



SB2079
RELATING TO SHARK AND RAY PROTECTION
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Senate Committee on Judiciary

February 8, 2018

10:15 a.m.

Room 016

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) offers the following **COMMENTS** on SB2079. This bill would protect sharks and rays by establishing fines and penalties for knowingly capturing, killing, or taking a shark in state waters, and expanding the existing prohibition on knowingly capturing or killing a manta ray to include all rays.

OHA has long-advocated for more responsible and proactive management and protection of our marine resources. Thus, OHA appreciates this measure's recognition of the important role of sharks and rays in marine ecosystems as well as their value in Hawaiian culture.

OHA appreciates the inclusion of language on page 4, lines 5-9¹ that explicitly acknowledges Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices relating to sharks. In contrast, the bill's proposed prohibition on capturing or killing rays does not include an explicit recognition of these constitutionally protected practices. OHA recommends that, in addition to the amendments detailed in Section 3 of the bill, language be inserted to explicitly acknowledge Native Hawaiian traditional and customary practices specific to rays. Accordingly, should the Committees choose to move this measure forward, OHA respectfully offers a proposed new subsection (g) under HRS § 188.39.5, to be inserted after page 6, line 7, to read as follows:

“(g) This section shall not apply to any person exercising Native Hawaiian gathering rights and traditional and customary practices as authorized by law or as permitted by the department pursuant to article XII, section 7, of the Hawaii State Constitution.”

Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

¹ OHA notes that proposed language on page 4, lines 5-9, references “native Hawaiian gathering rights and traditional and cultural practices”; to more closely reflect language found in the constitution and case law, OHA respectfully suggests amending this reference to read “Native Hawaiian gathering rights and traditional and customary practices.”

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



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

POST OFFICE BOX 621
HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the Senate Committees on
WATER AND LAND
and
JUDICIARY**

**Thursday, February 8, 2018
10:15 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 016**

**In consideration of
SENATE BILL 2079
RELATING TO SHARK AND RAY PROTECTION**

Senate Bill 2079 proposes to establish penalties and fines for any person who knowingly captures, kills, or takes any shark or ray within state marine waters and makes it a misdemeanor. This measure provides exemptions for native Hawaiian gathering rights and cultural practices, special activity permits, research purposes, and public safety. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure and provides the following comments.**

The Department recognizes the important role sharks, rays, and other apex predators play in maintaining healthy marine ecosystems, and the detrimental impact from significantly depleting their populations in our waters. The Department also recognizes the importance of these species for native Hawaiian cultural beliefs and practices, as well as their value for ocean recreation and tourism.

The Department supports regulating the take of sharks and rays, and can further refine this ban by establishing regulations through the administrative rulemaking process in order to evaluate the available science, to give due consideration to all interests, and to carefully craft language to avoid conflict with existing state and federal laws. For example, regulations are in place in West Hawaii to regulate the take of sharks under Section 13-60.4-4(1), Hawaii Administrative Rules.

The law does not prohibit the possession of dead sharks or rays in state waters. Specifically, an officer would have to observe a person capturing or killing a shark or ray within state waters.

SUZANNE D. CASE
CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

JEFFREY T. PEARSON P.E.
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

This is challenging for enforcement. For example, an officer who observed a person in possession of a shark or ray at a boat ramp or harbor would have no way of knowing where it was taken. The Department suggests prohibiting the possession of dead sharks or rays in state waters by persons also in possession of fishing gear except on vessels transiting through state waters for fishing in federal waters.

The Department notes that recently there have been several concerning cases of abuse of sharks, including tethering sandbar sharks by the tail at Waimea Bay, where they died, and roping tiger sharks in Kona apparently for the purpose of riding them. The Department suggests adding “abuse or entanglement” to the list of prohibited activities.

Regarding the penalties, the Department notes the bill proposes higher penalties than what exists for other violations in this chapter. The Department believes this is unnecessary in light of our existing criminal and civil penalty authorities. In 1999, the Department’s Division of Aquatic Resources went through a review of its criminal penalty statutes and revised them after consulting with the Department of the Attorney General and the City and County of Honolulu’s Department of the Prosecuting Attorney. This review standardized most criminal penalties as petty misdemeanors to ease prosecution.

Also, in 1998, the Legislature established administrative penalties for aquatic resource violations. Violators face up to \$1,000 per violation and an additional \$1,000 per specimen for a first offense. Repeat violators are subject to even higher fines. In 2004, the Department implemented a civil resource violations system (CRVS), as authorized under Chapter 199D, Hawaii Revised Statutes, to deal with violations through an internal administrative process rather than the criminal court process. This system, which utilizes a civil penalty schedule carefully was developed and is based on resource value and the nature of the violation. CRVS has worked well, and we are looking to expand its scope within the Department.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES



HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL

To: Honorable Chair Rhoads, Honorable Chair Taniguchi, members of the Senate Committees on Water and Land and Judiciary

In support of: SB 2079

Date: February 8, 2018, 10:15 a.m.

Testimony by: Keith Dane, Hawaii Policy Advisor, The Humane Society of the United States

RE: SUPPORT FOR SB 2079; Relating to Shark and Ray Protection

On behalf of The Humane Society of the United States, Humane Society International and our members and supporters across Hawaii, I appreciate the opportunity to submit testimony in support of SB 2079. This bill would impose penalties for anyone who knowingly captures, takes or kills sharks or rays in state waters except for research purposes, under DLNR issued Special Activity Permits, while exercising native Hawaiian gathering rights and cultural practices or at the discretion of DLNR, for specific, emergency public safety reasons.

Why sharks and rays need protection:

- In 2010, Hawaii became the first state to enact a ban on the sale of shark-fins or fin products. To this date, 12 states have adopted similar measures following Hawaii's lead. SB 2079 would further complement existing law by again positioning 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 in state waters.
- With the growing interest and number of commercial operators involved in ray diving tours, this measure would ensure that protections are afforded to ray species. If enacted, SB 2079 would prohibit the take, capture and killing of ray species in state waters.
- The number of shark and ray landings increased by 227% from 1950 to 2003.¹ However, the actual number of animals killed is much larger since this data represents animals that are caught and brought to shore (landed) and do not account for illegal catches, or discards.

¹ IUCN Shark Specialist Group. Questions and Answers.

- One quarter of shark and ray species are threatened with extinction due to overfishing and other fishing threats. Five out of the seven most threatened Chondrichthyan species are rays.²
- Tens of millions of sharks are estimated to be killed annually for their fins. While anti-finning laws are designed to halt further shark population declines, many species are still threatened and face possible extinction. Recent research from the University of Hawaii³ 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.
- There is no directed commercial shark fishery in Hawaii state waters. SB 2079 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.⁴
- This measure does NOT preempt or impact federal fishing laws, and only applies to Hawaii state waters.
- With the growing number of interactions between ocean users and shark and rays, this measure would prevent consideration of ineffective mass culling efforts and those individuals who may target sharks due to misinformation. Cases involving cruelty against sharks in recent years⁵ have prompted public outcry and highlighted public desire for strong penalties for cruelty against sharks.⁶
- Sharks are apex predators and play a vital role in maintaining the balance of marine ecosystems. Research has found that massive removal of sharks has a cascading effect throughout the ecosystems that they inhabit.
- Current law prohibits the take of *only giant oceanic* Manta Ray species. SB 2079 would extend this protection to all species of rays in state waters (listed below), including Torpedo, Stingray, Devilray and Eagleray, Manta alfredi (reef manta ray) and Mobula tarapacana (sicklefin devilray).
- Rays are killed in massive numbers for their meat, gill rakers, gill plates, and fins (called “wings” and also used in shark fin soup) and traded worldwide. The significant increase in global demand for these parts poses a major threat to multiple species of vulnerable elasmobranchs.⁷ SB 2079 would prevent any future trade in harvesting rays in Hawaii state waters, as we saw recently with the mass commercial harvesting of our sea cucumbers by international companies. DLNR has since prohibited commercial harvest of sea cucumbers.

² <http://www.iucnssg.org/global-conservation-status-of-sharks-and-rays.html>

³ <https://www.voanews.com/a/2641635.html>

⁴ http://www.pifsc.noaa.gov/fmb/reports/hlreports/areport_items.php?yr=2014&type=tbl&num=1

⁵ Video of tiger shark torture sparks outcry in Hawaii. https://www.huffingtonpost.com/2013/09/13/shark-torture-video-n_3922319.html

⁶ Three Florida men charged for shark dragging. <http://www.foxnews.com/us/2017/12/12/3-florida-men-charged-in-shark-dragging-video.html>

⁷ Ellis, J. R., S. R. McCully Phillips, and F. Poisson. 2017. A review of capture and post-release mortality of elasmobranchs. J. Fish Biol. 90:653–722.

- Sharks and rays share life history traits that make them particularly vulnerable to overexploitation and population collapse.⁸ These include slow growth; low fecundity; few, well-formed young; long gestation periods; and delayed age at first reproduction, that together are known in the ecological literature as a “K-selected life history”.⁹

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.

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

(EN: Endangered; VU – Vulnerable; NT – Near Threatened; LC: Least Concern; DD – Data Deficient)

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

⁸ Ebert, D.A. 2001. Sharks, Rays, and Chimaeras of California. University of California Press.

⁹ Hoenig, J.M. and Gruber, S.M. 1990. Life-History Patterns in the Elasmobranchs: Implications for Fisheries Management in Elasmobranchs as Living Resources: Advances in the Biology, Ecology, Systematics, and the Status of the Fisheries (H.L. Pratt Jr., S.H. Gruber, and T. Taniuchi, eds.) NOAA Technical Report 90 (1990).

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

The Humane Society of the United States requests a favorable report on SB2079

Keith Dane

kdane@humanesociety.org

301-312-1489

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 9:53:49 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	OCC Legislative Priorities	Support	No

Comments:



TO: Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Taniguchi and Members of the Committees on Water, Land and Judiciary
Feb 8, 2018, 1015am

SUBMITTED BY: Inga Gibson, Policy Consultant, For the Fishes
ponoadvocacy@gmail.com, 808.922.9910

RE: SUPPORT for SB2079, Relating to Shark and Ray Protection

For the Fishes respectfully urges your support of SB2079 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. Evidence suggests that juvenile reef sharks are taken in small numbers by Hawaii's aquarium trade for personal aquariums outside Hawaii, but, citing confidentially, DLNR does not release the data. Further, 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)

Finally, 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).

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 in 2015 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.

Baby shark captured in Hawaii for the aquarium trade:



***4 additional shark species and all devil rays were included in Appendix II of CITES at the 17th Meeting of the Conference of the Parties (CoP17, Johannesburg) in 2016. They joined 10 other sharks, rays and sawfishes (elasmobranchs) that had already been included in the CITES Appendices over the past decade.**

- [Silky shark \(*Carcharhinus falciformis*\)](#)
- [Thresher sharks \(*Alopias spp.*\)](#)
- [Devil rays \(*Mobula spp.*\)](#)

SPECIES LIST FOR HAWAIIAN WATERS

Common name, *Scientific name*, IUCN status worldwide

(DD=data deficient; LC=least concern; NT=near threatened; VU=Vulnerable; EN=Endangered)

SHARKS

Order Orectolobiformes

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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

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Prickly shark, *Echinorhinus cookei*, NT

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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

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Shortspine spurdog shark, *Squalus mitsukurii*, DD

RAYS

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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

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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

CHIMAERAS

Order Chimaeriformes

Family Chimeridae

Purple chimaera, *Hydrolagus purpureescens*, DD

Family Rhinochimaeridae

Longnosed chimaera, *Rhinochimaera pacifica*, LC



TO: Honorable Chairs Rhoads and Taniguchi and Members of the Committees on Water, Land and Judiciary
Feb 8, 2018, 1015am

SUBMITTED BY: Inga Gibson, Policy Consultant, West Hawaii Humane Society
ponoadvocacy@gmail.com, 808.922.9910

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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 in 2015 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 animal protection measure.

In Support Of SB 2079



On behalf of Keiko Conservation and our international supporters, I would like to voice our support for Bill 2079 to further protect sharks and rays in Hawaiian waters.

Of particular concern to us is Hawaii's scalloped hammerhead shark population, a species classified as endangered in other parts of the world, and severely vulnerable to at-vessel (Morgan, A. and G. H. Burgess. 2007) or post-release mortality due to the stress of struggling on a line and build up of lactic acid. Although the tropical fish on Hawaii's reefs have gained protection from the aquarium fish trade this past year, sharks are still vulnerable to this practice. Sharks caught for aquariums are usually juveniles, as the smaller they are, the longer they tend to live in a confined space. This takes many sharks out of Hawaiian waters long before they have a chance to reach sexual maturity and reproduce. Studies have show that the survival rate of juvenile sharks can play the largest role in that animal's overall population rate (Heppell et al. 1999, Cortes 2002). Unfortunately, the mortality rate is very high during the capture (Morgan, A. and G. H. Burgess. 2007) and transport of these animals, so multiples have to be caught which could be anywhere from 20 to 90 animals for one aquarium (Keyes, R. 2000, Arai 1997), making the impact on our reefs even higher. Scalloped hammerheads in Kaneohe Bay have been taken for aquariums and shipped everywhere from Louisiana to Tokyo (Young, F. A., Kajiura, S. M., Visser, G. J., Correia, J. P.S. and Smith, M. F.L. 2002), profiting few but impacting many.

The fight to save sharks is not just to save sharks. It is a fight for to help save the overall health of the oceans as well. No matter how landlocked we may find ourselves on this planet, more than half of the oxygen we breathe still comes from the ocean. Marine ecosystems are fragile and intricate. Every organism has a role. Sharks have arguably one of the most important roles in the ecosystems they inhabit. Removing them can inadvertently cause a domino effect that can lethally impact organisms all the way down the food chain, wiping out everything from bivalves to plankton. The same plankton that produces the oxygen we breathe. The ocean is being attacked from all angles by human action. It has never been so important to give sharks as much protection as we possibly can and we hope you will consider the passing of this bill.

Mahalo!

Natalie Parra

Co-Founder of Keiko Conservation

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 8:14:57 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	No

Comments:

Animal Rights Hawai'i stongly supports SB2079.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 8:52:01 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Heather McMurray	MS biological sciences	Support	No

Comments:

Please protect sharks from hunting in Hawaiian waters.

We now know fish grow bigger when sharks are protecting reefs: they are our watchdogs. And reefs provide protection from storms, tourism, and nurseries for our ocean life.

Sharks are peaceful when we understand them, and interact correctly with them.

Without sharks, our oceans have no chance to stay healthy and balanced.

Native Hawaiians were wise to protect sharks.

Please protect them. ☺™• ☺™☐☺™☐☺™☐

Sincerely

Heather McMurray

MS Biological sciences, fish behavior and ethology (animal behavior)

LATE

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 3:37:21 PM
Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Hawaiian Civic Club of Honolulu	Support	No

Comments:

Center for Hawaiian Sovereignty Studies
46-255 Kahuhipa St. Suite 1205
Kane'ohe, HI 96744
(808) 247-7942
Kenneth R. Conklin, Ph.D. Executive Director
e-mail Ken_Conklin@yahoo.com
Unity, Equality, Aloha for all



To: SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND;
AND SENATE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

For hearing Thursday, February 8, 2018

Re: SB 2079 RELATED TO SHARK AND RAY PROTECTION.

Establishes penalties and fines for any person who knowingly captures, kills, or takes any shark within state marine waters and makes it a misdemeanor. Provides exemptions for native Hawaiian gathering rights and cultural practices, special activity permits, research purposes, and public safety. Expands the existing prohibition on knowingly capturing or killing a manta ray to all rays.

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT, PROVIDED THE BILL IS AMENDED TO ENSURE
RACIAL EQUALITY

This bill provides good reasons why sharks and rays should be protected. The bill provides severe penalties for anyone who captures, kills, or takes a shark or ray within state waters.

Section 2(e) identifies exceptions whereby holders of special permits, or employees of the DLNR, may engage in activities which would otherwise be prohibited to the general public.

However, subsection 2(e)(2) has a problem which this committee should cure by means of an amendment. Either delete subsection 2(e)(2) entirely, or else broaden the exception to include all people regardless of race who are exercising practices which were traditionally and customarily engaged in by the native Hawaiians who lived in that ahupua'a prior to 1778.

Let me illustrate with an example. We know that in ancient times native Hawaiians, who were the entirety of the population in Hawaii, had the right to gather food and building materials from anywhere in the land controlled by their ali'i or konohiki, and also had the right to cross any land for the purpose of going to the ocean. Such rights were preserved after the Mahele, when royal patent deeds were awarded to create private ownership of land — but the gathering rights and shoreline access rights were preserved for the tenants (residents) of each ahupua'a. Those rights were race-neutral; i.e., every person (kanaka) who was a tenant (hoa'aina) had those rights regardless of race. Although such rights for hunting and fishing and gathering were probably not exercised very often by wealthy foreigners, there was no prohibition against them. The words "kanaka" and "hoa'aina" were race-neutral words not limited to people with native blood.

Today the laws of Hawaii recognize that all residents (hoa'aina), regardless of race, have the right to cross public lands as well as undeveloped or even partially developed private land to go to the beach. This right survives from ancient times right up to the present, for all residents regardless of race.

There are many residents of Hawaii whose heritage is from various Pacific island nations such as Samoa, Tonga, Marshall Islands who engage in Polynesian or Micronesian cultural practices, and should be allowed to continue doing so, even if they have no Hawaiian native ancestry. Likewise there are thousands of residents of Hawaii of Asian or Caucasian ancestry, with no Hawaiian native blood, who participate actively in hula halaus, for example, where their kumu hula might expect them to make their own sharkskin drums or sharktooth martial weapons

So if this committee wishes to make an exception such as Section 2(e)(2), then the exception should NOT be for people on account of their race, but rather should be for the traditional and customary activities formerly engaged in by native Hawaiians before 1778 but which are now engaged in by residents of all races. If you are unwilling to allow the exceptions for cultural activities regardless of race, then I believe the U.S. Constitution, 14th Amendment Equal Protection clause, requires you to entirely delete subsection 2(e)(2).

There is no good reason to make the exemption racial. The exemption should be based on preservation of historic skills or ongoing cultural uses, regardless of race.

Either subsection (2) should be deleted from this bill, or else it should be reworded to broaden it so that all persons regardless of race can capture, kill, or take a shark or ray for purposes of engaging in traditional and customary cultural practices for personal or instructional use but not commercial use. Examples of acceptable circumstances for automatic exemption would include harvesting sharkskin for making a drum, or harvesting shark teeth to make an ornament for personal adornment or a replica of an ancient weapon for use in museum displays or school lessons.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 8:09:05 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kori garza	one ocean research	Support	No

Comments:

From: [carrie trujillo](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support For SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 3:43:29 PM

Aloha,

I came to Hawaii because I was enamored by the culture, the spirit of aloha, the reverence for nature that awakens in the eyes of every soul who looks upon this paradise. And of course I came for the sharks; to commune with them and to protect them.

However, in my almost 7 years in Hawaii, the number of times I have swam with sharks is still in the single digits. And never have I witnessed another species in the wild other than the white tip reef shark- unless out with One Ocean Diving at the natural aggregate site off the North Shore of Oahu. In my almost seven years in Maui, I have never found a shark tooth; and I have been taught that being able to find shark teeth along the shore is a way to tell if an area has a healthy, thriving shark population. But yet, not a one here.

However, I do see social media videos of catching and releasing sharks in Hawaiian waters, claiming no harm/no foul as the animal wasn't actually killed. But these animals have a low incidence of surviving catch and release encounters due to the high stress of the event, the exhaustion from the fight, and the force of our atmosphere crushing their vital internal organs when forced out of the water. I do see gill nets legally left unattended for up to two hours at a time, with a four hour max that have snared, suffocated, and killed baby black tip sharks, yet none of these folks are breaking the law; the problem isn't with them. The problem is with the legislation.

