

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 House Committee on
JUDICIARY**

**Tuesday, February 26, 2019
2:05 PM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

**In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 808, HOUSE DRAFT 1
RELATING TO SHARK AND RAY PROTECTION**

House Bill 808, House Draft 1 proposes to prohibit, establish criminal penalties, and establish administrative fines for any person who knowingly captures, takes, possesses, abuses, entangles, or kills any shark within state marine waters; expands the existing protection for rays within state marine waters; and provides certain exemptions. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure, and offers the following comments.**

The Department recognizes the important role sharks and rays 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 will implement this measure by adopting regulations through the administrative rulemaking process to evaluate and apply scientific management principles, give due consideration to public interests, and carefully craft language to avoid conflict with existing state and federal laws.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.

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

ROBERT K. MASUDA
FIRST DEPUTY

M. KALEO MANUEL
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



HB808 HD1
RELATING TO SHARK AND RAY PROTECTION
House Committee on Judiciary

February 26, 2019

2:05 p.m.

Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB808 HD1, which would prohibit the killing, capturing, or otherwise harming of any shark or ray species in state waters.

OHA supports strong protections for culturally important species that also serve critical ecological functions. As this bill recognizes, Hawai'i's shark and ray species may hold special cultural significance for Native Hawaiians. For example, sharks and rays are recognized as kinolau for Kū and Kanaloa, and certain individuals and species can be regarded as 'aumakua by some families. Sharks and rays are also featured in mo'olelo, 'ōlelo no'eau, and other cultural narratives that inform the Hawaiian understanding of the world and our natural environment. OHA also understands that the ecological services provided by apex predators such as sharks promote a healthy ocean environment, which is necessary for the continuation of Native Hawaiian cultural and subsistence practices. **Accordingly, OHA appreciates the proposed enhanced protections for shark and ray species in state waters.**

OHA notes that sharks and rays are also used for traditional and customary practices, including in the crafting of implements, weapons and ceremonial objects; OHA accordingly further appreciates the proposed statutory language explicitly allowing for the continuation of such cultural practices.

Finally, OHA appreciates the inclusion of Hawaiian names for sharks and rays, specifically the use of manō (shark) and hīhīmanu (ray) in the respective section titles of the measure. OHA notes that while Hawaiian language references confirm the name hīhīmanu for various classes of rays, there are at least two other names commonly associated with rays: hāhālua and hailepo. OHA respectfully suggests that all three names commonly associated with rays be included in the appropriate section title to ensure Hawaiian terms are consistent with the measure's purpose to expand protection to all species of rays.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB808 HD1. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

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: HOUSE COMMITTEE ON JUDICIARY

For hearing Tuesday, February 26, 2019

Re: HB 808, HD 1

RELATING TO SHARK AND RAY PROTECTION.

Prohibits, establishes criminal penalties, and establishes administrative fines for any person who knowingly captures, takes, possesses, abuses, entangles, or kills any shark within state marine waters. Expands the existing protection for rays within state marine waters. Provides certain exemptions. (HB808 HD1)

TESTIMONY IN OPPOSITION, UNLESS THE BILL IS AMENDED TO ENSURE RACIAL EQUALITY IN THE PERMISSIVE EXEMPTIONS

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.

The problem with this bill is that it contains language strongly implying that exceptions should be made only for members of one particular racial group. But those exceptions should not be based on race. The exceptions should be for the exercise of traditional or customary cultural or religious practices which were done by some native Hawaiians prior to 1778 but which are now done by some Hawaii residents of many races and cultures. The exceptions should be defined by cultural or religious practices regardless of the race of today's Hawaii residents who engage in those practices.

There are four places in this bill where the language should be amended to make the exceptions culture-based or religion-based rather than race-based.

Page 1, lines 16-17 should be amended to say "... valued figures in certain cultures or religions and are economically important ..."

Page 2 line 7 should be amended to say "their value to specific cultural or religious practices;"

Page 5, section 2(f) lines 5-7 should be reworded to say "Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict the exercise of traditional and customary cultural or religious practices engaged in by some native Hawaiians prior to 1778 which now are engaged in by Hawaii residents of various races, as protected by article XII, section 7, of the Hawaii State Constitution."

