our ecosystem will drastically change and not for the better.

Thank you for reading

-Alanna Palma resident of the Big Island of Hawai'i

gabbard2 - Donna

From: emilysilge <emilysilge@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:32 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642; SHARKS AND RAYS

Aloha nui loa!

To whoever this email reaches, I hope that my words can help add to the support of sharks and rays. I've been an avid freediver/conservationist for the past 2 years. I have enjoyed the company and have shared the water with sharks and rays on countless adventures and never have I had a bad experience. The ocean needs these creatures in order to survive!! Sharks are what keep the fish population under control and they make sure that the ecosystem flows smoothly by controlling the sick and dying.

They are highly intelligent fish and rays are sharks too, which means they are equally important. It is VITAL that sharks and rays not be hunted FOR NO REASON! They can't be eaten, so they can't support families other communities and there's no market for shark/ray meat. There's NO POINT IN killing off ancient creatures who were here before us!!!!!!

Please, consider the fact that the ocean would be destroyed without the lives of sharks and rays and the fact that sharks/rays are sacred to Hawaii. We need the sharks!!!!

Mahalo nui for taking the time to read this. We will never give up supporting these amazing creatures!!!! They were here first, why should we have to fear living their lives. Humans have destroyed most of the natural world already. Let's do something great and save creatures who we would be lost without!

SAVE THE SHARKS! SHARKS LIVES MATTER!!!!

-Emily Silge
Waianae, Hawaii
808-726-7136

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Siena <schaar@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:33 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642; sharks and rays

I support the bill to help save and protect Sharks and Rays in the state of Hawaii because sharks are vitally important to the health of our oceans. Without sharks, other populations will be thrown off balance and will likely suffer the same fate.

We have the power right now to take a step in the right direction for shark and Ray conservation in this state before it is too late. With the growing positive stigma surrounding and respecting sharks, this is the next step for securing their protection.

Thank you for your time,

Siena I. Schaar

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Gina G Lawless <808glawless@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:47 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: Stephanie Lawless; Da'Bubba~Michael Grundy
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642

I support SB2642, as I believe that sharks and rays should be protected and the only way to enforce protection is through laws that will reprimand the actions of those who do injustices to these species. As sharks and rays decimate from the ocean we will all suffer adverse effects. I want Hawai'i to be a leading actor in the global effort to reduce and stop the gross misuse, abuse and killing of this specie.

Live with Aloha,

Gina Lawless

808-283-2127

778-266-2127

Live with Aloha,

Gina Lawless

808-283-2127

gabbard2 - Donna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 9:59 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: mpahukoa@gmail.com
Subject: *Submitted testimony for SB2642 on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM*

SB2642

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Ann Pahukoa	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

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February 10, 2016

Aloha,

As a Native Hawaiian and resident of the State of Hawai'i, I am in full support of protecting sharks and rays from being purposefully killed and wasted.

These beautiful creatures have graced the waters of these islands and this earth for millions of years and deserve our protection along with utmost respect. Anything less is a desecration towards species that have outlived our very own existence.

In Hawaiian culture we believe the spirits of our ancestors live on through animals that range from the graceful *māno* (shark), to the witty *pū'eo* (owl), to the small yet unassuming *mo'ō* (gecko). These "guardians" are called "*aumāku*". They appear to us in times of need.

The three meter Tiger shark "Roxanne", who recently washed ashore on 'O'ahu's North Shore, was perhaps an *aumāku* of Hawai'i. A reminder to all of us in a time of need that the ocean which caresses our islands also needs our help in keeping it's waters safe from such disrespectful, disgusting actions.

By protecting these keepers of the sea we ensure a healthy ecosystem and sustainable lifestyle for the entire food chain, including ourselves. While the population of sharks has plummeted in the last century, we must do the best we can to restore natural order to this disruption in the marine ecosystem.

Sincerely,

Ku'uilei Gunderson
Waimānalo, 'O'ahu.

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Cameron Grant <camtgrant@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 10:01 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642; Sharks and Rays

To Whom It May Concern:

I'm in full support of the bill that helps save sharks and rays. Sharks maintain balance and growth throughout the ocean including the coastal waters of the Hawaiian Islands. Ocean and marine ecosystems strongly rely on the presence of shark species and their diminishing numbers (overfishing/finning) are having drastic impact on sustainability/health of our waters. As a community we need to do everything in our power to spread both knowledge and awareness of this matter before populations decrease and become irreversible.