So let's change that legislation, let's protect our sharks, our ocean's balance keepers, our amakua. Let's make a difference at the top, where it starts. Let's begin today with this bill.

Mahalo for your time and kokua.

Aloha,

Carrie Trujillo
One Ocean Global Team Maui Lead Ambassador
Owner, Maui Island Mermaids
808-250-2998
info@mauiislandmermaids.com / tru.carrie@live.com

LATE

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 4:26:22 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rachel L. Kailianu	Ho`omana Pono, LLC	Support	Yes

Comments:

Strong Support...

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 5:09:13 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Zhenya Medvedev	PONY WAVE	Support	Yes

Comments:

I'll be there on time. See ya

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 5:42:18 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mercedes	terra nostra	Support	No

Comments:

The ocean ecosystem is made up of very intricate food webs. Sharks are at the top of these webs and are considered by scientists to be “keystone” species, meaning that removing them causes the whole structure to collapse. For this reason, the prospect of a food chain minus its apex predators may mean the end of the line for many more species.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 4:26:06 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shyla Moon		Oppose	No

Comments:

This isn't necessarily the right thing to do. Are sharks proven to be in decline in Hawaii? No? Then don't support bad science bills.

From: [Dave Sandford](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 5:11:39 PM

Sharks need and deserve more protection. Without them we have no healthy oceans, without healthy oceans we eventually have no other life. Sharks have been around over 400 million years and survived mass extinction 66 million years ago going on to thrive in earth's oceans... they deserve their place on this planet, who are we to judge. More protection for sharks!!! PLEASE!!!!

Don't let fear and ignorance get the best of them.

It doesn't matter where on this planet we are from so many of us love sharks. I'm from Canada and love Hawaii but take away the sharks and so many people like myself won't find ourselves there.

Thank you, please do the right thing

Dave Sandford

Website: <<https://www.davesandfordphotos.com>>

Instagram: <<https://www.instagram.com/davesandford/>>

Facebook: <<https://www.facebook.com/DaveSandfordPhotography/>>

Twitter: <https://twitter.com/Dave_Sandford>

From: [Roima Paewai-Huggins](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 5:09:59 PM

If we lose sharks we lose the ocean, and without a healthy ocean we will all suffer. Its as simple as that

From: [Ya Boy](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 4:37:13 PM

Hello,

Sharks in Hawai'i need to be better protected for many reasons. Sharks are a vital part of the coral reefs and help maintain the correct balance of sea life. On top of that, sharks have a significant cultural meaning to the people of Hawai'i.

As a lifelong visitor to these beautiful islands, and a soon to be resident, I've learned so much about Hawai'i from the sharks. Sharks have taught me about the reefs, the 400+ million year history of these animals, and the rich Hawaiian culture.

It's the right thing to offer these beautiful creatures the protection they deserve.

Thanks,
Chuck Hill

From: [Sara Sass](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 4:37:05 PM

Dear Hawaii Legislature,

I am writing to you today as a U.S. citizen concerned about the state of sharks off Hawaiian coasts.

Unique Hawaii is positioned at a crossroads between Asia and North America. The demand for shark fin and shark product (squalene) extends from the California coasts to Japan, China, Indonesia and the Philippines. Sharks need incredible protection from our coastal communities. Many shark species have a very long incubation period of their eggs. Additionally many shark species take years to mature to reproductive age, which is why many fishermen continue to catch juvenile sharks ---- the adult sharks are dead.

With continued assaults against the Marine Mammal Protection Act, proposed seismic air gun blasting, whales used as target practice for the U.S. Navy, overfishing, oil spills, increased waterway traffic, water pollution and tourism, the legislature must act.

I call on you to support SB 2079 and strengthen Hawaiian protection for sharks. It is a testament to the education and compassion of the Hawaiian people that such a bill has been brought.

Thank you. Aloha!

Sincerely,

Sara

From: [Micciche, Giovanna \(Giovanna.Micciche@ksc.keene.edu\)](mailto:Giovanna.Micciche@ksc.keene.edu)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 3:54:53 PM

I am sending you this email to advocate for the protection of Hawaiian sharks. Sharks are incredibly important to any ecosystem and to our oceans. In the past century, sharks have been victims of shark finning all across the globe, causing them to be killed for the pure pleasure of people's tastebuds. Every single year, 100 million sharks are killed, and most of the time it is just for their fin, and they are left to drown in the ocean. It's childish and amateurish to kill a species that has been around for 400 million years and has established its place in the ocean. If this bill were to pass, I would hope that there would be a decrease in the use of long-line fishing -- something that is not only detrimental to sharks, but also to any species in an ecosystem that falls victim to this method of fishing. Sharks stand tall on the food chain and help regulate the number of species in the ocean by preying on them. If sharks continue to be hunted, then species will over populate and cause more harm to the ocean. I am a huge advocate of protecting sharks, it is vital to keep them alive to help protect our oceans and keep them healthy. I hope that you, the government, can recognize that sharks aren't top priority predators to humans. Any person is more likely to die from a car crash than to get bit by a shark. Please take into consideration the harm you would do if this bill weren't passed. You have my full support for passing this bill.

Sincerely,
Giovanna

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [Paiewonsky, Isabel \(Isabel.Paiewonsky@ksc.keene.edu\)](mailto:Paiewonsky_Isabel_(Isabel.Paiewonsky@ksc.keene.edu))
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 3:54:44 PM

I am sending you this email to advocate for the protection of Hawaiian sharks. Sharks are incredibly important to any ecosystem and to our oceans. In the past century, sharks have been victims of shark finning all across the globe, causing them to be killed for the pure pleasure of people's tastebuds. Every single year, 100 million sharks are killed, and most of the time it is just for their fin, and they are left to drown in the ocean. It's childish and amateurish to kill a species that has been around for 400 million years and has established its place in the ocean. If this bill were to pass, I would hope that there would be a decrease in the use of long-line fishing -- something that is not only detrimental to sharks, but also to any species in an ecosystem that falls victim to this method of fishing. Sharks stand tall on the food chain and help regulate the number of species in the ocean by preying on them. If sharks continue to be hunted, then species will over populate and cause more harm to the ocean. I am a huge advocate of protecting sharks, it is vital to keep them alive to help protect our oceans and keep them healthy. I hope that you, the government, can recognize that sharks aren't top priority predators to humans. Any person is more likely to die from a car crash than to get bit by a shark. Please take into consideration the harm you would do if this bill weren't passed. You have my full support for passing this bill.

Sincerely,
Isabel

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

From: [Crook, Sydney \(Sydney.Crook@ksc.keene.edu\)](mailto:Sydney.Crook@ksc.keene.edu)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Cc: [Micciche, Giovanna \(Giovanna.Micciche@ksc.keene.edu\)](mailto:Giovanna.Micciche@ksc.keene.edu); [Paiewonsky, Isabel \(Isabel.Paiewonsky@ksc.keene.edu\)](mailto:Paiewonsky, Isabel (Isabel.Paiewonsky@ksc.keene.edu)); [Lynch, Andrea \(Andrea.Lynch@ksc.keene.edu\)](mailto:Andrea.Lynch@ksc.keene.edu)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 3:52:57 PM

I am sending you this email to advocate for the protection of Hawaiian sharks. Sharks are incredibly important to any ecosystem and to our oceans. In the past century, sharks have been victims of shark finning all across the globe, causing them to be killed for the pure pleasure of people's tastebuds. Every single year, 100 million sharks are killed, and most of the time it is just for their fin, and they are left to drown in the ocean. It's childish and amateurish to kill a species that has been around for 400 million years and has established its place in the ocean. If this bill were to pass, I would hope that there would be a decrease in the use of long-line fishing -- something that is not only detrimental to sharks, but also to any species in an ecosystem that falls victim to this method of fishing. Sharks stand tall on the food chain and help regulate the number of species in the ocean by preying on them. If sharks continue to be hunted, then species will over populate and cause more harm to the ocean. I am a huge advocate of protecting sharks, it is vital to keep them alive to help protect our oceans and keep them healthy. I hope that you, the government, can recognize that sharks aren't top priority predators to humans. Any person is more likely to die from a car crash than to get bit by a shark. Please take into consideration the harm you would do if this bill weren't passed. You have my full support for passing this bill.

Sincerely,
Sydney

From: [Amanda Penrose](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 3:23:30 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing to you in regards to SB2079.

Sharks have been around for around 400 million years, but could soon be lost forever as they are currently being killed at a rate faster than they can recover. They play a vital role in our ocean's ecosystems and seeing as everything is connected in the oceans, if we remove the apex predators it will have disastrous consequences on many different levels.

Just because most don't see them as cute, like they would a fluffy bunny, does not mean that they shouldn't be protected. Please do the right thing and help save these majestic animals.

Thank you for your time,

Amanda Penrose

From: [Christopher Barnickel](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 3:18:06 PM

To Whom It May Conern:

Please support SB2079 to provide protection for sharks. As an apex predator they are essential to our ocean's health and in turn our own.

Christopher Barnickel

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Rick&Cindy](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 2:52:23 PM

I am writing in support of Bill SB2079 to further protect Hawaii's sharks. Sharks are necessary for a healthy ecosystem and need more protection. Their populations are very low- about 90% depleted- and need an opportunity to rebound. They are necessary for a healthy ocean, provide jobs and revenues in ecotourism, and are a historic cultural component to native Hawaiians.

Sincerely,
Rick Rogers

From: [Rain Wlad](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Shark Protection - SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 2:46:23 PM

Hi there,

As I know the bill around ray and shark protection is waiting to be passed, I'd like to offer my input on why I believe sharks and rays need more protection. I am in my third year studying marine biology at the University of Victoria, and sharks have always been my area of interest and passion. The ocean is currently in a state of decline, due to pollution, overfishing, and global warming, so the least that could be done would be to aid the keystone predators that sharks are.

In order for any kind of commercial fishing to continue, for the reefs that Hawaii is renowned for to thrive, and for the well-being and health of our oceans, sharks must be protected at all costs.

Thank you,

Rain Wlad Mengerig

From: [Sophia Ellis](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Re: SUPPORT FOR SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 2:37:35 PM



On Mon, Feb 5, 2018 at 6:32 PM Sophia Ellis <sophiae@hawaii.edu> wrote:

I am in full support for Bill SB2079. The protection of sharks and rays from useless killings not only will benefit those who enjoy and rely on the marine environment in some fashion, which is essentially every person in the state of Hawaii. While the existence of sharks themselves stirs controversy amongst those who fear the few negative encounters that we have with these animals, their presence increases fish stocks, increases prey fish size, allows the flourishing of both coral and pelagic ecosystems, and increases coastal protection. Ironically, Australia found that their rate of negative encounters increased despite stark declines of local shark populations.

Ultimately, both individuals and the state benefit from healthy shark populations. As our local coral reefs face many stressors, including but not limited to rising ocean temperatures and pollution, we must give it the best defense to cope with these abrupt changes moving forward. Sharks allow for healthy prey populations given preferential hunting of sick, dead, and dying individuals, keeping diseases at bay. A paper found that increased presence of sharks caused increased prey size which is good for tourism (i.e. snorkeling and diving) and fishing (Hammerschlag et al, 2017). When sharks are removed from coral reefs, they undergo a phase shift away from a diverse and productive system to an algal dominated reef (photo example attached). This causes decreased reef health and without those crucial reef building organisms, the amount of energy that the reefs take from storms decreases, leaving coastal zones far more vulnerable to storms and natural disasters. Additionally, the open oceans health is also reliant on shark populations and it is that very system which provides us with most of our seafood. Given our local economy's dependence on the marine environment, sharks should be protected from pointless killings.

From: [TheOrin20001_](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 5:49:55 PM

I feel that sharks need more protection because they play a very important role to the ecosystem. Without them, many species of fish would begin to overpopulate and eventually become invasive. And although there are other species that would eat the fish, if sharks were to become on the verge on extinction or even go extinct, there wouldn't be enough things to eat those fish.

Also, sharks eat a lot of the dead animals in the ocean, such as whales and other large marine life. They help with decomposing in a sense. Without them, the cycle would take longer, and that could lead to damage to ocean ecosystems.

So, I feel sharks need more protection from things such as finning. Sharks are important creatures in the ocean, and as all animals, should be respected and protected.

From: justyne.triest@gmail.com on behalf of [Justyne Triest](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 5:53:12 PM

Hello-

I live in Oregon but wanted to take a moment to write in my support to protect Hawaii's sharks further. I had an amazing trip to Maui last year- my first visit there- for my honeymoon, where I learned to snorkel and fell in love with it. I spent every dive looking for sharks, including asking locals where black tip reef sharks might be found. Sadly, we didn't spot any, but just this week we've booked a trip to O'ahu in May. We picked O'ahu (and Hawaii again) for several reasons but the most important was to go on a trip with One Ocean Diving to snorkel with sharks. I booked that as soon as we booked the trip. We are spending our money and coming to O'ahu specifically for a chance to see sharks so I wanted to pass along this email from a tourist to say I hope you will expand the support these animals need.

This very timely study backs up that this is not just me, and that eco-tourism is important for the animals and local economies: <https://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0308597X17304839>

Thank you for your time,
Justine Triest

From: [Stephanie Cooper](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 6:06:30 PM

The ocean is more than just a pretty place that we occasionally go on summer vacations to enjoy. It's more than just a barrier between continents. It's a world of its own, and the very life blood of our planet. It's an ecosystem, one that not nearly enough of us take the time to understand or educate ourselves about. The balance of its existence is not only affected by us, it depends on us. We as humans need to come with terms that "our" world is not ours alone, nor does it belong to us. It is the most divine of gifts, one that deserves protection and understanding. We have not only ignored the fragile balance of the ocean's ecosystems, but we have acted to singlehandedly diminish and destroy it piece by piece. From introducing invasive species in places they do not belong, abhorrent amounts of pollution, to lack of protection for misunderstood sentient creatures such as sharks. The disregard for the world we exist in and ultimately because of cannot continue if we ever hope to have any chance of saving it. The oceans are the world's last frontier. Some may say it is space. But in reality, we have discovered far more of what lays beyond our planet than what exists within its oceans. And its fragility cannot be ignored any longer. We not only fear what we do not understand, we destroy it. Sharks and rays and creatures that are not simply misunderstood, but exist as important links in this ecosystem.

Fail to protect them and you fail the ocean entirely.

From: [Ella Niederhauser](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 6:22:03 PM

I just want to say how important shark are to our oceans. Sharks keep our oceans healthy and thriving. Sharks need our help and we all need to speak up for them so they can live because at the rate they are being murdered they won't make it for very much longer here on our planet. Sharks have been on the Earth longer than we have, they rule the oceans, not us. They are beautiful creatures with a life and they deserve so much better than loosing their fins and being chopped up for soup. Sharks have my protection, I hope they have your protection too!

From: [Claire Bardin](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 6:45:43 PM

To whom it may concern,

Sharks and rays are extremely important to ocean ecosystems. As ocean predators near the top of the food chain, sharks keep the ecosystem balanced, regulate populations of other marine life, and ensure healthy fish stock and reefs. Sharks and rays are more vulnerable than most other fish species. They are long-lived and slow-growing, start reproducing at an advanced age, and produce relatively few offspring per year. If the food chain is disrupted by a decline in the shark population, it affects the **ENTIRE** ocean ecosystem, known as a trophic cascade.

Protection for sharks and rays ultimately means healthier, more resilient oceans and reefs that are better able to withstand other pressures on the ocean ecosystem from climate change and pollution.

Sharks and rays not only play important ecological roles but are also valued figures in Hawaiian culture and are important economically to ocean recreation industries and to tourism in Hawaii. Sharks or mano are regarded in high honor as Hawaiian 'aumakua or family guardians and ancestors. These figures are deeply ingrained in Hawaiian culture and are known to provide protection for native Hawaiians. To defend and seek to spend time with these animals is a cultural right in Hawaii.

The benefits of maintaining viable populations greatly outweigh any value that would be gained by killing these species.

Creating protection laws for sharks and rays is extremely important. We cannot and should not hunt them to their extinction.

Thank you for your support,
Claire Bardin

From: [Briana](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 6:48:02 PM

Sharks are what keeps the balance in our oceans and **THEY NEED TO BE PROTECTED**. They are an essential part of the eco system and despite the fact that they can be potentially dangerous to humans, they're extinction would be even more dangerous!! Please raise protection for these beautiful and misunderstood animals. Thank you.

From: [Corey Huber](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for sb2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 7:04:33 PM

Sharks need more protection because without them our ocean ecosystem would change dramatically. A study conducted in Belize showed that shark over-fishing has caused a massive rise in Grouper population, which resulted in the near extinction of Parrot fish in that area. The Parrot Fish are actually in charge of cleaning the reefs from poisonous algae. The final result, as you can probably guess, death of the corals and deterioration of the reef.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Cade Madere](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 7:34:27 PM

Howdy

Sharks, like most predators, are vital to the preservation of a balanced ecosystem, and need more protection.

Cade Madere

From: [Davis Brown](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 8:11:03 PM

To those this concerns,

Save the sharks! They are extremely necessary to the aquatic food chain and the overall health of aquatic environments, which directly affects the rest of the world, humans included. We do not simply live on this earth, we are part of it, its ecosystems and environments, and we must protect it in any way we can.

Davis Brown

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Bekkers, Alice](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 8:22:26 PM

Sharks need our protection because without them because they are important to the oceans ecosystem, they are beautiful and peaceful creatures when left unbothered.
I am fifteen and would like to see my great grandchildren to grow up seeing these graceful creatures in our oceans.
I hope this new bill can go through. Save the sharks!

Sent from my iPad

From: [Tash Loo](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for Bill SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 8:44:12 PM

Hi,

Sharks need more protection in Hawaii's and the world waters, they are part of a larger eco system which needs them in it. The shark population has been decreasing dramatically.

Living sharks also bring tourism to Hawaii as people like me (i'm from New Zealand) will travel to Hawaii to swim with sharks. Please protect the sharks in your waters! Thanks!

Kind Regards,
Tash Loo

From: [Rodrigo Portes](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT FOR SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 8:26:00 PM

Dears,

Please, DON`T KILL THE SHARKS.

They are incredible animals, very intelligent and so much important for the oceans. They are responsible to maintain the ocean food chain, if the sharks die, the oceans and the planet will die too.

Kind regards,

Rodrigo - from Brazil

From: [Kat Ahlers](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 8:51:40 PM

Please support this bill to protect sharks. They are essential to the health of the ecosystem. They are also important to Hawaii's tourism.

Thank you.

From: [Philipp Sanden](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 8:58:03 PM

Hello,

We all need sharks.

If there are no more sharks there is no longer a food chain in our oceans.

It will end in a disaster.

And by the way, you can earn good money with shark tourism when it is done right. There are good examples in the North of Oahu.

Kind regards

Phil Sanden

Germany

Philipp Sanden
Phil Sanden Photo & Retouch
mail@philsanden.com
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From: [Ischa Vingle](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT FOR SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 9:16:04 PM

I am writing from Kauai to testify my support in the upcoming bill applying to the protection of sharks and rays in Hawaiian waters.

As an educated ocean enthusiast and advocate I firmly believe that the need for ocean protection is at an all time high. People on the Hawaiian islands have depended on the ocean for life since the beginning of time... believe it or not, every person on this planet depends on our oceans for life. Sharks are not only a protector spirit in Hawaii, but also a true protector in our oceans. Despite being advertised as inadvertent killers, they have a very important place in the food chain... they are actually mainly scavengers that pick off the sick and the weak, keeping systems in check. Sharks have been around for over 400 million years and have survived 4 out of the 5 mass extinction periods... we are going through the sixth right now, and this one is in our power.

PLEASE protect our sharks.