Page 7, section 3(f) should be reworded to say "Nothing in this section shall be construed to restrict the exercise of traditional and customary cultural or religious practices engaged in by some native Hawaiians prior to 1778 which now are engaged in by Hawaii residents of various

racess, as protected by article XII, section 7, of the Hawaii State Constitution."

The point of these amendments is that the exceptions should 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, 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 any exceptions based on culture or religion.

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

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i
Supporting HB 489 HD1 Relating to Shark and Ray Protection
House Committee on Judiciary
Tuesday, February 26, 2019, 2:05 AM, Room 325

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which all life depends. The Conservancy has helped protect more than 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i and Palmyra Atoll. We manage 40,000 acres in 13 preserves and work in over 30 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs, waters and fisheries of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnership with government, private parties and communities to protect forests and coral reefs for their ecological values and the many benefits they provide to people.

The Nature Conservancy supports HB 808 HD1 and the effective management of reef associated sharks by protecting them in the state waters of Hawai'i.

As drivers of highly productive nearshore marine ecosystems in Hawai'i, sharks represent keystone species, the removal of which has disproportionate impacts to coral reef ecosystems. Data demonstrating the vital role sharks fill as apex predators, derived in part from surveys conducted in the unfished waters of what is now the Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument (Friedlander and Demartini, 2002), confirms that intact apex predator populations increase the efficiency and productivity of coral reef ecosystems by removing unfit individuals from the population and exerting top-down pressure on prey species.

Rather than suppressing prey populations, shark predation selects for fast growing, healthy individuals. Further, research cruises in other coral reef archipelagos demonstrates that shark dominated apex predator biomass positively correlates to live coral cover (Sandin *et al.*, 2008), confirming the importance of sharks from an ecosystem perspective.

Reef associated species of sharks are slow growing and vulnerable to rapid over-exploitation based on their predatory behavior and territorial range from tens to hundreds of kilometers. Because they are disproportionately important members of healthy coral reef ecosystems, and more vulnerable to exploitation than many other marine species, sharks should be afforded special management considerations.

Wide-ranging species such as sharks are best managed by species-specific rather than place-based regulations. Laws that protect sharks from harvest are an important component of effective management for these keystone species. It is important not to dilute such regulations based on the public perception that sharks are dangerous or undesirable. There is no demonstrable evidence that intact shark populations correlate to increased danger for swimmers. Indeed, where sharks have been protected and reefs well managed, such as in Palau, these apex predators are important and iconic cultural, economic and ecological components of healthy coral reef communities

Friedlander AM, DeMartini EE (2002) Contrasts in density, size, and biomass of reef fishes between the northwestern and the main Hawaiian Islands: the effects of fishing down apex predators. *Mar Ecol Prog Ser* 230:253–264. doi:10.3354/meps230253

Sandin SA, Smith JE, DeMartini EE, Dinsdale EA, Donner SD, et al (2008) Baselines and Degradation of Coral Reefs in the Northern Line Islands. *PLoS ONE* 3(2): e1548. doi:10.1371/journal.pone.0001548

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2019 4:06:48 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Water Inspired	One Ocean Conservation	Support	No

Comments:

Please pass this so people can be held accountable when they harm or abuse sharks. We study sharks and see that their populations are in heavy decline and that many have hooks, fishing line, broken jaws, cut fins, and even bullet wounds. Sharks need more protection. Please pass this bill. Aloha

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 7:43:17 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
RICKY BAKER	THE PET HALE	Support	No

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 12:22:31 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
One Ocean Conservation	Water Inspired Conservation Group	Support	No

Comments:

We strongly support HB808. 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.



TO: Honorable Chair Lee and House Judiciary Committee Members

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

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for HB808, Relating to Shark and Ray Protection

For the Fishes respectfully urges your support of HB808 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 any specific, emergency purposes..

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 our 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 intentional capture or killing of sharks.