The importance of this matter stretches far beyond self. We all depend on the health of our ocean and this bill will not only help regulate our waters but educate individuals in importance of shark conservation.

Very Respectfully,

Cameron Grant

gabbard2 - Donna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 10:07 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: mpahukoa@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2642 on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM

SB2642

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mary Ann Pahukoa	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha I support bill SB2642 as well as HB1734 relating to the protection of marine animals like our Sharks & Rays. Sharks' Role in the Oceans are very important for natural balance and healthy marine life. Sharks play a very important role in the oceans in a way that an average fish does not. Sharks are at the top of the food chain in virtually every part of every ocean. In that role, they keep populations of other fish healthy and in proper proportion for their ecosystem. Harming these animals directly affect not only humans but the ocean as one of our main food resource. HAWAII is home to many marine life ranging from Humpback whales, Sharks, Rays and reef fishes. To keep our reefs healthy for all marine life & future generations we must take these steps to protect these majestic marine animals. Healthy reefs and ecosystems are priority in most countries. We as the most isolated islands should ensure protection for all marine life & habitat. Mahalo, Mary Ann Kamalani Pahukoa East Maui fisherman/farmer

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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gabbard2 - Donna

From: chloe.t.t.amos@gmail.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 10:10 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642; Sharks and Rays

Hello,
Please ban shark fishing in Hawaii! Sharks are majestic creatures who play a vital role in maintaining the extremely delicate balance of our ecosystems. The ocean is such a huge part of Hawaii's culture and offsetting the foodchain disrupts the ocean as a whole. If we cannot act compassionately toward our fellow inhabitants on this planet, then we have no hope for any future that includes a safe and healthy environment.
Many thanks,
Chloe Amos

gabbard2 - Donna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 10:23 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: palmtree7@earthlink.net
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2642 on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM

SB2642

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
janice palma-glenie	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha, I have witnessed time and again the tragedy of harrassment of these wonderful creatures in their native habitat. I support the strongest protection of these animals including stopping the manta ray "watches" which constitute harrassment of rays as well as dolphins at keauhou bay in kona almost every night. (Fish are being thrown out to attract dolphins to manta ray watch boats to give passengers and extra thrill. very wrong!) i hear consistent tales of crowds of snorkelers kicking manta rays while they "watch" them, etc etc.. Sharks are an important top level food chain predator. Without them, our seas, including fisheries and humans, will suffer. mahalo for supporting the strongest language possible to protect these and other sea creatures including dolphins.

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.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

gabbard2 - Donna

From: bridie cahill <bridie.cahill@yahoo.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 11:46 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642

I support the anti shark fishing bill because these beautiful animals are being overfished and slowly vanishing from our waters, sharks are such a vital part of the ecosystem, if they become endangered which they will if this continues, the entire ocean population will be affected.

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Alison Ward <alisonm.ward@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 11:49 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and rays

I am emailing my support of the anti-shark fishing bill. Sharks and rays play such an important role in our oceans. Let's protect them from purposeful killing!

Sent from my iPhone

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Colton Little <coltonlittlemusic@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 11:50 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support Sb2642; sharks and rays

Hello,

To whom it may concern, I support the ban of shark and ray fishing in and around the pristine waters of Hawaii.

Not only is the destruction of these beautiful creatures saddening to me, it's upsetting to the entire marine food chain.

It doesn't take much research to see that shark populations have been reduced by alarming amounts over the last 200 years. This imbalance in the natural order of marine life will create a domino effect that can only spell trouble for humans in decades to come.

Please do one simple thing to help ensure the future of the world's shark and ray populations and vote to ban fishing of these incredible and IMPORTANT creatures.

Best,
Colton Little
Los Angeles, CA

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Tyler Kitchenman <tkitchenman@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 11:52 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642; SHARKS AND RAYS

All life matters, we need to understand that we are sharing this planet. Please stop, Sharks need to be protected.

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Sophia <118442@kaneland.org>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 11:52 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: support sb2642; sharks and rays!!!

Hello, my name is Sophie. I'm 16 and I live in Illinois. I understand there's going to be a meeting regarding the anti-shark fishing bill in roughly a few hours. Please, please, try to put yourself in these animals' shoes- er, fins. One of my favorite quotes, though I'm not sure who said it, is "If a supreme race or being came upon this earth, and regarded us as we regard fish, what would our argument be against being eaten?" I understand this is high-pressure and intense, and you want to please the public, but actual lives are at stake. In order for our ecosystems in the ocean to thrive, we need every species present in our oceans. They are already becoming polluted and unbalanced in temperature, now is the time to act. Please consider the health of this planet.