For the kiei, for us, for our oceans, and for the planet.

Thank you for your time,

Ischa Vingle

From: [Anais Murphy](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 9:18:51 PM

As a 14 year old girl who has dived with sharks I believe it is crucial to this beautiful animal's future, as well as that of all other living organisms, that they are protected by law. They are utterly amazing animals with a gorgeous nature. I can honestly say that I have never been in a situation where I have felt threatened or the least bit uncomfortable around a shark. Please protect them so I can continue to understand and learn about them in the future.

From: [Khaeilene Epan](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Bill SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 9:44:46 PM

Hello,

I am here to acknowledge my support of the SB2079 Bill. I believe that sharks and rays should be protected as they are very important to the oceans ecosystems. Mainstream media has put a negative connotation whenever some people think of sharks, thinking that they will attack at every chance they get. This however is incorrect and I believe they are the world's most understood animal. Sharks are very important to our ecosystem and they help regulate populations in the ocean. Due to over fishing and other human induced harmful activities many different shark species have declined in the numbers and effecting the environment around them. Hundreds and thousands of sharks are killed everyday for their fins and causing a very big decrease in their populations. If these declining rates continue they wont be harmful for just the species, but also for the ecosystem, and it will even effect us humans. Human activity continues to disturb and destroy the oceans ecosystems, and if these activities continue they can lead to permanent and severe consequences. Please consider on going through with this bill, it will help save these animals and the habitat it lives in. Sharks are very important and magnificent creatures, please help preserve them for the future generations to come.

Thank you for listening and I hope you take this under serious consideration.

Khaeilene Epan

From: [Mariana Zafiri](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: #SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 9:19:12 PM

Hi,

Please protect our sharks, & by doing that we can save the oceans!! Please!!!!!!

Kindest Regards

Mariana Zafiri
Sent from Mariana Zafiri

From: [bethanyperusse](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 9:26:35 PM

Sharks need all of our help and support that we can get. We are the reason that their numbers have declined so drastically in the first place. We have to make changes and start protecting and saving our declining population of ever so important sharks!

Sharks are a keystone species to our environment and ecosystem. Without them everything dies.

Sharks are severely misunderstood and need all of the protection they can get.

Thank you,
Bethany Perusse

From: [Jesse Carter](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 9:31:13 PM

Sharks need all of our help and support that we can get. We are the reason that their numbers have declined so drastically in the first place. We have to make changes and start protecting and saving our declining population of ever so important sharks!

Sharks are a keystone species to our environment and ecosystem. Without them everything dies.

Sharks are severely misunderstood and need all of the protection they can get.

Thank you,
Jesse Carter

From: [Mr Perkins](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Testimony
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 8:13:19 PM

Protect Sharks! This is my testimony

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

From: [Jo Jagtiani](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT FOR SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 9:33:44 PM

Dear whomever it may concern

I am writing to support the bill to further protect the sharks and rays of Hawaii's beautiful waters

Sharks play a vital role in the oceans in a way that most other fish do not; as the top predators at the pinnacle of the marine food system, they play an irreplaceable role in the oceans ecosystems. 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 ensure the population of the fish is maintained at a good, healthy and strong condition thus ensuring the health of future breeding. If they were to not be further protected, their ultimate removal from the ecosystem, although complex and unpredictable, would most likely be ecologically and economically damaging.

Additionally, it has been proven that a shark is one thousand times more valuable alive than dead, particularly from a tourist point of view. There is absolutely zero need to continue the killing, trade or fishing of these amazing animals

Thank you for taking the time to read this

From: [Suzanne Archer](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 10:02:34 PM

Sharks need more protection.

Our world is crumbling and changing for the worse around us, we can see it with our own eyes, there's no denying it.

There are species of animals in this world that are doing their part to keep our planet balanced and healthy, and we have to start to work together with these species to protect our home.

Sharks are one of those species that we need to help. They are essential for healthy marine ecosystems. They pick up the dead, injured, dying, sick, and weak creatures keeping lower trophic level populations healthy and in balance.

We need sharks for a healthy ocean. We need sharks for a healthy planet!

Don't wait until it's too late, don't wait to follow the crowd. Set an example, make the right choices and start protecting what our planet needs to survive.

Start by protecting your sharks.

--

Kind regards,
Suzanne Archer

From: [Laura Davidson](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 10:07:02 PM

Please protect the sharks. I believe these beautiful creatures are completely misunderstood and they are a vital part of the oceans ecosystem. The ocean is not our territory, it is their home which we've been destroying for too long, let's end this madness and educate people on the essential role sharks play in this world.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Safae L](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT FOR SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 10:15:44 PM

Every creature needs to be protected and saved so that we can preserve our ecosystem.

From: [Jack Tickle](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 10:22:56 PM

A healthy ocean needs sharks, we need a healthy ocean to survive, therefore we need sharks

From: [ABC4EXPLORE](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: PLEASE HELP SAVE SHARKS
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 7:55:11 PM

I AM A FATHER OF 2, HUSBAND AND 2 - TIME EMMY AWARD WINNING
CINEMATOGRAPHER AND TV PRESENTER AND I LOVE SHARKS AND I WANT
MY CHILDREN TO BE ABLE TO SEE THEM WHEN I'M GONE - PLEASE HELP US
PROTECT THEM!!!

Andy Brandy Casagrande IV
<http://instagram.com/abc4explore>
<http://facebook.com/abc4explore>
<http://twitter.com/abc4explore>
andycasagrande@yahoo.com
Tel # 202.415.4472 - USA
Live The Life You Dream...
<http://www.abc4explore.com>

From: [Adriana Boškovic](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT FOR SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 11:08:44 PM

Dear Sir/Madam,

I am writting to you because I want help to save the sharks, sharks are needed for the sea, just as you need the world.. Please do something and help, stop the destruction of nature.

I want to thank you, and I think sharks will be grateful to you.

Adriana

From: [Jeremias Felder](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Monday, February 5, 2018 11:59:02 PM

Greetings

The decrease of sharks is a severely underrated threat. Highly educated people try their best to make it clear, that sharks, as apex predators, maintain a healthy ocean, which is an absolutely most important factor for us humans and our environment, as about half the oxygen we breath comes from the ocean.

If sharks decrease any further, the entire food chain in the seas is threatening to collapse, for sharks are a so called key species.

Sharks are most important to us all, and there are people seeing this, and they are willing to help, willing to do the right thing, but there needs to be support from the government too.

This is an urgent matter that needs more voices and support, so please help.

With the most kind regards

From: [Angela Penrose](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 12:04:46 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

I'm writing to you in regards to SB2079.

Sharks have been around for around 400 million years, but could soon be lost forever as they are currently being killed at a rate faster than they can recover. They play a vital role in our ocean's ecosystems and seeing as everything is connected in the oceans, if we remove the apex predators it will have disastrous consequences on many different levels.

You have the power to make a positive difference. Please respect and support the sharks and make an informed decision by protecting them.

Thank you for your time,

Angela Penrose

From: [Ruth Shira](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB 2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 12:17:20 AM

Sharks need more protection. They are a critical part of our ocean ecosystem. When recently diving in Hawaii I saw no sharks a this is very different from Florida where I see many. Please protect these beautiful animals that desperately need our help as they are so misunderstood. Sharks are a terrific assets to increase diving tourism in Hawaii - protect sharks and you also protect jobs on your beautiful islands as tourists like me will continue to come visit and support your economy.

Ruth Shira
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Ricky Garcia](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT FOR SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 12:39:34 AM

Please help support the lives of sharks by passing Bill SB2079. They are incredible creatures. It is so unfair for humans to be killing them in such large numbers.

Thank you!!

Ricky Garcia

From: [Meisha Hackner](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 12:46:08 AM

Not only are sharks and rays glorious to observe, but they also play a vital role in maintaining the oceans ecosystem. The large predators are key in maintaining a balanced environment as well as play a role in hawaiian culture.

While it may seem like they would be invulnerable, the opposite is in fact true. Sharks take a long time to reach sexual maturity in addition to having long gestation periods. They also need to keep moving in order to keep breathing. Because of humans, these sharks are trapped and caught as bycatch or are hunted themselves for terrible reasons. This makes it difficult for shark populations to remain healthy and stable. But this is where we come in. We must do all we can to protect these sharks so we can continue to share the sea.

Please set an example to other states by showing you care for and are concerned about marine life and writing legislation that reflects that.

Mahalo

From: gabriel.dalibot@gmx.de
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 1:05:21 AM

Hello,

I'm writing you from far germany so please excuse any spelling or gramatic mistakes. Sharks are essantials to the ocean which means essential to the world, to us. But even if they didn't have any impact on our lives, sharks doesn't have to be of any use to us to be worth protecting. They are absolutly majestic creatures who are being whipped out by millions. Any way, it would be awsome if we could take a step further in their protection.

Thank you very much and kind regards

Gabriel, an ocean lover

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Sent from my Android phone with GMX Mail. Please excuse my brevity.

From: [Lucia Witte](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 1:23:16 AM

Dear politicians,
360,570,000 Km² or 70,7% water covered our planet. More than the whole country area. The underwater world is incredible and her animals even more. The ocean is their home. But we humans harm the ocean. Plastic waste floats in the ocean, many people hurt and kill the animals.

Sharks are incredible animals. They keep the ocean clean and they have been swimming for about 400 million years in the ocean.
They are among the oldest vertebrates living today.
The ocean is the home from the sea animals. And they share it with us.
Every sea animal, no, every creature, no matter whether human or animal, has a right to live.

So please, stop killing the sharks, stop killing every creature!

We love sharks and we need them!

From: [Robert Slosser](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for sb2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 2:11:15 AM

I am a passionate surfer. The ocean is a second home for most surfers. When I was a little kid I saw sharks as monsters. They're so scary! They're also a vital part of our oceans health. Shark fin soup and other shark crazes have turned fishing for sharks (Let alone dolphins in Asia!) Out of control. Sharks need our help! Please pass sb2079.

From: [Nick Dimaggio](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 2:15:36 AM

Sharks need support because they are mistaken animals and are very vital to us surviving. You cant take away the top of a food chain of any environment especially an environment whose oxygen we rely on. Sharks are majestic animals sent from god and have lived 400 million years and deserve to continue living. If they didnt belong here god would have killed them off and he didnt. We deserve sharks and sharks deserve to be alive.

From: [Robin Arisa Cox](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 2:44:20 AM

Sharks have become such a vulnerable species due to not being able to defend themselves against fishing and finning.
With the help and protection that humans can provide for them, they can thrive as a species and help sustain a healthy ecosystem.

Robin Cox

--

Robin Arisa Cox

Robin Cox Photography
robincoxphotography@gmail.com
robincox0512.wixsite.com/robincox

From: [Amy Fulton](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 3:14:34 AM

The Ocean is the planet's most important ecosystem, regulating the climate and feeding the planet. Every ocean inhabitant plays a role that contributes to the overall health of the ecosystem. As apex predators, sharks directly limit the populations of their prey, which in turn affects the prey species of those animals, and so on. This cascade effect throughout the ecosystem ultimately influences community structure. By preventing one species from monopolizing a limited resource, sharks increase the species diversity of the ecosystem. If millions of sharks continue to be extracted from the ocean, the entire ecosystem will drastically change. Once the oceans change, life on earth will change with them. Numerous studies indicate what the oceans will look like without sharks: economically important fisheries shut down, coral reefs shift to algae dominated systems, seagrass beds in decline, ecological chain reactions set in motion, species diversity and abundance declines with the loss of habitats, and the list goes on. Appropriate measures need to be taken now to avoid catastrophic unintended consequences. That is why I support SB 2079 and plead that you help protect sharks from purposeful killing. Thank you.

Amy Fulton

From: [devin deal](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 3:40:27 AM

Now more than ever Sharks need protected! Their numbers have steadily been declining for years and are now at an all time low! Continuing this trend is dangerous for our future and our ecosystem! Please pass this law!

Devin Deal

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Brittany McDorman](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079 - protect the sharks
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 3:44:31 AM

To who is concerns,

Sharks are an essential park of our ecosystem. Many people do not understand this and therefore for the future of our oceans and wildlife, they need to be protected. Please do everything you can to ensure the future of these invaluable creatures to our ecosystem.

Brittany McDorman

From: [Brittany Cochrane](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079 - protect the sharks
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 3:46:10 AM

It is your duty to protect the sharks! Pass the bill.

From: [Ryleigh Olliver](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 3:51:56 AM

Sent from my iPhone

The sharks are something that are a huge necessity to our ecosystem and every year thousands of sharks are killed for just their fins. The sharks are a beautiful creature and deserve to be treated with respect. SAVE PUR SHARKS

From: [Peter Mortenson](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 4:17:18 AM

WE NEED MORE PROTECTION FOR SHARKS. They are a vital part of all reef ecosystems, and without them it would all be out of balance. 11,417 sharks are slaughtered every hour, and the population is plummeting towards extinction. Without the large predators the ecosystem would fall apart, which would very negatively impact Hawaii's tourism-based economy. We need sharks to maintain a healthy ocean and a healthy planet. I SUPPORT SB2079.

From: [Nico](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Bill #SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 2:46:30 AM

Hello from Spain, Ocean Ramsey led me here.

Please, don't make the HUGE mistake of killing these beautiful creatures. They're, as you might know, vital for the health of the ocean. Im a Spanish guy that would love to go to your Country and enjoy that beautiful waters, but you need to protect the sharks to maintain that ecosystem as incredibly alive anda amazing as it has always been.

Respect nature.

From: [Josep Cortiella](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT FOR SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 4:26:15 AM



As apex predators, sharks play an important role in the ecosystem by maintaining the species below them in the food chain and serving as an indicator for ocean health. They help remove the weak and the sick as well as keeping the balance with competitors helping to ensure species diversity.

As predators, they shift their prey's spatial habitat, which alters the feeding strategy and diets of other species. Through the spatial controls and abundance, sharks indirectly maintain the seagrass and corals reef habitats. The loss of sharks has led to the decline in coral reefs, seagrass beds and the loss of commercial fisheries.

Source: <http://eu.oceana.org/en/importance-sharks>

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Enviat per Josep C.M.

From: [abbymartin648](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 4:36:16 AM

Sharks are so important to me and I want everyone to do their best to protect these amazing creatures!

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

From: [Diego Aransaenz](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 4:46:42 AM

To whom it may concern,

I strongly believe this bill is important for a wide variety of reasons that may seem trivial to some in the short term or even penalizing to a select few, but the importance of sharks in marine ecosystems has been thoroughly studied and documented. Their presence is a key link to the balance that allows marine environments to maintain a healthy composition of species (at all levels of the food chain). Sharks are an easy target of hate because of their power which has been vilified in society to create an aura of fear, yet sharks are proven to be far less aggressive than other predators in the sea or on land. Nevertheless, they need to be respected and we must be conscious that when we are visitor their environment.

I strongly support this bill for the protection of sharks and rays and would like to voice my support for the HI SB2079 bill.

Regards,

Diego Aransaenz

From: [Matthew Sheffield](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 5:21:22 AM

To whom this may concern,

I am writing to voice support for this legislation in order to better protect sharks in Hawaii's Waters. Sharks are integral pieces of the ecosystems they inhabit and in too many places around the world where education is poor, they are taken for granted and their stocks depleted. The nutrient rich and bio diverse environment surrounding the islands of Hawaii are important habitat for sharks, which in turn help to keep our fish stocks healthy and free of disease!

Sincerely,
Matthew Sheffield

B.S. Marine Biology
College of Charleston

From: [sophia woolsey](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 5:39:50 AM

To whom it may concern,

Sharks are important to our world for a variety of reasons, which is why we need to give them protection. One is that some species of sharks are at the top of the food chain, therefore their species keep other species in check. If we keep hunting them and letting people kill them it could have drastic impacts on an ecosystem. Furthermore, sharks also keep fish stocks healthy by feeding on weaker unhealthy fish, which decreases the chances of diseases spreading through fish. These are just some of the reasons we need to take more measures to protect the sharks! Thank you for your time and please consider.

From,

Sophia Woolsey

From: [Bailey Barry](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support For SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 5:53:14 AM

To whom this may concern,

Sharks are a very important part of our ecosystem and we need to continue to protect them. Sharks are not monsters.

Think about how many people are in the water every single day on Oahu and shark attacks are still so very rare.

Sharks are not killers and we need to be their voice to protect them.

-Bailey F.

From: [René Köster](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 5:54:10 AM

Dear Sir or Madam:

I would like to express my support for bill SB2079 because sharks and rays are irreplaceable parts of the marine ecosystem,

which affects wildlife and humans in equal measure, and therefore need to be protected in every possible way.

Yours faithfully
René Koester

From: [Emma Lance](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 1:57:26 AM

We must protect sharks for the same reason we protect lions and tigers. They serve the same purpose in the food chain and they are in danger. They were here first.

From: [Saving Wildlife Project](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 6:00:37 AM

Aloha,

As a marine biologist that studies sharks, I'd like to enlighten you as to why we must protect sharks in Hawaii.

It's so crucial to save sharks for a healthy ocean. Without sharks, we don't have the biodiversity that makes Hawaii and the rest of our ocean so rich with life. They control the sick, weak, dying individuals that is a form of natural selection, which leaves the fitter, healthier individuals to pass on their fitter genes.

Without sharks our ocean will die. Please do all in your power to save such beautiful and misunderstood animals. They bring in a lot of money for ecotourism, as well!

Much appreciated
Cassie Paumard

From: [KC Kent](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 6:18:48 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

Sharks need to be protected! Please support SB2079, one of my favorite parts of visiting Hawaii is that I can frequently see sharks when I go swimming. If we don't protect these creatures, or continue to fish/hunt/kill them, our oceans will be devastated.

While most people in the world will be unable to experience and see the beauty below the surface, I have been fortunate enough to swim with these large creatures and see how truly majestic and special they are.

Sharks are an important apex predator and should be protected as such. They are just as important as lions, tigers, and bears. The only difference is that we can't see the impact we are having on them. They need just as much, if not more, protection than large land animals.

Please support this bill to support our oceans!

Thank you,
KC Kent
A land-locked ocean lover

From: [jannes packet](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 6:32:13 AM

I am supposed to tell you why sharks should get more protection. I think it's better to ask why they shouldn't get more protection?

Jannes Packet

Obter o [Outlook para Android](#)

From: [TAYLOR WILLIAMS](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 6:42:02 AM

Sharks need more protection because without them, the ecosystem in marine life would be unbalanced causing a disruption in the food chain. Also, humans today don't think of sharks as needing protection as they are seen as "fierce creatures" but on the contrary, they are just misunderstood and without them, the marine life would be altered drastically.

From: [brett mayberry](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 6:49:50 AM

Hello,

I am writing to support legislation that protects sharks. Scientific (or logical) research supports theories that sharks are important to the general health of ecosystems. Ecosystem tourism, which sharks contribute to considerably, is also important to your local economy. In addition, sharks are just plain cool, and I personally would like to see more of them around.

Please pass SB2079 and protect Hawaii's valuable natural resources.

Sincerely,

Brett Micah Mayberry

Tap to get Yahoo Mail

From: [Tracie Sugo](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support For SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 6:52:20 AM

To Whom It May Concern,

I am writing to express support for SB2079 which would help protect Hawaii's sharks and rays.

Hawaii is extremely lucky to have a rich marine ecosystem, home to beautiful reefs and wildlife. This attracts a lot of tourism- the largest single economic contributor to the state's domestic product.

Being predators, sharks and rays are a vital part of the food chain, helping regulate fish populations and feeding on the weak or sick. Without these predators, the ecosystem would collapse. Shark populations around the world are at an all time low due to overfishing (commercially, by catch and recreationally). They are slow to reproduce and struggle to recover from threats and are in dire need of more protection globally as well.