Most notably, there have been a number of cases in recent years where sharks appear to have been intentionally entangled, injured and harmed and current law does not provide for adequate enforcement or prosecution of such cases. In addition, the Hawaii aquarium industry continues to take baby sharks for the aquarium pet trade, as seen in the below photo. Sharks are not appropriate animals to be kept in home aquaria due to their complex needs and growth rates.

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 human interactions and pollution.

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.

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

Family Rhincodontidae

Whale shark, *Rhincodon typus*, VU

Order Carcharhiniformes

Family Scyliorhinidae

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

Family Pseudotriakidae

False cat shark, *Pseudotriakis microdon*, DD

Family Carcharhinidae

Bignose shark, *Carcharhinus altimus*, DD

Gray reef shark, *Carcharhinus amblyrhynchos*, NT

Silky shark, *Carcharhinus falciformes*, NT

Galapagos shark, *Carcharhinus galapagensis*, NT

Blacktip shark, *Carcharhinus limbatus*, NT

Oceanic whitetip, *Carcharhinus longimanus*, VU

Blacktip reef shark, *Carcharhinus melanopterus*, NT

Sandbar shark, *Carcharhinus plumbeus*, VU

Tiger shark, *Galeocerdo cuvier*, NT

Blue shark, *Prionace glauca*, NT

Whitetip reef shark, *Triaenodon obesus*, NT

Family Sphyrnidae

Scalloped hammerhead, *Sphyrna lewini*, EN

Smooth hammerhead, *Sphyrna zygaena*, VU

Order Lamniformes

Family Odontaspidae

Smalltooth sand tiger shark, *Odontaspis ferox*, VU

Bigeye sand tiger shark, *Odontaspis noronhai*, DD

Family Pseudocarchariidae

Crocodile shark, *Pseudocarcharias kamoharai*, NT

Family Megachasmidae

Megamouth shark, *Megachasma pelagios*, DD

Family Alopiidae

Pelagic thresher shark, *Alopias pelagicus*, VU

Bigeye thresher shark, *Alopias superciliosus*, VU

Family Lamnidae

White shark, *Carcharodon carcharias*, VU

Short-finned mako, *Isurus oxyrinchus*, VU

Longfin mako, *Isurus paucus*, VU

Order Hexanchiformes

Family Hexanchidae

Frilled shark, *Chlamydoselachus anguineus*, NT

Bluntnose sixgill shark, *Hexanchus griseus*, NT

Order Squaliformes**Family Echinorhinidae**

Prickly shark, *Echinorhinus cookei*, NT

Family Dalatiidae

Combtooth dogfish, *Centroscyllium nigrum*, DD

Kitefin shark, *Dalatias licha*, NT

Blurred smooth lantern shark, *Etmopterus bigelowi*, LC

Blackbelly lantern shark, *Etmopterus lucifer*, LC

Smooth lantern shark, *Etmopterus pusillus*, LC

Hawaiian lantern shark, *Etmopterus villosus*, LC

Pygmy shark, *Euprotomicrus bispinatus*, LC

Cookiecutter shark, *Isistius brasiliensis*, LC

Viper dogfish, *Trigonognathus kabeyai*, DD

Velvet dogfish, *Scymnodon squamulosus*, DD

Family Centrophoridae

Mosaic gulper shark, *Centrophorus tessellatus*, DD

Gulper shark, *Centrophorus granulosus*, VU

Family Squalidae

Shortspine spurdog shark, *Squalus mitsukurii*, DD

RAYS**Order Torpediniformes****Family Torpedinidae**

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

Order Myliobatiformes**Family Plesiobatidae**

Giant stingaree, *Plesiobatis daviesi*, LC

Family Hexatrygonidae

Sixgill stingray, *Hexatrygon bickelli*, LC

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

Family Dasyatidae

Diamond stingray, *Dasyatis dipterura*, DD

Brown stingray, *Dasyatis lata*, LC

Pelagic stingray, *Pteroplatytrygon violacea*, LC

Family Myliobatidae

Spotted eagle ray, *Aetobatus narinari*, NT

Family Mobulidae

Manta ray, *Manta birostris*, VU

Spinetail devil ray, *Mobula japanica*, NT

CHIMAERAS**Order Chimaeriformes****Family Chimeridae**

Purple chimaera, *Hydrolagus purpureescens*, DD

Family Rhinochimaeridae

Longnosed chimaera, *Rhinochimaera pacifica*, LC



TO: Honorable Chair Lee and Members of the House Judiciary Committee
February 26, 2019, 2pm

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

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for HB808, Relating to Shark and Ray Protection

The West Hawaii Humane Society respectfully urges your support of HB808 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 if necessary for emergency purposes.