Thank you so much,
Sophie C.

--
Sophie Chiesa
118442



gabbard2 - Donna

From: Jerry McNeely <jam_creations1@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 11:52 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support sb2642; sharks and rays

I support the anti-shark fishing bill because I love the ocean.
No sharks, no ocean.
Enough said.

Sincerely
Jerry McNeely

Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Julie Shoults <jshoults1@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 11:54 AM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays

Sharks, as apex predators, are a vital aspect of the global ocean. Without them the ecosystems will undeniably fall apart. It is time that legislation recognized this and protects sharks and rays before it's too late.

Thank you,
Julie Shoults

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Jorge Rodriguez <jorger_odriguez@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:47 PM
To: omhtestimony; WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642 & HB1734; Sharks and Rays

Hello,

My name is Jorge Rodriguez and I support the protection of sharks and rays. These animals are such magnificent creatures, and in the case of sharks, they survived multiple extinctions. They are just extraordinary animals and us humans can't just come over here and wipe them off the planet. I've always had an interest in sharks but my interest grew even more after doing a shark dive tour with One Ocean Diving in Haleiwa. I learned so many neat things about sharks, including how important they are for the ocean. As they serve as the "white blood cells" of the ocean. Please help protect these animals just as we protect the Honu and Hawaiian Monk Seals. They are truly amazing creatures.
Jorge

Sent from my iPhone

gabbard2 - Donna

From: james atherton <hjadvm6@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:50 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642; SHARKS AND RAYS

To Whom It May Concern,

I fully support the anti-shark fishing bill. Sharks are an indispensable, irreplaceable link in the natural ecosystem of the ocean. In the most simple of explanations - sharks keep the ocean's other populations (and by extension, our food) healthy. Dwindling shark populations mean less healthy oceans. It is that simple.

Despite political rhetoric, our effect as a species on the planet is objectively not debatable. Despite how they are commonly portrayed in popular culture, sharks are not to be feared.

You are given the chance to do what is right, to do what is safe and morally correct. Here is your opportunity.

Thank you for your time

James Atherton, DVM, DACVR

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Valeria Rabelo <valeria_rabeloph@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:50 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642; SHARKS AND RAYS

STOP KILLING ANIMALS FOR FUN/ATTRACTION/FOOD/WHATSOEVER

The human species has lived and ruled the earth for thousands of years. But there's a problem, we've been living like that by KILLING and causing the extinction of many other species, that's not right.

And when we are the last remaining animal life here, will we stop? Or start killing each other?

We are not a better kind, a more superior one. We just look dumber pretending other animals (and people) don't matter.

Stop this now, or it will be too late.

gabbard2 - Donna

From: kenna brown <kdogkenna@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:53 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support sb2642; shark and rays

I believe it's important for our oceans ecosystem as a food chain to have both sharks and rays in their natural habitat, some being the top predator. Please keep this in consideration as for when the oceans top predator dies so does the rest of its habitat. This will preserve the natural beauty and life of Hawaiian waters.

--
kenna :)

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Cali Pearce <calipearce00@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:55 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: support SB2642; sharks and rays

Hi! I support the anti shark fishing bill, because honestly I just love sharks. They're the reason I love the water.

Please please please get them to pass this bill, I plan on moving out to Hawaii to study marine biology and there'd be no point if there aren't any sharks left!

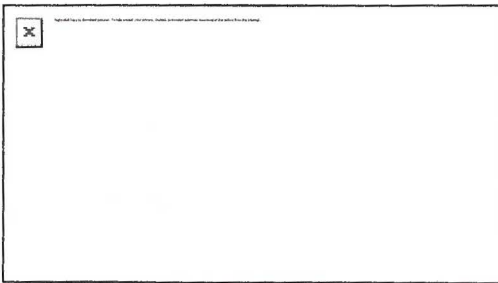
Cali Pearce

gabbard2 - Donna

From: stefan schumacher <stefanschumacher@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:57 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: please support SB2642: Sharks and Rays

Because Shark ecotourism currently generates more than \$314 million annually worldwide. They're worth more alive than dead.

source:
<http://www.livescience.com/37048-shark-economic-value.html>



Why Sharks Generate More Money Alive Than Dead | Shark Fin ...

www.livescience.com

Approximately 38 million sharks are killed each year to meet the demands of the controversial shark fin industry, which uses the fins to make shark fin soup, a dish ...