It is extremely important that sharks and rays have stronger protection here in Hawaii, thus protecting much of the state's amazing marine wildlife and habitats.

Thank you

--

Tracie Sugo

From: [Jeremy Krauss](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: support for sb2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 7:13:00 AM

Please provide sharks with more protections, not only for hawaiiis sharks but also as an example to the rest of the world, so that these creatures stand a chance at surviving. Right now, its not looking so good. Thank you dfor your time.

Jeremy

From: [Tutt, Sarah](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT FOR SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 7:24:33 AM

Dear WTL Committee,

My name is Sarah Tutt and I am engineering student in Texas. All my life, I have admired and loved marine life. Living in Dallas, Texas with absolutely no access to the ocean, my obsession for marine life has only grown over the years.

It breaks my heart to know that one day in my lifetime, sharks could very well go extinct. Their population numbers are decreasing rapidly from humans merciless hunting tactics along with illegal fishing lines and other dangers that are posed to these vital species. Please help protect sharks as they play a crucial role in our oceans ecosystem. Politicians and committees have a great opportunity to stand up for what is right, and I know that this is one area of concern where people must speak out.

Thank you for your time and consideration. Have a wonderful week.

Sincerely,
Sarah Tutt

From: [lheidt](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SB 2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 7:54:39 AM

I am writing in support to protect sharks as an endangered species.
90% of shark populations have declined due to overfishing, and the greedy practise of finning.
Sharks have survived for millions of years but it is humans who threaten their existance more than anything.
We need sharks for healthy oceans
Please protect these pelagic ocean icons.

Sent from my Samsung Galaxy smartphone.

From: [Allie Kean](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 7:49:58 AM

Please make the right decision in helping to protect our sharks. We cannot bring them back once they are gone. Thank you for your time and consideration in this decision.

From: [Jesse Armatage](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 7:59:52 AM

Please protect sharks. They need us and we need them. Thank you.

From: [Sandra McClanahan](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 8:19:45 AM

Please help save the sharks and rays !!! They are vital to our ecosystem! Thank you !!

Sandra McClanahan
Sent from my iPhone

From: [Eve Wesson](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Bill #SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 7:55:38 AM

Dear Law Makers,

Please protect the sharks! They are such an important and vital part of the oceans ecosystem. Their population is in decline and it is a direct result of our actions.

I am a visitor to Hawaii. A big reason is to experience all the natural beauty and wonder of Hawaii's land and ocean resources. Please protect the sharks so visitors can continue to enjoy these spectacular creatures.

Mahalo,
Eve Wesson

Sent from my iPhone

From: [David Chau](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 8:22:52 AM

Sharks are amazing creatures, if you've seen them in real life, you would appreciate their true beauty. They also keep the ecosystem balanced!

Regards,
Kar Chau

From: [Willa Penn](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 8:28:46 AM

Please protect sharks from hunting in Hawaiian waters.

We now know fish grow bigger when sharks are protecting reefs: they are our watchdogs.
And reefs provide protection from storms, tourism, and nurseries for our ocean life.

Sharks are peaceful when we understand them, and interact correctly with them.

Without sharks, our oceans have no chance to stay healthy and balanced.

Native Hawaiians were wise to protect sharks.

Please protect them.

Sincerely
Heather McMurray

From: [Erin Chandler](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 8:34:37 AM

I support the protection of sharks and rays in the waters of Hawaii. Sharks are indicators of a healthy ocean ecosystem, and have value both ecologically and economically. Tourism activities involving responsible viewing of sharks (diving, snorkeling, photography) are a sustainable way to stimulate the local economy. Please help protect sharks and rays for our future generations!!!

Sincerely,
Erin Chandler

From: [Rochelle Sherman](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 8:35:54 AM

Sharks need more support from the government desperately. They are vulnerable and an important part of our ecosystem

*Yours,
Rochelle
Rochelle Sherman*

From: [Taryn Wong Fowler](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Bill #SB2079 Shark Conservation
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 7:22:01 AM

Hawaii representatives,

Please support this bill to help to help protect our sharks!! We have a declining shark population that is needed for a balanced ecosystem. Sharks have such a bad stigma and need to be protected like the monk seals and green sea turtles. I was born in Hawaii, an avid surfer, and desperately want to protect these magical creatures. I have seen pics of dead baby sharks on the beaches - and there are no consequences to this. We need to protect our oceans and all in it. Please help pass this bill to protect sharks!!

Sincerely, Taryn

Taryn E. Fowler
361 Kailua Road #8201
Kailua, HI 96734
808.372-6570

From: [Lydia R](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 8:44:14 AM

Without Sharks our ocean will be put off balance which will then contribute to the downfall of humans. Sharks are already endangered and this is such an inhumane act toward these harmless animals. Sharks do a countless amount of things to keep the ocean in balance and humans need to support that. Sharks have been around longer than trees and have survived many global mass extinctions. Please do not allow them to become extinct this time. Thank you.

From: [Sarah Bonneson](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: BILL 2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 8:33:18 AM

Aloha all,

I am writing to you on behalf of our Hawaiian sharks as well as the delicate ocean ecosystems they call home. I have been working as a Marine Naturalist for 5 years, two of which have been spent in Hawaii educating people about these beautiful animals. They are just like many of us, misunderstood. It is not about killing more of these animals and potentially shifting the delicate balance that these ocean warriors help maintain but EDUCATING more people about proper ocean etiquette and respect. When we come into the ocean we are guests in that animals niche and we need to act as such, we are guests in THEIR home. I sincerely hope this has shed some light on the bill proposed and you will cease toying with the idea that the ocean is ours to make such grave decisions about.

Mahalo nui loa for your time,
Sarah Bonneson

--

Mahalo Nui Loa,
Sarah Bonneson



mauiwhalefestival.org

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From: [Torie O'Halloran](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for sb2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 8:50:58 AM

Sharks need protection. They are carelessly killed and are extremely important for our oceans health. Something must be done to help these animals.

From: [Claire SAJNO](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 9:20:07 AM

Hello,

I am writing from France and I am very concerned about the massive destruction of such important animals as sharks. We can't just destroy apex predators without having a huge impact on the whole ecosystem. We need shark, we need to learn more about them, we need to change our ways of looking at them. They are threatened and hated everywhere, Hawaii can start a change, be a model for other countries.

I totally support bill SB2079 and I thank you so much for what your are doing.

Claire SAJNO

From: [Emma Logemann](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 9:21:05 AM

I think sharks need to be protected because they are beautiful and every animal deserves to live.

From: [Kim Turcotte](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support For SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 9:27:36 AM

Please do not harm our Sharks they need to be protected and a huge part of our Underwater Livelyhood. Our Ocean needs Sharks. Stop the Killing and Protect them! No more Finning! They are not good for human consumption. Protect Hawaii's Sharks from commercial fishing! Stop killing Sharks!

HB Love
Mermaid Flower

--

Kim Turcotte
HB MERMAIDS
www.HBMermaids.com
714/600-9758



From: [Tomas Olsiak](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT FOR SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 9:32:17 AM

By far the most fascinating creatures below the sea surface (and sometimes even above it - as for southafrican whities jumping out of the water when hunting the seals). Let alone their irreplaceable importance in food chain. Hero and villains at once, ocean just wouldn't be the same place w/o them. Even though fear is apparently just a lack of knowledge in this case, even this fear and mystery that surrounds them is a vital part of our (humankind) relationship to ocean and of what makes ocean such a fascinating environment.

Tomas "Raggae Shark" Olsiak

From: [Kylie Lanuza](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SP2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 7:27:21 AM

Hi my name's Kylie lanuza I'm 16 years old and love sharks. When I grow I up wanna be a marine biologist and primarily work with sharks. They are beautiful creatures who are very misunderstood and some day I hope to help people understand these amazing animals. But I can't do that if there are less and less shark. I ask that you pass this bill so one day I can get to know sharks as individuals and as a species. I ask you help protect the lives on this one planet we have. Without sharks we loose an important part of the aquatic ecosystem. Don't destroy a place we don't even fully know. Thank you.

From: [Linda Rowland](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 9:36:51 AM

Please support SB 2079 in support for sharks and sea life. Our oceans depend on it!

Linda Rowland

From: [Denise G. Reyes](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support For SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 9:36:29 AM

To Whom It May Concern:

I am writing this email to show my support for sharks and rays in Hawaii through SB2079. We recently visited Hawaii for the first time and are truly amazed with the Aloha Spirit that is represented in the people of Hawaii and the protection on beaches of the marine life by so many that respect the beautiful State of Hawaii.

I truly believe that every voice counts in protecting this planet and the amazing marine life that exists. Without sharks, our ecosystem would be devastated and we must all work together to ensure their protection.

Thank you for your support of SB2079.

Mahalo

Denise G Reyes
512 Parkwood Drive
Windsor, CO 80550
Sent from my iPhone

From: [John Gorman](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Cc: ["Juan Business Urgent _"; "OCEAN RAMSEY"; "One OCEAN diving"](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 9:46:46 AM

PLEASE CONSIDER THIS EMAIL URGENT!

To whom it may concern:

Public awareness with regard the global plight of sharks is growing daily. We have always had the compassion, understanding and conservation of sharks by the Hawaiian people, to help light the way for this nation's growing awareness of this problem. I plead with you and your government now, to preserve one of your most precious resources and be the example and the standard by which our nation's efforts are measured – as you have been in the past.

We – America – are fast becoming a nation of entitlement, with little regard for anything other than our own gratification. Tragically, we view this as “progress”. Narcissism courses through our veins where once there was compassion, understanding, tolerance and above all, a respect for that with which we have been blessed – our natural resources. We were once leaders of the free world when it came to conservation, but it appears that all too often now, we are satisfied with finishing second, or not even finishing at all. Countries like the Bahamas and Tahiti (and now even Cuba) are showing us how to respect our oceans. They realize only too well, that in order to succeed at this endeavor, one needs to protect the top apex predators – you need to protect sharks. Everything that lives in the ocean, owes its continued existence to the abundance of its apex predators. People visit Hawaii because of the health of its ocean ecosystem. Very few such pristine ecosystems exist elsewhere in US waters.

There was a time, not too long ago, when self-absorbed people like myself, visited your beautiful islands for the first time and learned a valuable life lesson from your locals about the importance of respecting and protecting our planet. Where fear of sharks once resided in me, it was replaced by fascination and more importantly, by compassion and understanding. I was humbled by the notion that such simple, beautiful and uncomplicated people could remind me of what it meant to have “soul” and to have “purpose”. I now dedicate myself globally, to the much needed education of others, with regard the protection of sharks and their ocean ecosystems. I learned this compassion, from the good people of Hawaii.

It saddens me that I am now asked to write to you all, in a desperate attempt to remind you of your leadership in this regard. No doubt there are pressures that face a state like yours, many of them financial and no doubt several that are social, but to me, the most obvious one that needs to be dealt with unequivocally is the ecological challenge, and I believe in this regard, your leadership should be unwavering, it should be firm and it should be righteous!

The health and sustainability of the ocean ecosystem that surrounds you, also defines you and perhaps more importantly, it presides over you (not the other way around). Treat it with respect, with fascination and protectionism, and you will continue to flourish. Do it not – and you risk

everything! You have been blessed with great power, by the people who appointed you to govern them and to protect them. The narcissistic influences that gnaw away at mainland America's culture, grow stronger each day in Hawaii as mainlanders visit your beautiful state. As an inevitable result, at times your people will forget what makes them, their culture and their home so special. I ask that you use your wisdom and your position of power, to protect them and that which your culture has held sacred for so many years. Protect your sharks, and with that, your oceans – THIS is how you honor and protect your people!

Mahalo for your time!

John Gorman

A grateful Howlie!

From: [Madisyn Manzella](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 9:48:47 AM

Sharks have been around for about 400 million years. They play a crucial part in marine habitats and ecosystems. They are beautiful and magnificent creatures that deserve to be protected.

From: [Isabella Sehringer](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 9:49:24 AM

To whom it may concern,

I support HI SB2079 in its effort to protect Hawaii's sharks and rays.

Isabella Sehringer

From: [Adriana Naranjo](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 10:09:52 AM

Aloha,

I am writing to you to ask you with all my heart to please help protect sharks! they are the oceans keepers. Right now sharks are disappearing in a scary pace due to overfishing, these animals have existed for more than 420 million years, surviving five mass extinctions. Throughout this time they helped maintain the oceans in balance and thanks to them we have the ocean ecosystems we have today. They maintain fish populations healthy and in balance, without them the food chain completely goes out of balance and the reef ecosystems die, eventually leading to a possible collapse of a whole ecosystem. I lived in the island of O'ahu for 4 years and for me seen a shark was something magical not scary! it gave me a feeling of happiness knowing that if I see sharks it means the ecosystem is healthy. Please I urge you to give more protection for this crucial species!! We need sharks, if the ocean dies we die.

Mahalo,
Adriana Naranjo
Environmental Scientist
Hawaii Pacific University

From: [maria aristeguieta](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 10:18:30 AM

Sharks are necessary to keep a healthy balance of the ecosystem.

Our oceans need sharks and we need the ocean. In not killing sharks, we benefit ourselves and future generations

From: [Kate Watson](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT FOR SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 10:19:58 AM

I'm voicing my support for the sharks and rays of the ocean. They need our protection! Did you know that over 100 million sharks are killed per year by humans? They are highly intelligent animals and they deserve better than this. Can we please make a pledge to protect these beautiful ancient species? They are KIND creatures of the ocean, they are GOOD for the ocean. Stop the killing, start protecting! Thank you!!!!

Kate W Martin*

From: [Sophie](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT FOR SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 10:38:03 AM

Sharks are not only amazing, beautiful creatures, but they are the top predator of the oceans worldwide. We cannot keep taking and taking these predators from the ocean at this rate, because their numbers are decreasing rapidly and this will lead to their extinction. We can expect very serious consequences along with the decrease in shark population across the world, as the entire ocean ecosystem will suffer if the top predator is removed.

Apart from that sharks are incredible animals and are the kings of the ocean. They share this planet with us and have a right to be here, as they have been for 400 million years. We are so out of line thinking we can just kill them off like we do! Stop shark culling, it is cruel, wrong and inhumane!

From: [j.po](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 10:49:07 AM

Dear anyone concerned about the welfare of this planet,

Sharks are a fundamental and critical part of the ocean: the largest and most important ecosystem on Earth.

Sharks are apex predators, meaning they are the hunters and not the hunted and they control the populations of fish below them in the food chain. These fish, which the sharks feed on, sustain themselves by eating phytoplankton and/or smaller fish which feed off plankton. Without sharks, smaller fish populations would boom and this in turn would decimate plankton populations. Phytoplankton alone accounts for over half of all the photosynthetic activity on Earth. The large majority of our oxygen comes from the ocean.

It is not only life in the ocean but our own lives which depend on the presence and thriving of phytoplankton. Sharks are therefore essential to our own lives.

Aside from this, shark tourism is a growing and wealthy business. In Hawaii there are prospering conservation and charter groups who make their money and add splendidly to the economy by taking tourists and locals out on boats to see and swim with the sharks. Many do not use cages as they recognise the gentle nature of these animals in regard to people. In truth, sharks want to avoid confrontation and sharks as large and feared as the white shark can be swum with peacefully.

I strongly advise you to reconsider your actions against sharks, for all our sakes.

Juliet Pone

From: [Amy Cady](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 10:54:18 AM

Aloha,

I support SB2079 because without sharks, the ocean dies; and without the ocean, we die.

Mahalo,
Amy Cady
Ewa Beach

From: [Chris Gross](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 11:04:00 AM

To whom it may concern:

We have seen many times throughout our nation how ecosystems are thrown out of balance when we do not protect the apex predators. My 12yo daughter wants to study sharks as a marine biologist when she grows up. Please do what you can so that **these majestic creatures** can continue to enchant our children. Thank you for your time and consideration.

Best Regards,
Chris Gross

Sent from my Verizon LG Smartphone

From: [Ali Iacuzzo](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Please protect our Sharks!
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 10:22:35 AM

To whom it may concern,

I, Alexis Iacuzzo, would like to testify for the protection of sharks in Hawaii. Their importance to our Oceans ecosystem and survival needs to be known and protected. As many say, they are the white blood cells of the ocean.

As a resident of Kailua-Kona, Hawaii, I have been blessed to get to spend time in the water with many different species of sharks. Each interaction is indescribly wonderful and life changing.

The idea of losing these animals is heart breaking. Who could imagine destroying an Amakua?

They are a vital part of what Hawaii is and they need our support.

Please. Don't let these animals disappear.

Mahalo!

Alexis Iacuzzo

[Sent from Yahoo Mail on Android](#)

From: [Daniella Rascon](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Bill 2079:: PROTECT ALL SEA ANIMALS
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 12:49:37 PM

To Whom It May Concern,

It is so very important to cherish all the creatures that are part of Earth's circle of life. Protect the sharks and rays. They are wonders of nature that can not be replaced.

Thank you for doing the best to protect them.

-Daniella A. Rascón

Sent from a fancy phone.

From: [Tiffany Gauthier](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT FOR SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 11:39:24 AM

Hello

Sharks and rays are extremely important to ocean ecosystems. As ocean predators near the top of the food chain, sharks keep the ecosystem balanced, regulate populations of other marine life, and ensure healthy fish stock and reefs. Sharks and rays are more vulnerable than most other fish species. They are long-lived and slow-growing, start reproducing at an advanced age, and produce relatively few offspring per year. If the food chain is disrupted by a decline in the shark population, it affects the entire ocean ecosystem, known as a trophic cascade. Protection for sharks and rays ultimately means healthier, more resilient oceans and reefs that are better able to withstand other pressures on the ocean ecosystem from climate change and pollution.

From: [Curtdog 47](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 11:59:15 AM

Good day, I trust this finds you well.

I am not a US citizen but I respectfully implore you to support this bill, in order to protect sharks local to Hawaii and those wandering sharks who grace the seas and oceans around the world.

Without sharks, the ocean dies and without the ocean we die; we all know it so please do not leave it to someone else. Please see this bill through.

Thank you for your consideration.

Kind regards,

GJ Steiger

From: [Lindsay Howell](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 12:54:02 PM

I never realized how much animal cruelty there is in this world. Saving sharks is important for so many reasons including keeping the ecosystem running healthy and efficient! Please help pass this bill and to help support one ocean diving and everything they have done!

Mahalo,
Lindsay Howell

--

Respectfully,
Lindsay Howell

From: [Francisco Aristeguieta](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT FOR SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 10:52:47 AM

Sharks are one of the most important creatures in our ecosystems because they help to create balance. For centuries they have been taking care of the oceans, and it is not to us to decide when to stop their endless work. We kill hundreds of millions every year for every one person that gets kill by a shark, but the media still portray them as evil creatures. When are we going to realize that we are the real killers?

Lets do something before it is too late please. We can not afford to have a world without sharks in it.

From: [Taylor Cunningham](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2709
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 12:19:25 PM

To whom it may concern,

I'm sure that you have been told in many other testimonies about the incredible importance of sharks to keeping ocean ecosystems healthy but I urge you to consider their economic importance. Sharks act as the "white blood cells" of the ocean by eating the sick, injured, or dying animals and leaving behind a healthy ecosystem. Without sharks our fisheries would be plagued with diseased fish. The fishing industry in Hawaii accounts for a significant portion of the economy. A quarter of the Hawaiian population takes part in fishing activity at least once a year and Hawaii's commercial fishermen have brought up to \$64.3 million in fish in previous years. The Hawaiian fishing industry is the 6th largest in the US and without the presence of sharks, it could potentially collapse. Tourism is the largest source of private capital into the Hawaiian Islands and contributes \$1 billion in tax revenue. Ecotourism accounts for a large portion of tourism within Hawaii, much of which involves sharks or coral reef ecosystems. It has been proven that by protecting sharks, overall reef health improves. For example, the protection of sharks in the Bahamas has led to a healthier food chain and increased shark-related ecotourism, earning the title of "Shark Diving capital of the world". The shark diving industry in the Bahamas brings in approximately \$78 million a year to the local economy. The protection of sharks and rays in the Maldives has led to a huge ecotourism business among the islands. In Palau, each living reef shark contributed almost \$2 million to the economy within their lifetime via ecotourism. On the other hand, that same shark would be worth a one-time pay out of a couple hundred dollars if killed by a fisherman in Palau. A LIVING SHARK IS WORTH MORE THAN A DEAD ONE! Even if you ignore all the biological and ecological benefits of the presence of sharks & rays within the Hawaiian reef and ocean ecosystems there is an extremely compelling economic reason to protect sharks and rays in Hawaiian waters. I urge you to pass bill SB 2079 and join the Maldives, Honduras, and the Bahamas in efforts to prevent the recreational fishing of sharks.