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 human activity 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 any specific data on the numbers of sharks taken for aquarium purposes. 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 any ineffective culling efforts including individuals who may target sharks due to misinformation about their importance in overall ocean health and resiliency.

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. There are an estimated 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.

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 for international interests (DLNR has since prohibited the 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.

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 2:02:49 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melodie Aduja	O`ahu County Committee on Legislative Priorities of the Democratic Party of Hawai`i	Support	No

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 2:55:26 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Pitt Jr.	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

It is a shame that we as a race are rapidly depleting our earth's resources, and at the same time not giving a single concern. It is embarrassing how ignorant and conceded our governments are. People in office do what is right for them, what benefits them. They do not have concerns for what the future repercussions will be on our planet. We have such little time to reverse the damage we have done to our planet, so please do not create more harm. Create a positive environment, allow future generations hundreds of years from now to experience the beauty of these gentle animals. We are taking advantage of these beautiful creates, along with our beautiful world. It is so heart wrenching, please don't add to the negative contributions. Please do not pass HB808 HD1.

LATE

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 4:42:30 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaikea Nakachi	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 3:03:09 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley Sherman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

- Sharks and their cousins – rays – are enormously threatened by overfishing and illegal fishing.
- These beautiful marine animals, which are essential for ocean health, are becoming severely depleted with as yet, unknown repercussions.
- Just like top predators on land keep an ecosystem in balance, so too do sharks across the Ocean.
- The numbers of sharks killed each year are staggering – with recent studies estimating that at least 100 million sharks are killed each and every year from reported and unreported landings, discards, and shark finning (Worm et al. 2013, Global catches, exploitation rates, and rebuilding options for sharks).
- A combination of many sharks and rays growing slowly, producing few young, and the global onslaught from fishing, is causing a hindrance to their survival.
- The IUCN Red List of Threatened Species has assessed the extinction risk of 465 species of sharks around the world. Of those, the status of 45% (209 species) is unknown due to lack of data. Among those species with enough information to determine their conservation status, 55% (141 species) are threatened or near threatened with extinction. (Dulvy et al. 2014, Extinction Risk and Conservation of the World’s Sharks and Rays).
- Without immediate action, many of the large sharks in the world will face global extinction in the coming decades.

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 8:58:32 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Liz Martino	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Sharks remove unhealthy and weak individuals from large schools of prey, leaving much stronger and healthier populations that are able to withstand other pressures.

Also, on reef systems, sharks prey on fish that feed off the reef. If there were no sharks, the smaller fish would over eat and eventually kill the reef. They scavenge for food as well as hunt, so the ocean is alot cleaner than it would be if sharks became extinct. also, they help cull the weak and diseased. if they didn't, more of the fish could catch the disease, and there would be a dramatic change in the marine ecosystem.

Please help save and protect these animals

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 1:06:13 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nadine Lane	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

Please help keep this part of the Hawaiian culture alive and pass this bill.

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/23/2019 2:20:30 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
linda morabito	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 12:49:41 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ocean Ramsey	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill should be passed for Ecological, Cultural, Economical, Scientific, and Moral reasons.

1. Ecologically or environmentally sharks and rays are important to healthy ecosystems. Their populations ARE in decline which is well shown with fisheries data as well as the data collected by my team of marine biologists at One Ocean Research who actively survey populations daily at state and federal waterlines.
2. Culturally manā• are respected and the law needs to respect, reflect, and support that now in order to preserve what is precious and sacred.
3. Economically speaking, shark eco-tourism, which is a sustainable "use" of "marine resources," which brings in well over five million dollars just in those activities alone, not counting the hotels and other activities visitors may use. The programs are educational and do not harm the sharks but rather they seek to encourage people to respect and protect sharks and the One Ocean Diving also helps to educate kamaaina and visitors how best to avoid adverse interactions as they collect data for population and behavioral assessments. HIMB is conducting research to better understand the movements and behavior of Tiger and other sharks and two years ago one of their tagged sharks was killed, further hindering our understanding and research efforts.
4. Morally this bill should be passed in the respect of future generations, knowing that sharks and rays are important ecologically should be enough to justify and support this. Please pass this bill.