Many regards,
-Stefan Schumacher

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Jake Ahnen <jake.acer101@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:57 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays

Hello,

I'd like to express my support for the bill meant to protect shark and ray populations. As an avid fisherman and wildlife lover, it would give me a great deal of joy to see these vital pieces of the aquatic ecosystem protected by the government.

The fact that sharks maintain the health of local fish populations is just one of the many reasons that sharks should be protected. Sharks accomplish this by feeding on the sick and weak fish that are easier to catch. If these fish are not removed from the population, disease can spread and harm the overall population of the species. This can be catastrophic from both an ecological and economic standpoint, depending on the species affected.

Please keep this in mind when voting for this bill!

Thank you,
Jake Ahnen
Sophomore, Iowa State University

gabbard2 - Donna

From: bthomps9@my.hpu.edu
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:58 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support bill SB2642 sharks and rays

Aloha, I wanted to express my support for the anti-shark fishing bill. As a marine biology student I understand first hand the effects of removing apex predators from the ecosystem causing tropic cascades and effecting the delicate balance of the marine environment. Only a few years ago Hawaii made history by being the first state and location anywhere to ban shark fin soup, a decision that reverberated throughout the world resulting in lessened demand on these animals of which we have already removed 90-95% depending on the species. I fully support the inclusion of retention of certain rights for Hawaiians, but any other reason for harvest is unwarranted. Please support this bill and give these important animals the respect they deserve.

Blake Thompson

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Julia Hartl <julia_hartl@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:02 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SB2642

Aloha,

My name is Julia Hartl. I represent One Ocean Diving and Keiko Conservation. I graduated Hawaii Pacific University with a B.S. Biology, I am a PADI scuba instructor and recreational free diver. I Support this bill.

Sharks and rays perform important environmental checks on our natural fishery systems. Sharks specifically target the weak, sick, dying fish stock improving viable healthy genes are kept in cycle.

Worldwide shark estimates are between 5-10% of what population totals were only decades ago. Number one cause for the plight of sharks is to meet the black market demand for Shark Fin Soup predominantly consumed in China. Estimated 70-100million sharks are killed each year while less than 15 persons on the planet annually face a fatal encounter with a shark. It is important to protect these species to protect the health of reef systems.

In a healthy reef system divers would often encounter sharks. Healthy numbers of apex predators reflect health and viability of their prey, reef, ocean chemistry. I have been diving 3-5x/wk since 2012. Before working with shark aggregates where schooling species rest, I had only encountered white tip reef sharks, one Galapagos, and only 2 sandbar diving at an offshore pinnacle. This does not reflect a healthy ecosystem. Our aggregate sites fluctuate in numbers but at a maximum I have seen 35 sharks. That is a maximum. On a minimum I have seen 0. Average is 5-15 individuals species dependent. And my bosses have seen double those numbers in their lifetime.

Regarding shark targeting fisherman, this fishery is unsustainable. Videos and media has been witnessed of sharks being the target of violent and unnecessary death not just for finning which we banned in 2010 but for sport and here locally in Hawaii. Even catch and release can be dangerous for the animal, especially with no scientific purpose but to make money on account of damaging our IUCN listed near threatened shark species.

The tiger shark that washed ashore Sunday February 7, 2016 was the target of a shark fisherman. I spoke with shark biologists Kim Holland and Carl Meyer who both confirmed that large of hook and size of chain was to catch a large species and was not done for research purposes. Research permits typically reflect the devices used and Carl advised that J-hook and chain is the sign of a non research fisherman while circle hook and stainless 7X19 aircraft cable and leader is what they use on Oahu, Maui for Tiger shark tagging. The animal that was fished had spaghetti ID #4011 present and had been tagged in 2013 by Kevin Weng and UH grad student Stephen Scherrer who reassessed state of shark post mortem with new DNA samples (for isotope) and size measurements (TL, PCL, FL). Stephen confirmed use of large circle hooks and stainless braided cable for Weng's research project.

The only reason I see to oppose this bill would be for commercial exploitation of these animals because research, culture, and self defense are all exceptions. In my opinion "self defense" killing from a boat is a disgrace.