Mahalo,

Taylor Cunningham

From: [Russell Krieger](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 12:35:50 PM

Please Save the sharks! They are vital to our oceans and eco tourism!

Thanks,

Russ Krieger
914-409-5053

From: [Professional Zombiekiller1445](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: "support for sb2079"
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 11:56:24 AM

sharks are very important for the health of our oceans please pass bill sb2079 to protect the sharks and rays of hawaii and lead the world in the fight against shark finning. thank you and have a great day
-Thomas J. Lutz

From: [Judy Mick](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: 2-8-18 Support SB 2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 1:16:33 PM

Aloha, I urge you to support this bill to protect sharks and rays from senseless killing and harassment. These creatures deserve our respect and protection. Mahalo, Judy Mick, Kailua

From: [Ginger DeBillie](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 1:30:25 PM

It is important for sharks to be protected because of how much they do for the ocean's ecosystem. Oceans provide roughly 70% of our oxygen - which we need to breathe right ? The oxygen comes from phytoplankton, which is part of the food web. Sharks help to regulate the marine food web. No sharks = No Oxygen (or the lack of), = No Humans.

I plan on being a marine biologist for my career, and yet how will I do that when close to 100,000 sharks are being killed every year? Sharks are becoming more and more endangered. Sharks do so much for us, can we not do something for them ? They keep us alive.. we can return the favor.

From: [Beverly Barry](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 1:27:07 PM

Sharks need protection because of the mass slaughter for the fins or “protection” of beaches. This is absolute garbage. Shark fin soup shouldn’t even be consumed because of the high amounts of mercury in it. Other people think they are “the savior of the beaches” by slaughtering sharks. They’re apex predators, NOT monsters. More people die a year from vending machines than sharks. Sharks help the ocean and keep it at a balance. They are not blood thirsty monsters because I literally swam with them, out of the cage, while in my period. They are curious and cautious. Sharks NEED protection or else they WILL DIE FROM EXTINCTION due to the “looting” of these animals and the people that claim they are the Jesus’s of the ocean. WE NEED SHARKS. And we need to protect them.

From: [Zoe Stergiannis](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT For Bill #SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 1:34:33 PM

To Whom it May Concern,

PLEASE help protect sharks! Sharks have been on this planet for millions of years before humans ever appeared--they were on Earth before trees or even dinosaurs! As keystone predators, they are a crucial component of keeping our oceans healthy, especially when there are so many other facets harming our oceans every day. Sharks are vitally important to the health of the planet as a whole.

I implore you to PLEASE support bill #SB2079 for the sake of our planet. Don't let human greed destroy another beautiful and important species.

Sincerely,
Zoe Stergiannis

From: [Dean Taylor](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Stop hunting sharks
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 1:31:33 PM

Hello, I would like to say I think sharks should not be hunted. They are actually not bad at all, if you are swimming with them they could attack but rarely do. It is also important to realize that we need them to keep the marine ecosystem alive. They balance the food chain so the rest of the animals don't die. Also Ocean Ramsey swims with Great Whits and holds their fins they could attack her if they wanted to. But they don't. We need sharks

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Madeleine James](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 1:35:00 PM

Because without sharks and rays the sea is dead. And because sustainable economies depend on living marine life. And in all honesty, I'm sure you need no more explanation.

From: [Елена Крымихина](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 1:36:08 PM

We can not violate nature. It is impossible to destroy sharks, they are an integral part of the underwater world!

Sharks have the
right to life

Nature has the most amazing way of working in harmony with humans, we just have to make sure we give the same love back and take care of all the animals and environments that exist on our planet

С уважением,
Елена Крымихина
krymikhina.lena@mail.ru

From: [juliet Pearson](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 1:51:27 PM

Aloha,

Video footage of a tiger shark capture on the Big Island by 2 teenage boys in August of 2013 is a perfect reason why we must support SB2079. In the video, this tiger shark is being abused as it is roughly hoisted to and fro over the coral reef. The shark, desperately fighting for its life as these boys use their might to drag the animal over the rocks for their pure entertainment. Hawai'i law must encompass protection for it's precious Marine life and condemn animal cruelty as it is in direct violation of Hawaiian culture of Malama and aloha for the ocean life that is an integral part of our islands.

Mahalo Nui loa,
Juliet Pearson

From: ms.hfrost
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 1:59:03 PM

Hello my name is Heather Frost I am writing to support the bill SB2079. I have spent hundreds, possibly thousands of hours in the ocean along the coast, spearfishing, lobster diving and recreational freediving, and I support a bill that protects species necessary to maintain a healthy ocean system.

Please support this bill in order to preserve our oceans for generations to come.

Thank you for your time.

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S7.

From: [Sahil Sharma](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 2:02:24 PM

Hi,

I believe sharks should receive more protection as they groom many populations of marine life to the correct/ideal size so those species do not harm the ecosystem by becoming populous. They are also a vital in the ocean's food chain and serve as a indicator for ocean health and they remove the weak and sick and keep a balance with competitors to help ensure species diversity. A decrease in the shark population could result in out-of-control algae, or the extinction of smaller animals such who rely on sharks to eat their predators.

Thank you for taking the time to read this email and I hope it plays a role in convincing you as to why Sharks require more protection.

From: [Elaana Kirsten Balbuena](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: "Support for SB2079"
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 2:06:31 PM

Please push the bill. We love sharks and we need them to balance our ecosystems. There has been too much cruelty in this planet and we as humans , being dependent on Mother Nature should do our part in keeping our natural resources beautiful.Saving sharks is one way to jump start and heal our planet.

All the best,

Elki

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 6:17:56 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Clause		Support	No

Comments:

I am a voice speaking up for sharks and marine life when they cannot. Sharks are important on many levels for our eco-system. Please help save our sharks and rays. The world is counting on you to make a difference and you can start by making that difference now-by saving them, Thank you.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 6:53:18 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
nicole collins		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

my name is Nicole Collins. I am from the Island of Hawaii in the district of South Kohala. I am in complete support of SB2079. It is so important we take all precautions to ensure the safety of our apex predators as they help to keep the balance of our ocean.

I humbly ask you approve this SB2079

Mahalo

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 7:38:57 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelly Costas		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 7:51:06 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ted Bohlen		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 8:14:51 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole Stanton		Oppose	No

Comments:

We need sharks and they need our protection!

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 8:19:55 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
nadean		Support	Yes

Comments:

Please show Aloha and pass this bill. Sharks are so important for the eco system by keeping the ocean clean. The ocean is already in a state of danger, let's not add to it by harming sharks and rays. Show the world that Hawaii loves and cares about their NÄ• 'aumÄ• kua.

Mahalo

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 9:00:11 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
marina kulakova	keiko conservation	Support	No

Comments:

Sharks maintain the balance of the ocean ecosystem. over the last 3 decades, we lost 95% of sharks, due to commercial shark fishing. Hawaii like no other needs a healthy ocean. Too much depends on sharks to allow for continued sporting and commercial fishing around the islands while they are on the verge of extinction here and around the world as a whole. Shark's meat is no less harmful to human health, as it contains a huge amount of mercury, which is a lot of evidence in the form of laboratory studies. Also sharks play a sacred role in Hawaiian culture, the souls of ancestors preserve their strength and wisdom in the nature of the islands, including all sea animals. Respecting local traditions will be wise give a chance to animals to survive. Mahalo

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 9:09:57 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lexxi Goettsch	independent	Support	No

Comments:

Dear legislators involved,

I am submitting a testimony in support of passing a bill to increase protection of sharks and rays. I believe that the disciplinary actions described in the bill against persons who catch sharks and rays without substantial reasoning will be an important step forward in maintaining Hawaiian ecosystems and environmentally- driven industries.

Increasing punishments will deter people who might catch these predators out of hatred for the animals or simply for the entertainment of seeing something powerful wither away. Without this bill, people will continue these actions, which has a negative impact on the cultural awareness and social connotations of sharks specifically. Communities learn from each other, enabling one person's punishment for inappropriate treatment of wildlife to resonate with others, leading to disruptions in social interaction. Small changes like this could have a ripple effect where people ask questions about why their are being punished, and lead to further research on the individual level into the ecological importance and culturally significance of sharks and rays.

While enabling conversations to start in communities, this bill will also help protect Hawaiian industries. Sharks are a keystone species in all of the state's aquatic ecosystems, and these ecosystems are a major component of the Hawaiian tourism industry. Visitors pay to see vibrant and plentiful coral reefs, and pristine and healthy of-shore locations. If shark and ray numbers continue to decline, aquatic environments will continue to suffer, decreasing 'customer satisfaction' in their experiences on the islands.

Sincerely,
Lexxi Goettsch

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 9:28:26 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Edwin Watamura	Watamura	Oppose	No

Comments:

It seems to be very extreme to outlaw any taking of sharks. There are many instances where sharks are a threat to human life and also could be a food source. If the sharks are an endangered species it is understandable, but if the stock of a species of shark is healthy and abundant it seems extreme to blanket all shark taking as illegal

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 9:33:49 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaimikila Moraes		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

Please help to protect our marine wildlife as they are threatened and many species may go extinct in our lifetime. I support SB2079.

Mahalo.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 10:00:02 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Amrhein		Support	No

Comments:

As stated in the bill, sharks and rays play vital roles in Hawaii's ecosystem, culture, and economy, and I believe it is critical for the state to continue taking measures that will protect and preserve these species.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 10:33:53 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kirsteen MacKenzie		Support	No

Comments:

Globally, shark and ray populations have been in very steep decline. A recent UN report (Campana et al., 2016) states that "Almost all of these (global shark and ray) assessments report a depleted and/or over-exploited population."

Hawaii is a hotspot for these threatened animals, which are key to healthy, abundant marine life. Without protection for sharks and rays, both tourism and fisheries will lose revenue, and the marine ecosystem around these exceptional islands will be less healthy and rich.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/5/2018 10:40:52 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Nandoskar		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha. Please support SB2079 which prohibits killing a shark and rays. These magnificent species need and deserve our protection.

Mahalo for your support of this bill.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 2:21:11 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
chynalynn		Support	No

Comments:

Honestly I don't even live in Hawaii, but here I am at 7:18 am writing a testimony to support this, that has to show that killing sharks on purpose is horrific. So please pass this bill not only for the people that want it to be passed but for the sharks that are in danger as well.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 3:55:09 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brittany McDorman		Support	No

Comments:

it is your job to protect sharks. You know they are a critical piece to our ecosystem, and for fire generations to have the luxury of the ocean as it is today, this is an essential step to try and make that happen for them. This higebreaponsibility falls on you.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 5:34:16 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marissa Conlon		Support	No

Comments:

Support this Bill!

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 7:07:45 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nathan Sherbotie		Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill in solidarity for the respect of the beautiful animals that make Hawaii the amazing place that it is. I have deep respect for the work Hawaii has done in saving the Sea Turtles and the same should be done for both the sharks and rays that are vital and majestic additions to the ecosystem. Set an example of how to respect nature and show what the people of Hawaii really stand for. The beauty of the land and it's inhabitants will always be greater than the greed of individuals and corporations so let's set the laws in the right direction. Thank you very much. Mahalo

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 7:24:21 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Cheung		Oppose	No

Comments:

I oppose because:

1. Overlaps with shark fin ban.
2. No science provided showing shark/ray overfishing or population decline due to fishing.
3. This law would be nearly unenforceable.
4. Mako and Thresher sharks have food and market value.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 8:27:22 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sunshine Eckstrom		Support	No

Comments:

Sharks and rays need protection. Their numbers are declining sharply due to human pressures. With their decline goes the decline of the health of our ocean ecosystems.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 8:40:31 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
keomailani von gogh		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 8:43:36 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erin Chandler		Support	No

Comments:

Sharks and rays have value both ecologically and economically. I support this bill and the proposed protections. Tourism related to responsible viewing of sharks and rays (diving, snorkeling, photography) is a sustainable opportunity for local economies to generate revenue. Please help protect sharks and rays for our future generations!

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 8:45:14 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chris Steurer		Support	No

Comments:

Sharks and rays are a vital part of the marine and coral reef ecosystems. We have already seen preliminary studies in Australia that indicate a removal of sharks from the area is quickly de-evolving the local fish species, which will likely translate into even more marine species de-evolving. I strongly believe that this bill should pass in an effort to better protect our quickly fading marine environments before it is too late.

We already know that sharks are some of the slowest reproducing fish in the sea, taking much longer to reach sexual maturity and having significantly lower pups than most other fish and marine species. Without proper legislation in place, we could quite literally see a complete devastation of most shark species in our lifetimes.

Let us not forget that most of oxygen on planet earth comes from the ocean and it would only take a small offset of balance among marine life to completely destroy that system. Sharks, as apex predators in the ocean, are one of the most essential species that we have to keep and maintain that delicate balance.

Please vote responsibly in support of this bill in an effort to ensure that our oceans, and planet, remain healthy, now and in the future.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 8:47:02 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Grace Tuthill		Support	No

Comments:

To whom it concerns,

I am writing in support of bill B2079. It can be easy to overlook the importance of sharks because of their portrayal in media as blood thirsty. However, this is certainly not the case. They are apex predators who command respect, and are in desperate need of aid. Sharks are incredibly important and for lack of a better word simply awesome.

On an average 100,000,000, yes MILLIONS sharks are senselessly killed every year. That is over 250,000 killed every day. These numbers are unstainable and the population of sharks is rapidly declining. Sharks are vital to not only the marine ecosystem, but the whole earth in general. They keep everything in balance so to say.

There is so much we can't control, but Hawaii has the chance to make a difference and help sharks and rays. I urge you to please consider passing bill SB2079. If we do not make changes now future generations will suffer greatly, because we not only need sharks to keep a healthy ecosystem but to inspire and teach us.

Mahalo

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 8:50:06 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Garrett W. Marrero	Maui Brewing Co.	Support	No

Comments:

Sharks of all kinds need to be protected! They're a critical component in a healthy ocean. Mahalo.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 9:19:09 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Logan		Support	No

Comments:

Sharks need more protection. They are so key to our ocean's ecosystem that if we don't do something now it'll be to late.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 9:30:47 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
naomi egami		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 9:32:55 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorraine Garnier		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 9:59:27 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
sajno claire		Support	No

Comments:

Sharks are threatened all over the world and your country can be a model for others by trying to educate people to the importance of such apex predators in the ecosystem. This is an urgency.

I am writing from France so please excuse the language.

And thank you so much for the work you are doing for shark protection.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 10:21:01 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Courtney		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 11:00:37 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Amy Cady		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 11:11:00 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
charlie jeffries		Support	No

Comments:

We must protect the oceans marine life and apex predators. Please support this bill!!!

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 11:13:48 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
charni		Support	No

Comments:

Not only are sharks culturally significant within Hawaii, they provide unparalleled ecological benefits to the waters surrounding the islands and are a draw card for countless tourists from all over the world, coming to experience these animals in their natural respected environment. Be a part of the movement towards saving our oceans and help protect sharks and rays from recreational fishing exploitation. Mahalo from a passionate New Zealander !!

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 11:50:17 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katherine J Gahan		Support	No

Comments:

Sharks deserve to be conserved and protected

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 11:53:18 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mackenzie Preble		Support	No

Comments:

Sharks and rays have survived 5 mass extinctions, but today, they are on the brink of extinction due to the activities of humans. We should not be the cause of the end of a 450 million year old lineage that provides the marine environment with important ecological services. As top predators, sharks provide top-down control in an ecosystem, thereby maintaining the size of other populations and the balance of an ecosystem. They also prey upon the injured or sick animals, removing disease and parasites from populations and keeping an ecosystem healthy. I am in support of this bill which will aid in the protection of sharks and rays, and keep our oceans healthy.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 12:59:51 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lindsay Howell	one ocean diving	Support	No

Comments:

I do agree that this bill should be passed! Save the sharks!

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 1:16:54 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mackenna Cady		Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha. My name is Mackenna Cady, I am 17 years old, and I am here to verbalize my support for SB 2079 that would add more protection to sharks and rays in Hawaii.

Sharks play a vital role in our ecosystems. As apex predators of the sea, these animals are often referred to as the “white blood cells” of the ocean, eating primarily the sick, injured, and dead animals. And by eating these sick, injured, and dead animals, sharks keep diseases away from the healthy populations and allowing them to thrive. They also keep lower-trophic populations in balance by helping maintain the perfect life cycle and food chain in the wild. They are extremely important animals when it comes to the health of the ocean.

But why keep the ocean healthy in the first place? I mean, what’s the point? Not only does the gorgeous blue water attract so many people from around the world and contribute to the state’s income via tourism, but the ocean also plays an even more valuable role. The ocean is our main source of oxygen (even more than trees!). A healthy ocean provides around 70% of the air that we breathe. Now let’s go back to the fact that animals like sharks keep our ocean healthy. Without sharks, there can’t be a healthy ocean. Without a healthy ocean, we lose our primary source of oxygen. Without our primary source of oxygen (and considering we must have a certain amount of air in the atmosphere to maintain life)...Let’s just say there could be devastating consequences if we continue killing sharks and rays at this rate. That’s why is so important to protect these animals!

Shark populations have declined by over 90% and many species are endangered or near threatened under the IUCN Red List. And this is because of humans. We can NOT afford to continue harming and killing these incredible animals. Here in Hawaii we generally have a high respect for wildlife on and around these islands. Let’s grow and spread that beautiful respect and protection to sharks and rays & therefore keep these islands the beautiful places that we all love.

With this all being said, please help us pass this bill so we can protect these amazing animals and, along the way, protect ourselves.

Thank you.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 1:37:59 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cierra mathews		Support	No

Comments:

Passing bill SB2079 will help protect and further support the population of sharks in the oceans of Hawaii. Their numbers have dropped significantly over the past few years and we need to take action to proxyext them.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 1:55:44 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erin Anderson		Support	No

Comments:

Please pass bill SB2079 further protecting sharks and rays that live in Hawaiian waters. These animals are not only sacred within the Hawaiian culture but are an integral part of the marine ecosystem. Allowing their populations to continue to decline would be devastating to the local marine health.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 2:10:24 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sophia Gugliemini		Support	No

Comments:

From: [Carly Trapanese](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT FOR SB 2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 2:22:08 PM

Hi there, in light of this measure, Its obvious why sharks need our protection. As many know we would be lost without them. Our oceans health would decline rapidly effecting every food chain known. There is no longer an excuse for sharks to be fished for necessity- and they are in desperate need of further protection. The fact we have already in the past 50 years wiped out 90% of shark populations is beyond telling. The thought of what could happen in another 50 is terrifying. We are out of time. Yes OUT. Actions need to be taken yesterday.

Thank you for your time
Carly Trapanese

From: [Jessica D](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: 2-8-18 Support for SB 2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 2:36:50 PM

I fully support SB 2079 and want greater protections for sharks and rays.