Malama Manā• & Aloha,

Ocean Ramsey

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 12:41:56 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lorrie Mick	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 2:43:28 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alyssa Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 2:45:22 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
mike amend	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 3:06:32 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brittany Lorber	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 3:02:43 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
amanda simon	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 3:12:33 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimberly Matucci	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Sharks and rays are crucial to healthy ocean ecosystems. Without sharks, in particular, the oceans will collapse. Sharks weed out the weak, keep the food web in equilibrium, and they shift prey's spacial habitat which is vital for seagrass beds and coral reefs in particular. Travelers and tourists also are willing to pay a lot of money to see sharks ALIVE in their habitats, ie through scuba diving, freediving and snorkelling adventures. Rays, as well, have a hugely important ecological niche in their environment and are also a pivotal part of Hawaiian ecotourism. Hawaiians are know to be extremely proud of their natural surroundings so SHOW IT by approving this bill to END the killing of sharks and rays in Hawaiian waters.

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 3:51:07 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
kaleah ault	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Unfortunately the current protections in regards to many forms of sea life, especially sharks, are still lacking. Though the appreciation for the major impacts that occur when apex predators such as sharks are killed unnecessarily has grown, it is still not appropriately dealt with. Many issues still go ignored, not just in regards to the ecosystems and animals that are affected, but also in regards to economic consequences that occur when these animals are killed. This legislation can be an important step in the process of better handling all of these issues.

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 4:41:40 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brent Kreckman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 4:44:03 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Blake Thompson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Legislative Committees,

Please help us pass SB489 and HB808

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 manā• 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.

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.

Based on the scientific studies cited above there is a very clear argument for protecting sharks and rays in Hawaiian waters for their ecological, cultural, 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.

The benefits of maintaining viable populations greatly outweigh any value that would be gained by killing these species. Sharks have very little functional protection here in Hawaii, and with shark populations dropping rapidly around the world the time for action is now.

I support SB489 and HB808 and I hope you will, too.

Mahalo for your time and consideration

Blake Thompson

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 4:59:42 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
nathan taylor	Ocean ramsey	Support	No

Comments:

I don't know why this is even a question. It is so awful and so sad what is happening to these poor sharks. People are so scared of sharks when really they should be scared of humans. Please please please! Stop this and save the sharks and rays

thank you,

nathan Taylor

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 4:50:03 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 5:01:32 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mallorie C Popovich	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 5:28:34 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jeff Chasin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

We feel sharks and rays are vital to the welfare of our oceans, and thus the welfare of our state. We can make much more money as a state with them alive than we can with them dead. This, combined with the known environmental impact of their deaths, and the huge cultural significance of sharks in Hawaii makes this issue an obvious one to me. Thank you

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 5:32:17 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mackenna Cady	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Members of the Judiciary Committee,

I strongly support HB808 HD1 because sharks and rays need better protection in Hawaii. We need to preserve the remaining populations of these important animals, so we can keep our ocean healthy for future generations who will rely on the ocean for survival. Let's please make Hawaii a leader in shark and ray conservation by getting this bill passed into law. Mahalo for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,

Mackenna Cady

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 5:58:14 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 6:15:04 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 6:30:57 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Bronwen Roberts	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 6:34:07 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Chen	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Sharks are in danger of becoming extinct because of over fishing and killing for their fins. To protect our environment we have to protect our Apex predators.

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 6:47:11 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
lauren kennedy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 6:48:14 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Charlotte Beaver	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I do not have any fancy quotes or heart wrenching speeches, but only to say I support this bill to save the sharks. Everyone knows how important they are to our oceans ecosystem. To irresponsibly make such creature extinct is a sad day. Humans are our own worst enemy.