Mahalo
Julia Hartl

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Nick G <nickguarneri@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:02 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays

I support the anti-shark fishing bill because sharks are majestic animals which are endangered in most areas of the world and vital to marine ecosystems. Fishing these creatures is unnecessary and disrespectful to our planet Earth.

, Nick Guarneri

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Jamie Brennan <jamieannebrennan@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:03 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays
Attachments: image1.JPG; ATT00001.txt

Hawaii owes it to the world and the people of Hawaii to protect great ocean creatures like sharks and rays and in doing so protect the precious Eco system of our oceans.

If the ecosystem of Hawaii's oceans collapse, the effect on the tourism economy would be absolutely devastating, not to mention the HUGE and irreversible loss to Mother Earth.

I implore you. Do the right thing. Irradiate shark and ray fishing in Hawaii.

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Serene Gunnison <serenegunnison@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:03 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays

Aloha!

I support the anti shark fishing bill because sharks (and all marine life) are vital parts of our eco system. The rapid decline of sharks in Hawaii and around the world is deplorable. The ocean is such a big part of our lives here in Hawaii and it is essential that we respect it and it's creatures before it's too late.

Thank you,

Serene Gunnison

Kazuma Surfboards Hawaii

375 West Kuiaha Rd.

Haiku, HI. 96708

808.575.7510

info@kazumasurf.com

www.kazumasurfboards.com

<http://www.facebook.com/Kazumasurf>

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Lauren Mogford <lauren.mogford@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:03 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642;SHARKS AND RAYS

I support the anti shark fishing bill because sharks are beautiful creatures who deserve to live their life as nature intended, without human threat. We were all put on this planet to live and if that isn't a good enough reason then I don't know what is.

Sent from my iPhone

gabbard2 - Donna

From: nolivas@calliduscloud.com on behalf of Nancy Olivas <nancy@litmos.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:03 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays

Please don't allow people to legally fish for sharks and rays! They are such an essential part of our ecosystem, our environment, our world.

Thank you for your consideration.

Warm regards,
Nancy Olivas



gabbard2 - Donna

From: jeremy <raptout17@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:06 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays

Shark and Ray populations are dwindling. They are being inhumanly slaughtered for unworthy reasons. Please support bill SB2642

Sent from my iPhone

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Roxana Alvarez Burillo <roxy_albu@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:01 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642; SHARKS AND RAYS

SHARKS AND RAYS DON'T HAVE THE VOICE TO DEFEND THEMSELVES SO WE HAVE TO. WE ARE SLOWLY KILLING EVERY LIVING THING ON THE PLANET THINKING WE CAN LIVE WITHOUT THEM, BUT WE CAN'T..... THERE'S A REASON THIS ANIMALS EXIST AND WE HAVE TO RESPECT THEM AND TAKE CARE OF THEM.....

gabbard2 - Donna

From: jnkerby <jnkerby@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:07 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support sb2642 sharks and ray

To whom it may concern,
As a former resident and frequent visitor of the islands I love seeing the beautiful animals in the ocean.
We need sharks and rays as part of an important ecosystem and beauty of the islands. Please save our beautiful animals from shameless slaughter.

Thank you,

Joe

Sent from my T-Mobile 4G LTE Device

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Renae Bailey <renae.bailey@hotmail.ca>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:10 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642 sharks and rays

Sharks play a vital role in the oceans in a way that the average fish does not. Most sharks serve as top predators at the pinnacle of the marine food pyramid, and so play a critical role in ocean ecosystems. Directly or indirectly they regulate the natural balance of these ecosystems, at all levels, and so are an integral part of them. As they usually hunt old, weak or sick prey, they help to keep the prey population in good condition, healthy and strong, enabling these more naturally fit animals to reproduce and pass on their genes. The effects of removing sharks from ocean ecosystems, although complex and rather unpredictable, are very likely to be ecologically and economically damaging.

More Sharks are killed each year by Humans than humans are killed by sharks. So it's the Sharks who should be scared of us. We need Sharks to survive. A lot of people like to kill Sharks just because they're scary, but if we put aside our fear, hatred, and neglect, then we will see how important Sharks really are to us and our world. The oceans cannot survive without sharks. And we cannot survive without the oceans. We do not own the Sharks or the oceans and have no right to ruin either. They need to be protected so they can continued to be studied and future generations can see this amazing wild creatures. I support this bill to create administrative penalties for any person who knowingly captures, harms or kills any sharks or rays within state marine waters.

Sent from my iPhone