Jessica Woo
1965 Ala Mahamoe Street
Honolulu HI 96819
630-559-5912

From: [Jodie White](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT FOR SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 3:01:16 PM

Dear Hawaiian government,

I'm emailing from little New Zealand's about why you need to further protect your sharks. Sharks are amazing creatures who help keep the ocean clean and the eco system in balance. They're misunderstood and we need to make sure we keep them around. They're needed just like bees are needed.

Please don't make a terrible mistake

Kind regards
Jodie from little old New Zealand

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Judith Maria Heim](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: #SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 3:12:10 PM

Sharks have the right to live. It's cruel how human beings kill sharks for commercial purpose which leads to overfishing. The ocean is the biggest ecosystem and it is our duty to protect it. The population of sharks has decreased so much already.. and the ocean ecosystem is already disturbed. The Plankton in the ocean, which is a big food spring of many shark species, is the biggest source of our oxygen supply. In case the shark population decreases more, which looks like it, the population of plankton will increase as well. So it is not just a moral question but it should also be in everyone's interest to protect this precious species in order that we as human being are able to live.

Thank you for taking this seriously.

Gesendet mit der WEB.DE iPhone App

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 3:45:58 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Abbie Greenwood		Support	No

Comments:

A healthy top predator population really is needed for the balance of the ecosystem. Here is a prime example from the Scientific American journal.

"Sea otters eat sea urchins and sea urchins eat kelp. When sea otters are present, the coastal kelp forests maintain a healthy balance. But when the fur trade wiped out the otters in the Aleutian Islands in the 1990s, sea urchins grew wildly, devouring kelp, and the kelp forest collapsed, along with everything that depended on it. Fish populations declined. Bald eagles, which feed on fish, altered their food habits. Dwindled kelp supplies sucked up less carbon dioxide, and atmospheric carbon dioxide increased.

The animal that sits at the top of the food chain matters, and its loss has large, complex effects on the structure and function of its ecosystem, according to an article published on Thursday in the online issue of the journal, Science.

That the presence or loss of an ecosystem's top predator is linked to surges and crashes in the food chain is nothing new. The term for the phenomenon is "trophic cascade," and it's been applied to coastal sea otters, as well as the gray wolves in Yellowstone and the mountain lions in Zion National Park, to name just a few.

But what is new, authors of the paper say, is that this is ubiquitous across all ecosystems. "We see it on land, we see it on water, we see it in high latitudes, we see it in low latitudes," said James Estes, a research scientist at the Institute for Marine Sciences at the University of California, Santa Cruz and the paper's lead author. "We do not not see it anywhere."

From: [ST PIQUETTE](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT FOR SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 4:53:28 PM

Please consider passing this bill to protect sharks, it is a weak bill in my opinion but as it is the first to do so a very strong piece of legislation. Surely, we must consider Nature the most important, RESOURCE we have on the planet. If we neglect the OCEANS and the denizens than we neglect ourselves. We must agree that if the OCEANS DIE WE DIE. By only protecting the sharks we do little to protect the whole water column which can be ravaged of all life and thus cause the sharks to perish as well in kind. Fines must cover the cost of protecting or they have little to no value. Leges sine moribus vanae (Laws without morals are useless) is a motto one would be wise to remember. If we do not first understand the value of the oceans when we make laws how can we set fine?. if you make the fine of killing a shark a mere \$500 when the product of the shark is 3 times the value than it is worth the risk to try is it not? If you spend 6 times that amount to catch an offender what value to society does that have in the end? As Ben Franklin said many years ago "When the well is dry we know the worth of water." Dear Legislators, what value is your OCEAN your Children's inheritance?

Sincerely,

Scot Piquette
Philadelphia, PA

From: [Autumn Mariei](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT FOR SB 2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 4:31:13 PM

Aloha, I am writing to you today in support for the SB 2079 bill. Sharks and Rays play an important role in our ecosystem. They eat efficiently by killing the sick, old, or slow fish therefore keeping our ocean's ecosystem clean. Please stand with me and many others to support this bill, for a better future for our planet.

Mahalo,
Autumn M. Isaacson

From: [Rachel Smith](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT FOR SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 4:26:12 PM

Sharks need more protection because they play a large role as predators in our ecosystems. They help maintain balance and they do much less harm to humans than major films have made them out to.

From: [Grace Watling](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 4:15:10 PM

Sharks are living breathing intelligent animals, thus they should be treated like any other animal. Imagine if puppies had all their limbs dismembered and then they were tossed aside and left to die. Everyone would freak out and care. Why is it not the same for sharks? We kill so many and still think we are going to be fine. If you like fish then it sucks to be you. If sharks become extinct then the whole oceanic ecosystem would crash affecting the land eco system. Sharks have a key role in our lives as well, and if we don't protect them don't blame me of the world comes crashing down around you. Please take the right action.

From: [Matt Barrett](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 4:02:07 PM

Sharks need protected. Plain and simple. They have roamed the top of the marine food chain for thousands of years, and deserve respect. They are not mindless killers but perfect engines of evolution. Protect the sharks!

Matt Barrett
Fairfax, Virginia

--

Regards,
Matt

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 5:06:33 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Brookman		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 5:09:56 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Seybald	MooreaMoanaTours	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 5:07:26 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Shannon Murphy		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Shannon Murphy and I am a 17 year old student at Kaiser High School. The health of our ocean is in jeopardy from human impact over the past couple decades. Sharks need our help for the sake of Hawaii's future and for a healthy ecosystem. They are portrayed as man-eaters in the media and their image has not changed since the first Jaws movie. However, many do not know that 100 million sharks are killed every year; the number one reason is for their fins in shark-fin soup. Sharks are doctors in the underwater world. They eat the dead and diseased organisms and make sure only the healthiest populations reproduce; and without doctors, the human race would have an outbreak of viruses and diseases spreading because their is no available vaccine.

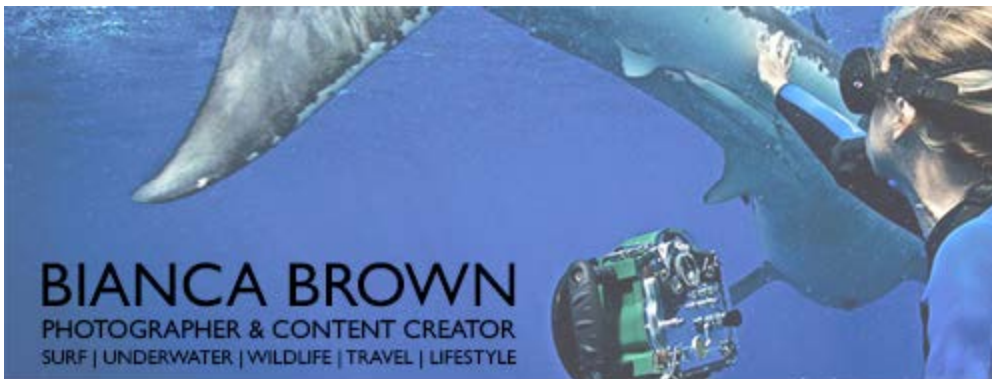
Sharks are amazing creatures and are vital for the ocean. Hawaii's economy and food source depends on a healthy ocean, but that is not possible without sharks. Please help and protect Hawaii's sharks and rays for the sake of my future and generations after me. Thank you for your consideration

From: [Bianca Brown](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 5:20:27 PM

Aloha,

I am emailing to voice my support for the protection of sharks under SB2079!

Mahalo!



-  +61 (0) 401 243 531
-  BIANCA_BROWN@HOTMAIL.COM
-  WWW.BIANCABROWN.COM.AU
-  SUNSHINE COAST, AUSTRALIA
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From: [Rebekah Corbin-Teich](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 5:17:02 PM

We need sharks and rays to maintain a healthy marine eco system. Healthy oceans are essential for the survival of all life on earth.

Thank you for working to save sharks and rays!

Rebekah

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Abby Wagner](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 5:37:05 PM

I am in support of protecting Mano under SB2079.

Abby Wagner

From: [Leslie Glazer](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT FOR SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 5:36:42 PM

Hello,

Sharks need more protection because they are vital to the oceans ecosystems and sustainability of other sea life.
Please protect the sharks. They are not ours to kill.

Many thanks,

Leslie Glazer

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Jessica Milne](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 5:39:01 PM

To whom it may concern,

Sharks are in urgent need of protection. Throughout the years people have decimated the populations of different species of fish, sharks, and other marine animals. Finning has become a major issue. It gives people monetary incentive to wreak havoc on the oceans ecosystems by devastating the populations of one of the most important predators that currently reside in our oceans. Finning is wasteful and an atrocious process that leaves sharks to die a painful death. How would a human feel to have their arms and legs cut off and be left to suffocate? This is the equivalent that sharks go through. This bill is important because it will provide more incentive to stop what people are doing. While humans and other species can give birth more rapidly it takes at least five years for some sharks to reach maturity. When they reach maturity they still only have one or two pups and the gestation period between the different species of shark varies from 9-12 months up to two years. It does not help that when fishing sharks that are pregnant will get caught as well as other sharks. Overall the shark population is drastically decreasing, creating a need for laws to be put in place to protect them. By supporting the SB2079 this helps the ecosystem and creates more awareness that there are consequences for killing sharks.

Thank you.
Jessica Milne

From: [Rosemary Karlsson](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SB2079 - I support
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 6:09:34 PM

Support SB2079. Please prohibit the intentional cruelty & killing of sharks and rays. It's their ocean.

Rosemary Karlsson
16-1885 Uilani Drive (PO Box 492266)
Keaau, HI 96749
808-966-6589

From: [Lauren Plantan](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Bill SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 6:24:20 PM

We need to protect our sharks. I strongly support Bill SB2079 to protect sharks from purposeful killing.

From: [Camila Jaber](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2079 because sharks are crucial for the balance of the marine environment
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 7:13:10 PM

I support SB2079 because sharks are crucial for the balance of the marine environment

Camila Jaber

From: [Etienne Briffa](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: I support SB2079 because sharks are important.
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 8:39:35 PM

I support SB2079 because sharks are important.

From: [Meghan Treine](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 6:04:28 PM

Please protect sharks. They play a vital role in the delicate balance of our ecosystem.

Thank you

Meghan Treine

For the Oceans ~

From: [Santiago Garfias](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: In support of SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 8:15:38 PM

I support SB2079 because Sharks are important.

Do they right thing and dont be a shame for the future generations that will study this..

Sincerely

Santiago Garfias
3862669274

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Natalia Valdes](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Saving sharks
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 7:57:01 PM

I support SB2079 because sharks are important.

Natalia Valdes

From: [Shoug Basim](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 7:13:18 PM

I find it extremely important to sustain the rate in which Sharks are getting extinct in order to prevent such a heartbreaking event.

From: [Jill Simons](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 5:59:51 PM

Killing sharks, rays, any marine mammal should have the same effect as killing humans. Killing sharks is basically taking all of the trees out of the world. What does that do? Kills humans from oxygen deficiency. Killing sharks kills reefs which kills the ocean. We need the ocean, and we need sharks.

From: [Javed](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for sb2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 6:33:28 PM

To whom it may concern

I am writing this letter as a concerned citizen of USA. Sharks a vital part of our ecosystem and any disturbance can have devastating effects on us humans. Living in Chicago, I do not have the ability to attend meetings and other organized events in Hawaii, but having dove the pacific and Atlantic waters around the world has taught me how incredible and Important sharks are to our existence.

Sent from my iPhone

From: [matthew.wenig](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 6:44:54 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing this to ask you to protect the sharks in Hawaii's waters. Sharks are a vital part of the ocean ecosystem and as such are an important part of Hawaii and the world's economy. A live shark can generate more income via snorkeling and scuba trips than a dead one can. Hawaii has set a great benchmark for flora and fauna in its natural areas. Please do not exclude creatures as wonderful as sharks from protection.

Thank you for your time.

Sincerely,

Matthew Wenig

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

From: [Barbara](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 7:46:43 PM

I'm writing to hoping that you support this bill and do everything you can to help save sharks. They've been around forever, they help our ecosystem and they need all the protection they can get!

Thank you!!

Sent from my iPhone

From: [Makenna Millott](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 7:47:57 PM

Sharks are not only beautiful, but essential. As apex predators, their role at the top of the food chain is to maintain population and therefore balance the whole ecosystem. With them at mass slaughter, both legal and illegal, their populations are dwindling and all too readily hanging on the verge of endangerment and extinction. We can't allow this to happen, especially when there are easy steps to take towards prevention. They are so much more than the associated simple fish, being observed to have extra sense such as electrosensitivity, even emotion and intelligence. They are not to be feared, hunted, or hated, but rather respected and protected. With the power to protect them, we should do so, and as soon as possible. If we can remove the legal side of their slaughter, then we are one step closer to the removal of their slaughter altogether.

From: [David Ohayon](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 8:35:58 PM

Dear Madam, Dear Sir,

I would like to express my support to this as I believe it is of critical importance to further protect Hawaii's sharks.

Thank you so much for your kind attention.

Best regards,

David Ohayon

From: [Becky Faulkner](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 8:13:13 PM

To whom it may concern,

I am writing to say how very important I feel it is to protect sharks. I was born & raised on Maui, Hawaii & have live my entire life in Hawaii. Growing up here the ocean has been a big part of my life & has made a major impact on how I look at the world in whole. Sharks are a very important part of the oceans ecosystem, & need to be protected. Without them the entire sea food chain would be compromised, which would lead to major changes amongst the sea creatures & flora. They help ride the ocean of dieing & weak fish in order for the stronger, healthier ones to flourish. I cannot imagine a world without sharks in the ocean.

Please help protect them in order to keep them a part of our seas!

Sincerely,
Becky Faulkner

From: [Brian Stevens](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for sb2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 8:27:08 PM

All life in the ocean needs protection, so of course the sharks do! The ocean maintains its own balance and sharks are an integral part of that balance. No ocean life equals no rain. Basically we need Nature more than she needs us, and she will protect her babies at whatever the cost, so we need to be nice! I'll be nice by trying to cut back on plastics and gas, but it's hard to do much from the mainland. Just do what you guys can, I got faith in y'all. Thanks for listening friends! All my children are beautiful I just want you guys to play nice

From: [Lyndsey Tanabe](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: Support for SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 8:42:32 PM

Aloha,

My name is Lyndsey Tanabe and I am a Hawaiian resident conducting marine biology research in the Red Sea. I want to express my support of bill SB2079 because Hawaii needs to step up their protection of elasmobranchs. Sharks are not only a crucial component of the marine ecosystems, but these sharks are a huge part of ecotourism attracting ocean lovers and divers from around the world.

I believe it is our kuleana to protect the aina, which includes the land and the sea. Sharks are an apex predator, on the top of the food chain. They are responsible for keeping a balanced ecosystem.

With a huge amount of fishermen in Hawaii, there is a clear negative impact on the shark populations. There are 80% less apex predators in the main Hawaiian islands compared to the main islands. This is a dangerous statistic which makes it clear that legislation needs to increase it's protection of sharks. Thank you for your time, and I appreciate your efforts on ensuring a sustainable future for Hawai'i.

Lyndsey Tanabe

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From: [June Robertson](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT FOR SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 5:57:41 PM

Hello,
SHARKS ARE a critical part of the food chain and need our protection. If we don't our ocean biodiversity will collapse.

From: [jose rivera](#)
To: [WTL Testimony](#)
Subject: SUPPORT SB2079
Date: Tuesday, February 6, 2018 6:00:54 PM

Sharks need protection because they are vital to the oceans ecosystem, we need them to keep balance in the oceans ecosystem. Such gracious animals deserve protection since they are being over fished and their fins are being cut off and the shark gets tossed in the ocean alive still. Please consider this and all other supporters, please do not let them die off, the world doesn't need another extinct species due to us again. Thank you

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 6:16:25 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jose luis rivera		Support	No

Comments:

Please, I ask you to give protection to the sharks/rays, they are in need of it, they are being hunted to low numbers of them, they are vital in our oceans ecosystem.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 6:34:02 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ocean Ramsey	Water Inspired Conservation Group	Support	Yes

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to give sharks and rays protection from purposeful killing. I have watched shark populations dramatically decline over the course of my lifetime. I work in shark research full time in Hawaii and have studied and worked with sharks around the world. It has already been scientifically documented that local shark populations can be heavily impacted by shoreline and nearshore fishing since pregnant females and pups often utilize shallower waters. Sharks are most heavily impacted by longline fisheries and entanglement but this bill can help to protect the ones that are killed for wasteful sport by individual nearshore fishermen who may not realize their ecological importance or know about their current heavily declining population status. Sharks are not a sustainable fishery due to the fact that sharks are apex predators they are slow to reproduce and pup few young. Declining shark populations have been scientifically linked to crashes in certain fish stocks and degradation of local reefs. Manā (sharks) are also very significant for those like me who respect traditional Hawaiian culture and values. Hawaii is looked at as a world leader for shark research and respect for sharks, the ocean, and nature, please help us continue to highlight Hawaii as a respectable leader who cares for current and future generations. As a co-founder of one ocean research and diving, we would volunteer a "shark watching tax" of \$5 for every person who wants to commercially see a shark alive to help with any costs of enforcing this law. We as a community could help to provide the evidence to DLNR to enforce this law leaving no logical reason not to support this bill.

I strongly support SB 2079. Sharks and rays are a vital component of healthy marine ecosystems that have experienced rapid declines throughout the last decades. As apex predators sharks are at the top of the food chain, therefore maintaining the balance of the ecosystem by regulating the abundance of marine life in lower trophic levels and acting as the immune system of our oceans by picking off the weak, sick and overpopulated keeping fish stocks healthy.

Support for Ecological Importance

Ecosystem models predict that the removal of sharks can result in complex community changes, including trophic cascades, mesopredator release, and

consequent declines in some commercial fish and cascading changes in some coastal ecosystems (Ferretti et. al 2010). Additional research indicates that the removal of shark and rays may alter size, structure and population parameters in response to changes in species abundance (Stevens et. al 2000).

In the context of ecosystem-level changes specific to Hawaii, a study published in 2000 examined the potential long-term impacts of the removal of sharks with the use of a dynamic model ECOSIM that predicts changes in biomasses, yields, and consumption for each group through time. They found that when tiger sharks were removed from the model a total and rapid crash in the abundance of tuna and jacks, and an increase in bottom fishes occurred due to increases in seabird populations which compete with tunas and jacks for food and were no longer subject to top-down control by tiger sharks (Stevens et. al 2000). While ecological relationships are very complex and difficult to simulate this study highlights the potential for unforeseen and intended consequences when sharks are removed.

Further evidence for the ecological importance of sharks can be found when the density, size, and biomass of reef fishes in northwestern Hawaiian islands a large, remote, and lightly fished area, and the main Hawaiian Islands (MHI), an urbanized, heavily fished area. The study by Friedlander & DeMartini in 2002 revealed dramatic differences between the two ecosystems, as grand mean fish standing stock in the NWHI was more than 260% greater than in the MHI, more than 54% of the total fish biomass in the NWHI consisted of apex predators, (primarily sharks and jacks) whereas this trophic level accounted for less than 3% of the fish biomass in the MHI. The study concluded these differences represent both near-extirpation of apex predators and heavy exploitation of lower trophic levels in the MHI compared to the largely unfished NWHI (Friedlander & DeMartini 2002).

A 2008 publication by the DLNR-DAR of Hawaii found that Oahu's reefs have around 1/10th the biomass of apex predators (Willaims et. al 2008), indicating that anthropogenic pressures through the main Hawaiian islands has dramatically reduced populations of sharks and rays that are particularly susceptible to over-exploitation due to life history characteristics including slow growth, late attainment of sexual maturity, long life spans, low fecundity (Stevens et. al 2000).