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 6:49:35 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Richard Cardenas	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Sharks and rays are far more vulnerable than most fish species and more must be done to protect their species, as their environmental significance is far too valuable to ignore or allow to diminish.

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 7:02:39 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
madison decker	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 7:30:50 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Devon Senczyszyn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 7:39:51 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lauren Smith	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please protect sharks and rays!

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 8:12:27 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Sharks are extremely vital to the ocean as they maintain a balanced food chain and a health ecosystem.

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 8:18:37 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tyler R.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 8:29:37 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kerry Murphy	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I'm a parent of a teenage daughter. She asks me whether sharks and other sea creatures will still be in the oceans when she graduates from school. I don't know what to tell her. I feel like I'm lying if I say 'Yes,' but if I say 'No,' then she'll hate this world I brought her into. So instead, I say 'I'm not sure.' I would like you to help me change my answer. I'd like my daughter to know that she will one day be able to see sharks and rays swimming in our oceans. And, I'd like her to feel that adults care about their children's world and want to protect our oceans and all of it's inhabitants. I can't be with you in person. I live far away in Vietnam, so I'm trusting you to make the right decision.

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 9:02:21 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 9:57:02 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I support the protection of sharks and rays.

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 9:57:15 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Save sharks save the ocean for future generations

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 10:12:29 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Paula Alceseba	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha pumehana,

I am a Marine Science and Sustainability student at UHMC and I am humbly asking you to support HB 808. It is absolutely critical to implement these protections because sharks and rays are particularly susceptible to overfishing due to the fact that they grow slowly, mature late, and produce few young. More than 1,100 species of sharks and rays that inhabit the marine and fresh waters of the world are facing an increasing risk of extinction as a result of overfishing, habitat loss, and other threats.

Another key problem facing sharks and rays is the utter lack of political will and governance structures on global, national and local levels to provide the proper protection measures that these species so urgently need. These factors provide further reasoning for us to take active measures to ensure their survival. Please do the right thing - with your support, thousands of sharks and rays in Hawai'i will have a chance to survive! Let us set an example for the international community and show that it is UNACCEPTABLE to knowingly capture, take, possess, abuse, entangle, or kill any shark and ray.

Mahalo for reading and as a member of the next generation, I look up to you to conserve our natural resources and to protect the biodiversity of our planet.

Sincerely,

Paula Alceseba

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 10:13:27 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jessica jaehns	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

No more animals should suffer because of our nonsense!

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 11:00:41 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Margaret Roberts	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

•TM

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/24/2019 11:15:37 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 12:40:43 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michelle Bennett	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Sharks and rays are integral parts of our oceans ecosystems and a part of Hawaii's history and cultures for thousands of years. But of the millions that live on and visit Hawaii, less and less understand how important these animals are to Hawaiians and don't realize how wasteful and disrespectful it is to harass, fish for, and kill them for nothing. Especially since that shark or ray could be a family's 'aumakua.

Sharks undergo an intense amount of stress when caught on a fishing line. They are literally fighting for their life. During this fight, which can take hours, the sharks isn't taking in enough water through its gills and therefore not enough oxygen is spreading through its body, lactic acid builds up, and when/if the shark is dragged onto the shore or even the boat, gravity causes the sharks body to collapse on itself with its organs being crushed by the sharks weight. And, of course, the shark is suffocating. If the shark is released, all is still not well. The shark is tossed back into the water and it will either sink right away or it may swim off with adrenaline keeping it moving, but many sharks, especially our endangered scalloped and smooth hammerheads, will succumb to exhaustion and die.

Sharks face many more problems at the hands of humans, mainly from longline fisheries that indiscriminately catch anything that swims by(mostly sharks) and those animals are dead when the fishermen get to them, the shark fin trade, many deep sea species harvested for their liver oil(squalene or squalene) to put in beauty products, and even shark and ray skins are used for sandpaper or fashion called shagreen. Their jaws and teeth are taken to sell in souvenir shops, their meat is sold around the world as flake, huss, rock salmon, dogfish, fish and chips, etc. In places like South America it is openly sold as shark meat and it is usually some of the apex sharks like mako, thresher, blue, and so on that have high build ups or mercury and other toxins(that we put in the oceans like PCBs) that we don't want to be consuming.