Support for the economic value of sharks:

Sharks are also not only ecologically important but also economically important. Sharks are worth far more alive according to a 2013 study by Cisneros-Montemayor et. al which estimates participants in the shark ecotourism industry expend > USD 314 million per year and is projected to grow based on current

trends to an estimated > USD 780 million in tourist expenditures in the next 20 years (Cisneros-Montemayor et. al 2013). Similarly, a 2012 study by Vianna et. al provides support for the argument of non-extractive resource use based on data from shark ecotourism operations in Palau which generates USD\$18 million per year, and states that the estimated value of the population of approximately 100 sharks used in the operation to be at most USD\$10,800 if they were harvested which is a fraction of worth of these animals as a non-consumptive resource (Vianna et. al 2012).

Based on the scientific studies cited above there is a very clear argument for protecting sharks and rays in Hawaiian waters for their ecological, economic, and intrinsic value. The long-term ecological implications of the removal of apex predators are difficult to document, but when it comes to conserving such a vital component of our marine ecosystems the precautionary approach should be taken to ensure healthy populations of these animals persist for future generations.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 6:58:06 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Juan Oliphant		Support	Yes

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to give sharks and rays protection from purposeful killing. I have watched shark populations dramatically decline over the course of my lifetime. I am a conservation based photographer working with sharks and shark research full time in Hawaii and around the world. It has already been scientifically documented that local shark populations can be heavily impacted by shoreline and nearshore fishing since pregnant females and pups often utilize shallower waters. Sharks are most heavily impacted by longline fisheries and entanglement but this bill can help to protect the ones that are killed for wasteful sport by individual nearshore fishermen who may not realize their ecological importance or know about their current heavily declining population status. Sharks are not a sustainable fishery due to the fact that sharks are apex predators they are slow to reproduce and pup few young. Declining shark populations have been scientifically linked to crashes in certain fish stocks and degradation of local reefs. Manā (sharks) are also very significant for those like me who respect traditional Hawaiian culture and values. Hawaii is looked at as a world leader for shark research and respect for sharks, the ocean, and nature, please help us continue to highlight Hawaii as a respectable leader who cares for current and future generations. I'm also co-founder of one ocean research and diving, we would volunteer a "shark watching tax" of \$5 for every person who wants to commercially see a shark alive to help with any costs of enforcing this law. We as a community could help to provide the evidence to DLNR to enforce this law leaving no logical reason not to support this bill.

I strongly support SB 2079. Sharks and rays are a vital component of healthy marine ecosystems that have experienced rapid declines throughout the last decades. As apex predators sharks are at the top of the food chain, therefore maintaining the balance of the ecosystem by regulating the abundance of marine life in lower trophic levels and acting as the immune system of our oceans by picking off the weak, sick and overpopulated keeping fish stocks healthy.

Support for Ecological Importance

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Further evidence for the ecological importance of sharks can be found when the density, size, and biomass of reef fishes in northwestern Hawaiian islands a large, remote, and lightly fished area, and the main Hawaiian Islands (MHI), an urbanized, heavily fished area. The study by Friedlander & DeMartini in 2002 revealed dramatic differences between the two ecosystems, as grand mean fish standing stock in the NWHI was more than 260% greater than in the MHI, more than 54% of the total fish biomass in the NWHI consisted of apex predators, (primarily sharks and jacks) whereas this trophic level accounted for less than 3% of the fish biomass in the MHI. The study concluded these differences represent both near-extirpation of apex predators and heavy exploitation of lower trophic levels in the MHI compared to the largely unfished NWHI (Friedlander & DeMartini 2002).

A 2008 publication by the DLNR-DAR of Hawaii found that Oahu's reefs have around 1/10th the biomass of apex predators (Willaims et. al 2008), indicating that anthropogenic pressures through the main Hawaiian islands has dramatically reduced populations of sharks and rays that are particularly susceptible to over-exploitation due to life history

characteristics including slow growth, late attainment of sexual maturity, long life spans, low fecundity (Stevens et. al 2000).

Support for the economic value of sharks:

Sharks are also not only ecologically important but also economically important. Sharks are worth far more alive according to a 2013 study by Cisneros-Montemayor et. al which estimates participants in the shark ecotourism industry expend > USD 314 million per year and is projected to grow based on current trends to an estimated > USD 780 million in tourist expenditures in the next 20 years (Cisneros-Montemayor et. al 2013). Similarly, a 2012 study by Vianna et. al provides support for the argument of non-extractive resource use based on data from shark ecotourism operations in Palau which generates USD\$18 million per year, and states that the estimated value of the population of approximately 100 sharks used in the operation to be at most USD\$10,800 if they were harvested which is a fraction of worth of these animals as a non-consumptive resource (Vianna et. al 2012).

Based on the scientific studies cited above there is a very clear argument for protecting sharks and rays in Hawaiian waters for their ecological, economic, and intrinsic value. The long-term ecological implications of the removal of apex predators are difficult to document, but when it comes to conserving such a vital component of our marine ecosystems the precautionary approach should be taken to ensure healthy populations of these animals persist for future generations.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 7:00:47 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
laura-lynn		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 7:25:27 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenna Augsburger		Support	No

Comments:

Sharks and rays are critical to the health of ocean ecosystems. If these species are not protected, then their populations and the ocean's health will CONTINUE to decline. Killing sharks for their fins for tasty soups is not worth the collapse of an ecosystem. If we lose sharks & rays, then every fish in the ecosystem and food chain will be negatively affected. Not only will supporting this save sharks & rays, but other fish too.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 7:26:11 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Cady		Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill because sharks are extremely important to the health of our oceans.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 8:35:05 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessica Kurtz		Support	No

Comments:

Please consider this proposition. Sharks are essential to a healthy ocean and ecosystem and are currently being killed at a rate much faster than they can keep up with. It is believed that over the past 50 years 90% of the world's shark population has disappeared. Without them I fear what not only our ocean but our world would look like. We have a responsibility not just to them but to ourselves to protect them.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 8:32:26 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kayleigh Nicole Burns	OneOcean Diving	Support	Yes

Comments:

Aloha Committee Members,

I strongly support SB 2709 in granting more protection for sharks and rays in Hawaiian waters. As a shark naturalist for One Ocean Research & Diving, I understand the ecological importance of sharks in marine ecosystems, the economic benefit to “swim with shark” programs, and the cultural value of sharks in Hawaiian tradition.

From 2000-2010 Sharks around the world have been decimated at a rate of about 100 million sharks per year (Worm & Gruber 2013). With only about 3% of the worlds ocean as a marine protected area (MPA) there exists few safe havens for these animals around the globe (Department of State Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs 2016).

Sharks and rays are especially vulnerable to exploitation due to slow growth rate, late attainment of sexual maturity, long life spans, & low fecundity (Steves et al 2000)

As apex predators, sharks are at the top of the food chain, therefore maintaining the balance of the ecosystem by regulating the abundance of marine life in lower trophic levels while acting as the immune system of our oceans by picking off the weak, sick and overpopulated keeping fish stocks healthy.

Additional research indicates that the removal of shark and rays may alter size, structure and population parameters in response to changes in species abundance (Stevens et. al 2000).

Sharks are a clear sign of a healthy reef and marine ecosystem due to their predatory status. Hawaiian tourism relies greatly on our natural environment. It is our responsibility as a community to conserve our natural world for generations to come and those around the globe to enjoy. I have personally interacted with countless tourists from around the world traveling specifically for aquatic tourism with a focus on sharks and rays between Oahu and Hawaii island. Studies in the Maldives, Bahamas, and South Africa have clearly outline the value of a live shark to severely outweigh the value of a dead shark.

“In the Maldives, for example, divers engaged in over 76,000 shark-observing dives in just one year, bringing in an estimated US \$2.3 million to the local economy in 1993

alone (Anderson & Ahmed, 1993; Anderson & Waheed, 2001). This same study also estimated that a single grey reef shark was worth an average of \$3,300 per year, and

over \$35,000 per year at the most popular dive sites.” Anderson and Ahmed (1993) concluded a grey reef shark was worth 100 times more

when alive than dead.

Our team of conservationists at Keiko Conservation and One Ocean Research and Diving urge your committee to lead by example not only for the state of Hawaii but the entire nation and preserve Hawaii’s natural assets by passing SB 2709.

Mahalo nui loa,

Kayleigh Nicole Burns

Dear Hawaii State Legislature, 2/6/18

hi my name is Zae and I am from

Sharks are our friends. I am an 8 year old conservationist. I am the voice of the Sharks and I am writing to ask you to Pass bill 2079. the reason sharks are important to me is because without sharks we will slowly die.

they keep our oceans clean by eating the weak and injured fish that eat the plants that give us oxygen.

the reason why I am asking you to Pass the bill is so people learn that sharks are important because you say they are important.

I am sorry that I can't be there to read this myself but my heart will be there for the sharks.

mahalo Zae shark Williams.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 8:51:35 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erica Scott	Cuddle Party	Support	No

Comments:

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 9:05:21 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Mesarina		Support	No

Comments:

It is imperative that this bill be passed! We need, now more than ever, to do all we can to protect sharks and the environment. Under our new federal government, conservation efforts have been greatly dismissed. It is a states responsibility to do all it can to protect and conserve its environmental well being. The same environment that makes Hawaii's waters so beautiful and so renowned that people come from all over the world to visit. Balance is the key to a healthy under water ecosystem, and apex predators such as sharks are key to maintaining this balance, thus, ensuring the water of Hawaii (and waters all over the world) not just survive but thrive!

#SaveHawaiiSharks

#SaveSharksSaveTheOcean

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 9:11:34 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
M. Markl	citizen	Support	No

Comments:

Hello Committee Chairs and Members:

Please pass this bill to protect sharks and all rays with increasing fines, penalties and protections as all of the public cannot be trusted to do the right thing. These creatures lives depend in large part in your decisions to make into law strong laws for their protection. Thank you!

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 9:37:41 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexis Araw		Support	No

Comments:

I urge you to support this bill in the protection of sharks and rays. Sharks are vital to our oceans as they act as the white blood cells of the sea by eating the dead dying and weak species keeping our ocean ecosystems healthy. In order to protect our reefs we need sharks. Please help protect them for future generations to come.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 9:56:05 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Emelyn Reyes		Support	No

Comments:

Unfortunately, I will not be able to be present at the hearing but I would like to use this opportunity to present my testimony.

Sharks are what brought me to Hawaii for the first time and the same goes for many tourists, captivated by an apex predator they can be introduced to safely.

The connection between sharks and the Hawaiian culture and the beautiful waters of Hawaii, create the perfect scenario for ecotourism to thrive, making sharks a treasure for this state.

Failing at restricting and punishing killings of sharks and rays is not only culturally and morally wrong. It also deprives Hawaii of a rich revenue.

Moreover, sharks, as apex predators are meant to regulate the reefs and oceans, eating the sick and weak fish, leaving us healthy reefs. Letting killings of sharks unpunished will allow more and more sharks to be taken and the reefs to suffer consequentially. With fewer sharks to maintain a healthy fish population we'd soon find ourselves dealing with sick fish, contaminating schools and entire species of marine animals.



SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 10:42:18 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erin Rice		Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2079 because sharks are important.

Sincerely,

Erin Rice

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 10:44:12 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Aliana Berdaliyeva		Support	No

Comments:

Hello,

I am writing from Almaty, Kazakhstan, to help save Hawaiian sharks. Sharks are so important to the marine ecosystem, and it is our duty to protect them. Personally, I am especially grateful to Hawaiian sharks, as my first encounter with them made me fascinated with all sharks. I have since dived with many kinds of sharks, all thanks to the sharks in Hawaii. So please help them!

Thank you!

Sincerely,

Aliana

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/6/2018 10:52:42 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jennifer	7seasrope	Support	No

Comments:

sharks and rays are important for a healthy eco-system. A healthy ocean is home for lot of species. It is our responsibility to protect all of it.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 12:04:50 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
shea prueger		Support	No

Comments:

Sharks are imperative to the ocean's ecosystem and longevity. This is an important bill to help our ocean thrive and survive. Please protect our sharks and rays!

Dear Members of Hawaii Legislature,

Thank you for the opportunity to voice my support of SB 2079 which would protect sharks and rays in Hawaii's waters. Sharks and rays are key components in a healthy marine ecosystem. Sharks are apex predators(at the top of the food chain), which means they play the vital role of managing populations below them in the food chain and remove disease and carrion from the environment, and help select for stronger, healthier fish.

There are demonstrable examples of what happens in an ecosystem where sharks are removed. For example, in the Atlantic, the scallop industry collapsed following the depletion of shark populations. Cownose ray(*Rhinoptera bonasus*), which feed on scallops, catch rates increased 9% each year(indicating population increase) while shark populations declined, effectively wiping out the *Argopecten irradians* populations many animals, including humans, feed on(Heithaus et al. 2008). Rays are also an important link in the food chain, often feeding on and managing bottom-dwelling fish and invertebrates. Hawaii has only 4 species of ray; the reef manta ray, the rare giant manta ray, the broad stringray(found only in Hawaii), and the eagle ray.

Sharks and rays are vulnerable to a variety threats, mainly overfishing, bycatch, and the act of shark finning because shark fins are so highly valued in Asia. They are slow to mature(According to Romine et al. (2006), female sandbar sharks, which are common on the North Shore, take at least a decade to reach sexual maturity), have small litter sizes, and some don't reproduce every year, such as the Tiger shark (Whitney & Crow 2007). Sharks are also threatened with ingestion of human generated waste such as plastic, as well as entanglement from ghost nets, fishing line, etc. Even here in Hawaii, sharks are caught for "recreation", which, even if the shark is released, can still kill the sharks, and are also killed for seemingly no purpose at all. Attached below are some photos of sharks killed in Hawaii. If the shark and ray populations continue to decline, reef systems will follow suit. Dead reefs not only mean less food sources for humans, but their protection from large waves will also disappear and our beaches will decline.

Hawaii's beaches are one of the main allures to tourists around the world and the tourism industry is a huge contributor to Hawaii's economy. Shark ecotourism is a huge attractant to tourists. In a study conducted at Duke University in 2004, American SCUBA divers were asked to state their WTP, or willingness to pay, to see healthy corals, sea turtles, and sharks (White 2008). 71% of the divers were willing to pay more money to see sharks than any other species. A study based on the Maldives found that in 1993, "shark-observing dives" brought in \$2.3 million to the local economy. It also estimated each grey reef shark brought in anywhere from \$3,300 to \$35,000(Anderson & Ahmed 1993, Anderson & Waheed 2001). The Bahamas is a prime example of what can happen when sharks are protected. According to the Pew Environment Group, each reef shark in the Bahamas is worth about \$250,000. In the last 20 years, the Bahamas generated about \$800 million from shark-diver encounters(Cline 2008). From these numbers, it is obvious to see the cost benefit of protecting sharks.

Being a research assistant for One Ocean Diving, I have heard many customers inform us that they have flown to Oahu/Hawaii just for the experience to swim with sharks, meaning

revenue gained from their stay through hotels, flights, rental cars etc., is because of the sharks we have here.

The ocean is our life support system and all life originated in the ocean. We breathe more oxygen from the ocean than anywhere else and many populations depend on it for food. Following suit with the shark fin ban in 2011, Hawaii can once again be a national and world leader in protecting sharks, and therefore, the marine ecosystem. If passed, this bill can help effectively turn the tide on declining shark populations around the world.

An amendment is requested if the bill is passed. This amendment is to ban the purposeful take or landing of sharks and rays in Hawaii's water without a permit. Permits can only be attained for scientific research or cultural purposes. And to establish fines and penalties for knowingly taking, or landing a shark or ray within state waters.

Mahalo nui loa for your time and consideration of this bill,
Michelle Bennett

Anderson, R.C., & Ahmed, H. (1993). The shark fisheries of the Maldives: A review (Report to Ministry of Fisheries and Agriculture, Republic of Maldives and Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, 76 pp)

Anderson, R.C., & Waheed, A. (2001). The economics of shark and ray watching in the Maldives. *Shark News*, 13, 1-3.

Cline, W. 2008. Shark diving overview for the islands of the Bahamas (p. 11). Nassau, Report of the Bahamas Ministry of Tourism. Nassau, Bahamas: Cline Marketing Group.

Heithaus, M., A. Frid, A. Wirsing, B. Worm. 2008. Predicting ecological consequences of marine top predator declines. *23:4*,. 202-210.

White, L. (2008). Sea, the value: Quantifying the value of marine life to divers North Carolina, (Master's thesis, Duke University). Retrieved from http://dukespace.lib.duke.edu/dspace/bitstream/handle/10161/479/MP_lcw6_a_200805.pdf;jsessionid=7D7F6477F4062E0CDC0FA5E1D9E1F286?sequence=1.

Whitney, Nicholas M. & Gerald L. Crow. 2007. Reproductive biology of the tiger shark (*Galeocerdo cuvier*) in Hawaii. *151:1* pp. 63-70.



These sharks were found dead at Waimea Bay around Sept. 2017 where there were large bait balls occurring inside Waimea Bay and sharks were spotted feeding on them. It's not known if the men in the left photo were the ones that killed the shark (via Instagram under @kala__grace). The female sandbar shark on the right was found after presumably being dragged on shore with the rope around her tail and tied to a sand spike.



This is Roxanne, a juvenile tiger shark found Feb. 2016 on the North Shore. As you can see from the hook, this was a targeted attack. She was also tagged for a study by researchers on Oahu.



A sandbar shark found dead on the West Side Dec 2017



Man using a juvenile hammerhead as bait. In video the dialogue is "Guys, isn't that hammerhead?" "Yeah." "Aren't you supposed to let it go?" "Are you silly? I'm still gonna send it.". The shark was still alive and struggling, as seen in the first two screenshots.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 1:59:58 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Matthew Lafontaine		Support	No

Comments:

Extinction is forever.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 2:40:11 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
alexis dominguez		Support	No

Comments:

Sharks are important too

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 3:01:28 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Odette Melendez		Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2079 because sharks are important to our oceans.

Growing up on the water and snorkeling and diving more times than I can count I have observed seeing less sharks year to year. The international shark population has been dropping significantly in the past decade and we need to protect them. Without sharks in our ecosystem, our whole ocean system will collapse. Please take a step to help conserve their population.

Lauren Landers

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 4:08:29 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Evangeline Kidd		Support	No

Comments:

Sharks are a keystone species and NEED protection. They are beautiful and necessary for the health of our oceans. Neither rays nor sharks deserve cruel treatment or dismemberment. Please protect them.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 4:29:33 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Mason		Support	No

Comments:

Sharks and Rays are important to the ecosystem. Without sharks and rays the reefs and waters surrounding Hawaii will be affected. Thousands of people who visit Hawaii each year will not visit if the marine life is absent and unhealthy. Family and friends I know who visit Hawaii each year don't talk about the volcanoes, beaches, and resorts as much as they talk about the beautiful fish, sharks, manta rays, whales and dolphins. Please pass this bill. The great state of Hawaii will be better for it. Mahalo, David.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 5:03:14 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Hillary Agra		Support	No

Comments:

I support!!

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 5:16:54 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Katie Demsey		Support	No

Comments:

Sharks are vital to the local ecosystems but also across the ocean. They help stabilize fish populations as a natural predator and act as one of many facets of nature's checks and balances. By making people accountable for their fishing actions, we can help reduce the amount of sharks senselessly killed or suffering at the hands of humans every year.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 5:26:38 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melanie		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 5:31:07 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sophia Pallavicini		Support	No

Comments:

Sharks are absolutely crucial to the health of our ecosystem. Please give them more protection!

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 7:35:56 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Giulia Fiori		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 7:55:46 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
brooke friswold		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 8:19:18 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Elaine Wyatt		Support	No

Comments:

Sharks play a vital role in keeping our ecosystem balanced. As humans, we rely on sharks to feed on the dying or diseased in order to keep the oceans ecosystem balanced. If the ocean ecosystem is working properly, the terrestrial ecosystem is too. If it is not balanced, our ecosystems will plummet and resources will diminish. People who promote culling and capturing are supporting (and encouraging others to support) detrimental destruction that cannot be fixed. This bill will help encourage people to coexist while promoting increased shark populations in Hawaiian waters.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 9:19:06 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tracy Mullen		Support	Yes

Comments:

Hawaii has thrived on the ocean since the first Hawaiians found this beautiful place. Now in current times we not only thrive on it for a source of food and fun, but also our economy for tourism. We depend on the ocean for so much that we do, and therefore we need a healthy thriving marine ecosystem. Sharks play such a key role in keeping the ocean healthy. Like the white blood cells of the ocean, they help keep populations of their prey items healthy and strong as they often go for the weakest animal. Multiple studies have shown that having sharks in various ecosystems (reef, open ocean, sea grass beds, etc.) creates and keeps thriving biodiversity by not only keeping prey items from having population explosions, but also shifting the way prey acts. Fishing for sharks creates a desire to have these animals caught and potentially killed, making a devastating impact on the shark populations. Even catch and release has significant damage as often times when a shark is caught, lactic acid builds up from the stress and even though you may see the shark swim away, they tend to not live long after. This is especially true in hammerheads who see a greater amount of lactic acid buildups while fighting the line. With social media it is far too often you'll see people land these sharks and keep them out of the water, even for a few minutes, just to get a picture. Without bones, sharks are essentially being crushed by their own weight when they are out of the water for any amount of time, which can lead to serious internal issues that can kill them. Sharks are already facing many threats to their populations from climate change and international desires for shark fin soup or even long line fishing here, just out of the state water lines. The best we can do now is protect them within these beautiful Hawaiian waters to give the sharks the best fighting chance they have, so that they may thrive and thus our oceans thrive. It has been shown in many cases that ecotourism created by shark diving is much greater than shark fishing and has potential to be economically beneficial to Hawaii. A live shark can continue to provide economic growth, while a dead shark only creates it once and at a lower value. We must act now to prevent further loss of shark populations, for the future generations who will need to continue to depend on our beautiful ocean.

Testimony for SB 2079

I strongly support SB 2079. Sharks and rays are a vital component of healthy marine ecosystems that have experienced rapid declines throughout the last decades. As apex predators sharks are at the top of the food chain, therefore maintaining balance of the ecosystem by regulating abundance of marine life in lower trophic levels and acting as the immune system of our oceans by picking off the weak, sick and overpopulated keeping fish stocks healthy.

Ecosystem models predict that the removal of sharks can result in complex community changes, including trophic cascades, mesopredator release, and consequent declines in some commercial fish and cascading changes in some coastal ecosystems (Ferretti et. al 2010). Additional research indicates that the removal of shark and rays may alter size, structure and population parameters in response to changes in species abundance (Stevens et. al 2000).

In the context of ecosystem level changes specific to Hawaii, a study published in 2000 examined the potential long term impacts of the removal of sharks with the use of a dynamic model ECOSIM that predicts changes in biomasses, yields, and consumption for each group through time. They found that when tiger sharks were removed from the model a total and rapid crash in the abundance of tuna and jacks, and an increase in bottom fishes occurred due to increases in seabird populations which compete with tunas and jacks for food and were no longer subject to top down control by tiger sharks (Stevens et. al 2000). While ecological relationships are very complex and difficult to simulate this study highlights the potential for unforeseen and intended consequences when sharks are removed.

Further evidence for the ecological importance of sharks can be found when the density, size, and biomass of reef fishes in northwestern Hawaiian islands a large, remote, and lightly fished area, and the main Hawaiian islands (MHI), an urbanized, heavily fished area. The study by Friedlander & DeMartini in 2002 revealed dramatic differences between the two ecosystems, as grand mean fish standing stock in the NWHI was more than 260% greater than in the MHI, more than 54% of the total fish biomass in the NWHI consisted of apex predators, (primarily sharks and jacks) whereas this trophic level accounted for less than 3% of the fish biomass in the MHI. The study concluded these differences represent both near-extirpation of apex predators and heavy exploitation of lower trophic levels in the MHI compared to the largely unfished NWHI (Friedlander & DeMartini 2002).

A 2008 report by the DLNR-DAR of Hawaii found that Oahu's reefs have around 1/10th the biomass of apex predators (Willaims et. al 2008) when compared to remote inaccessible reefs, indicating that anthropogenic pressures through the main Hawaiian islands has dramatically reduced populations of sharks and rays that are particularly susceptible to over-exploitation due to life history characteristics including slow growth, late attainment of sexual maturity, long life spans, low fecundity (Stevens et. al 2000).

Sharks are also not only ecologically important, but also economically important. Sharks are more alive according to a 2013 study by Cisneros-Montemayor et. al which estimates participants in the shark ecotourism industry expend > USD 314 million per year and is projected to grow based on current trends to an estimated > USD 780 million in tourist expenditures in the next 20 years (Cisneros-Montemayor et. al 2013). Similarly, a 2012 study by Vianna et. al provides support for the argument of non-extractive resource use based on data from shark ecotourism operations in Palau which generates USD\$18 million per year, and states that the estimates value of the population of approximately 100 sharks used in the

operation to be at most USD\$10,800 if they were harvested which is a fraction of worth of these animals as a non-consumptive resource (Vianna et. al 2012).

Based on the scientific studies cited above there is a very clear argument for protecting sharks and rays in Hawaiian waters for their ecological, economic, and intrinsic value. The long term ecological implications of removal of apex predators are difficult to document, but when it comes to conserving such a vital component of our marine ecosystems the precautionary approach should be taken to ensure healthy populations of these animals persist for future generations. Some may oppose this bill because they believe it will be difficult to fund enforcement, but some of the business that stand to gain (shark ecotourism businesses) from this bill could participate in a voluntary "shark watching tax" of \$5 for every person who wants to commercially see a shark alive to help with any costs of enforcing this law. We as a community could help to provide the evidence to DLNR to enforce this law leaving no logical reason not to support this bill.

Testimony for SB 2079

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SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 9:51:48 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Ferriera	Extinct Global	Support	Yes

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to protect sharks and rays from intentional killing. Growing up, I thought sharks were plentiful in every body of water I swam in. It wasn't until later I learned this is the exact opposite of the truth. Sharks have been decimated by over 90%, which is a stark contrast to what most people think of as reality. As an apex predator, they use their position at the top of the food chain to maintain the balance and health of our ecosystems. If one part of the food chain is out of balance, it will naturally affect everything else, including humans. Sharks keep fish populations healthy by preying on the weak and injured. In Hawaii, tiger sharks help to keep our fish populations healthy. If this component of the food chain were to be removed, other fish populations would likely crash, which would lead to a change in seabird populations as they no longer have to compete with the tiger sharks. One likely species that would decline in this model would be tuna, which is a food source for people as well. Sharks are also vital for the economy. As a state with a booming population of tourists, Hawaii can greatly benefit from shark ecotourism. This has been demonstrated all over the world, and proves sharks are worth more alive than dead.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 9:53:58 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Annika		Support	Yes

Comments:

My name is Annika Young, I strongly support SB 2079. Sharks are a most vital resource for our Hawaiian and global waters, and with the worldwide number of sharks dropping rapidly due to inhuman, unnecessary, and unsustainable human behaviors, it is absolutely crucial that Hawaii takes a leading stance on the protection of sharks. Many people cannot see past the stereotypical image of sharks, which portrays these animals as man-eating monsters, and because of this, mankind most often completely denies sharks of their right to proper and honest portrayal in the media. The villainous acts our species (humans) have taken upon sharks because of a lack of knowledge on the true importance of sharks has caused most serious ecological concerns. Sharks keep our oceans at sufficient health levels, by picking off of the dead, dying, weak, sick, or injured to help prevent the spread of disease, fish stock overpopulation/decline, etc. When our ocean is healthy, our planet is healthy; our oceans produce the majority of the air we need to survive, they provide us with a main source of protein in fish (so long as sharks are allowed to do their role and keep fish populations in check), and the economic benefits from marine related jobs and ecotourism are much too great to ignore. Sharks are primarily slaughtered for their fins, as well as being killed in longline fisheries, but the death toll on sharks by sport fishing is one we can look at with equal disgust. It is a completely unnecessary murder that only hurts the well-being of our local and global ocean ecosystems. With Hawaii being a place of tourism because of our beautiful oceans, we must do everything we can to protect that very important resource. A live shark is worth more than a dead one- ecologically and economically. Please look beyond the fictitious image of sharks to see that they are actually a very intelligent and important source of life. This is why we are asking you as our government to take a step in the right direction...to take a step towards saving our oceans by removing the unnecessary and cruel act of shark fishing from our local waters...to board the bandwagon many people around the world are beginning to take, but to be a LEADER in this act, not a late follower.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 10:01:27 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julie-Ann Zerne		Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB 2079. Sharks are a most vital resource for our Hawaiian and global waters, and with the worldwide number of sharks dropping rapidly due to inhuman, unnecessary, and unsustainable human behaviors, it is absolutely crucial that Hawaii takes a leading stance on the protection of sharks. Sharks keep our oceans healthy by picking off of the dead, dying, weak, sick, or injured to help prevent the spread of disease, fish stock overpopulation/decline, etc. We need healthy oceans for a healthy planet; our oceans produce the majority of the air we need to survive, they provide us with a main source of protein in fish, and they provide us with many economic benefits from marine related jobs and ecotourism. Sharks are primarily slaughtered for their fins, as well as being killed in longline fisheries, but the death toll on sharks by sport fishing is one we can look at with equal disgust. It is a completely unnecessary murder that only hurts the well-being of our local and global ocean ecosystems. With Hawaii being a place of tourism because of our beautiful oceans, we must do everything we can to protect that very important resource. A live shark is worth more than a dead one- ecologically and economically. Please look beyond the fictitious image of sharks to see that they are actually a very intelligent and important source of life. This is why we are asking you as our government to take a step in the right direction...to take a step towards saving our oceans by removing the unnecessary and cruel act of shark fishing from our local waters.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 10:02:12 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Laetitia Smoll		Support	No

Comments:

Sharks are a crucial part of marine ecosystems and studies have shown that their populations are dwindling. They are also an important part of Hawaiian history and culture, and should be protected. Hawaii leads the way in so many environmental issues and should set an example here to help global leaders recognize the impact we are having on sharks, and what this means for the health of the rest of the ocean.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 10:13:00 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua Mason		Support	No

Comments:

I would simply ask that our officials consider the damage that has been done in the past from no legislation on shark finning. Entire industries have collapsed because of the decimation of shark populations, which allowed other predators to roam freely with no "natural check" from nature. Consider this study from the University of Miami (<https://www.sciencedaily.com/releases/2007/03/070329145922.htm>) and how the US Shellfish industry was [destroyed](#).

LATE

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 10:40:27 AM
Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marta Helgadottir		Support	No

Comments:

Dear Hawaii State Legislature,

My name is Marta and I work as a concierge. In my profession, we get a lot of requests regarding viewing and /or interacting with cetaceans in Hawaii. Visitors inquiring have often never seen a whale or dolphin before. It is a unique opportunity to showcase the spectacular Hawaiian nature and wildlife and also educate the public on these highly intelligent beings. Out of hundreds of requests, I have never booked visitors in for visiting facilities with captive cetaceans. I have always managed to steer my guests away from these ideas and opt for seeing them from eco conscious catamaran sails instead. My guests are always happy after returning from their sails, as opposed to when my colleagues book activities for guests at Sea Life Park or Dolphin Quest, where so many guests return shocked and saddened by the fact that they didn't get to touch the dolphin, because there were so many other people on the pool at the same time or they are surprised by the unnatural size of the pools these animals live in.

I am writing this in a rush as the hearing has already commenced and I just figured out how to submit my testimony. But it is time that we move away from using (abusing) animals for entertainment purposes. If this is a matter of wildlife education, Hawaii nei provides us with the best prospects in the world to educate the public and our visitors by a simple sailing tour. Teaching about WILDLife in captivity and about nature in conditions so unnatural to cetaceans is a very unhealthy way of educating people. I am not even going to mention the well-being of these beings and the consequences captivity has on their health, as there are numerous reports of early deaths and ill behavior in the captive communities as a whole. I am sure the staff at these facilities care the best they can for the animals, but this is not a sustainable solution for education and promoting preservation of essential marine life. It is beneficial for all (except the corporations, of course) that the cetaceans are retired, rehabilitated and that no more are captured.

LATE

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 10:40:51 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dana Bjarner	Keiko Conservation Ecuador	Support	No

Comments:

On behalf of Keiko Conservation and keiko Conservation Ecuador, I strongly support bill SB2079 to protect sharks and rays in the state of Hawaii.

There is no such thing as an ocean without sharks, they are vital for the ecosystem. We need them to survive but unfortunately right now they need us even more, due to overfishing and illegal fishing, each second more than 2 sharks are killed and approximately 100 million sharks are killed per year by humans. Just for shark fin soup which in fact is very dangerous for human consumption because of the high levels of mercury shark meat has.

So we ask you to help us protect them from irresponsible fishing and stop the slaughter.

Thank you.

LATE

Testimony for Public Hearing SB2079

February 8, 2018

Kasumi Shishido Torrance CA, 90503

Good Afternoon. My name is Kasumi Shishido and I am a member of Keiko Conservation Japan chapter. I would like you to support measure SB2079 that establishes penalties and fines for any person who knowingly captures, kills, or takes any shark and manta rays within state marine waters.

Sharks and rays take vital part to sustaining healthy ocean ecosystems. The state of Hawaii fosters one of the most beautiful reefs in the world rich with various marine species that attracts tourism from all around the globe. If we allow people to continue to disrupting the population of these species that balances the ecosystem, without any consequences, it is in evident that there will be negative affects to the marine life within these reefs.

These species already suffer various hazards caused by humans such as plastic pollution and fishing net entanglements. This bill is extremely important to pass in order to set proper regulations to protect the remaining populations of sharks and rays and to sustain a successful tourism industry in Hawaii.

I would appreciate your support and careful consideration to this issue.

Thank you for your valuable time and consideration.

Sincerely, Kasumi Shishido



SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 11:48:17 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lauren brown		Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2079 because sharks are vital to the ecosystem.

LATE

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 12:13:52 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelsey Loenhorst	Keiko Conservation	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support SB 2079. Sharks and rays are vital to a healthy ocean ecosystem. Placing this ban on intentional shark capture will prevent further damage to this ecosystem. Action is needed now more than ever before it is too late. Please pass SB 2079 for the future of our oceans.

LATE

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 12:39:31 PM
Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Cardenas		Support	No

Comments:

I support SB2079 because sharks and rays are important to our ecosystems. For the sake of our ecosystems and in turn our future generations, this bill must be passed.

LATE

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 12:37:48 PM
Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
silvia nabuco	oneoceandiving	Support	Yes

Comments:

Sharks are important

LATE

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 12:40:02 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Wai'ala Ahn		Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern,

Aloha, I'm writing to urge you to Support SB2079 to save our sharks. They are vital to ocean health and marine balance. Please Support SB2079

Mahalo for your time and consideration on this bill.

Aloha,

Wai'ala Ahn

LATE

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 12:56:09 PM
Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Maupin		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 1:51:24 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Reis Haituka		Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 2:21:42 PM
Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
pat gegen		Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 3:43:30 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
paola elisa aguilar		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 4:12:02 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julia Barnes		Support	No

Comments:

Dear Hawaii State Legislature,

I am writing to ask you to pass bill 2079. Sharks are incredibly important to the health of the oceans. They have been here for over 400 million years, shaping life in the oceans. Sharks help keep the ocean in balance, removing the sick fish and keeping their populations strong. Over 100 million sharks are killed each year by humans. Their populations have dropped by 90%. You can help turn things around for sharks and ensure a beautiful, healthy ocean. Thank you!

Julia

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 8:40:34 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
siena schaar	keiko conservation	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 8:41:21 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Izzy		Support	No

Comments:

I believe shark fin poaching shouldn't be done at all, especially when there are sharks on the red list. I understand why people want to do it... the circle of life and business but not when there is a CHANCE that they could go extinct, at least do it when their population is stable. But because it's way lower than it should, poaching should be banned for a LONG time. 100 MILLION sharks are killed just for their fins. Sharks are good for the ocean environment, they're not monsters they're just trying to survive like us and any other species on the planet. The scalloped head hammerhead eats the rays. With no hammerheads to keep the rays population in place, the rays started eating too many bivalves which meant no food for the other animals and no clams for restaurants, so if you really look at it, it circles back to us.

P.S. What the hunters do to the sharks when they hunt for their fins, (they cut the fins off the living creature and then dump it back in the water, not being able to swim and slowly bleeding out) is disgusting! They should be very ashamed of their selves.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 8:47:35 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tyler Agbayani		Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

As a local boy growing up in Hawai'i and fishing, the cultural importance of sharks has always been something I have known and been familiar with. I think it is time that we better protect Hawai'i's shark and ray species. After better educating myself on the environmental importance of sharks as keystone species(through earning a Bachelor's of education degree in Biology from UHM), I feel like Hawai'i is pretty far behind as far as protections. Hawaiian's have always seen sharks as their aumakua and now it's time that we honor that and protect them so that they can keep our reefs healthy and keep our fish stocks strong for generations to come. Aloha.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Tyler Agbayani

Constituent of the Kalihi-Palama area (District 30)

LATE

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 8:49:45 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cecilia Mola		Support	No

Comments:

LATE

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 9:06:27 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Azita Ganjali		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha, my name is Azita Ganjali and I am a student at Kaiser High School. I am the Vice President of Wipeout Crew, a student led organization that is dedicated to saving marine life. We conduct beach cleanups, removing over 3000 lbs of trash from our beaches per year.

100 million sharks are killed by humans per year, compared to one shark attack fatality every 2 years. These marine animals aren't evil, they are vital to a healthy ocean ecosystem. These scavengers keep fish populations in check by hunting the sick fish. Therefore, it is necessary to have a stable population of sharks and rays.

I am fully in support of this bill. Thank you for your time and consideration, from a public high school student.

LATE

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 9:55:16 PM
Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Noa Berry		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 10:24:54 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cory Harden		Support	No

Comments:

Aloha legislators,

Please protect our wildlife. We upset the balance of nature at our peril.

mahalo,

Cory Harden, Hilo

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 10:31:16 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kealoha Pisciotta		Support	No

Comments:

TESTIMONY in SUPPORT for SB 2079

Aloha,

Mahalo for your Aloha and support for greater protections for the Mano (Sharks), Hi'imanu (Sting Rays) and Hahalua (Manta Rays). They are important for our ecosystem and our our Aumakaua (Family gods). I support this bill and I testify in support here on behalf of myself as President Of Mauna Kea Anaina Hou, as founder of Kai Palaoa (a Marine Protection Organization)

and a member of Kia'i Kanaloa a Ocean and Cetacean Protection group.

Aloha and Mahalo for your support and consideration

Kealoha Pisciotta

PO Box 5864

Hilo Hawai'i 96720

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/7/2018 10:56:23 PM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maile Bingham		Support	No

Comments:

This bill should be passed in order to support the natural ecosystem of Hawaii because sharks and rays are more than just a scary movie. These creatures provide more for us than meets the eye, and without them we would truly be living the result of our actions. Education and protection for these animals needs to be shared with both the people of Hawaii and future generations. Please pass this bill to protect these crucial creatures of our oceans.

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 6:51:57 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roxane Stewart		Support	No

Comments:

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 7:09:32 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maddy		Support	No

Comments:

I SUPPORT SB2079 because sharks are IMPORTANT!!!

SB-2079

Submitted on: 2/8/2018 7:45:52 AM

Testimony for WTL on 2/8/2018 10:15:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Carlton York		Support	No

Comments:

Protect all marine life