Giving sharks and rays protection in Hawaii would set a great example around the world and to other states where only endangered shark and ray species are protected. Their protection is really in our best interest. They keep our oceans clean, they shape stronger and more numerous fish stocks, and their presence brings in thousands of

people every year to the islands solely because they want to see these animals alive, for themselves.

Mahalo for taking the time to read all testimonies and for considering the importance of passing this bill,

Michelle Bennett

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 1:02:47 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
mary litteer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Sharks and rays provide an extremely vital role in the ecosystem of the ocean, something the entire world needs. Without protection, these creatures face dire consequences. It is our duty as humans to preserve them and hold anyone who threatens their existence accountable for their actions. Now, more than ever, the populations of sharks and rays are decreasing because of human interactions. We must do our part in saving them before it is too late.

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 1:07:52 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
maria carolina	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 3:21:58 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
MARIANNA TOUNDAS	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 3:45:22 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kelsea Humes	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 3:48:14 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Priester	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 4:08:10 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jordan Randall	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 4:37:18 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Erik McClunie	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please remember how important sharks are to our oceans health and us as a human species. Please vote to protect them. Mahalo, Erik McClunie

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 5:09:09 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

I think this is the right and right decision. Sharks are an important part of the fragile ocean ecosystem, an indicator of the health of marine waters. Their mindless destruction for the sake of selfish goals leads to the disruption of this system, which will affect the lives of people living in these areas. The problem of reducing the number of sharks can become global, and, ultimately, lead to the extinction of other species of marine animals and fish, including commercial species. Sharks the oceans and seas keepers, as well as the wolves are the forest keepers, that is, they help maintain health and control populations of other species. In addition, most of the ocean has not been studied, we have no right to spend such valuable resources irrationally, as there is no vital need for uncontrolled shark killings.

If we are able to protect this world, the harmony of which is already broken by man, then we must!

That is why I support HB808, and I consider the right expansion of the boundaries of shark protection areas and the introduction of regulations that prohibit hunting them in these regions.

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 7:01:00 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joseph DiGiacobbe	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 7:12:25 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Marissa Ray	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am a Coastal Biology student from the University of North Florida and I support the protection of Chondrichthyan species by banning purposeful killing of sharks and rays!

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 7:27:08 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jill Brethouwer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support the protection of sharks and rays

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 8:41:11 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
alec griffiths	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 9:49:15 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Jones	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 10:21:33 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
siena schaar	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

To whom it may concern:

As an environmental master's student at the University of Hawai'i at Mānoa in the Natural Resources and Environmental Management program I **strongly support** this measure to further protect our shark species from reckless fishing. As our resources dwindle and oceans face rising stress from climatic and anthropogenic stressors, there is no better time than now to protect what we still have.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Siena Schaar

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 10:44:05 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Crystal Dombrow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 11:15:08 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

The value of sharks cannot be overstated. Sharks provide value to our ocean ecosystems as apex predators, but sharks also provide value to local economies through ecotourism. I travel to Hawaii and other destinations multiple times per year in the hopes of seeing and photographing sharks in their natural surroundings. It's getting harder and harder to see sharks.

Our oceans and ocean species are facing mounting pressure globally from fisheries overexploitation, marine debris, pollution and climate change. This bill provides the state of Hawaii with the opportunity to send a powerful message. Now is the time we must review and evaluate our practices, and now is the time to make better choices. Shark populations have drastically declined and they deserve our protection. Please consider passing this bill to support shark conservation and responsible fishing practices.

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 11:57:58 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kendra Nelson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 12:08:19 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Andrea Quinn	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Dear Honorable Committee Members:

Please support HB808. Sharks are a keystone species and by protecting them you protect the marine ecosystem, which is responsible for generating so many of our tourism dollars.

Thank you for the opportunity to present my testimony.

Sincerely,

Andrea Quinn

Kihei

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 12:21:38 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alisa Sayre	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 2:58:06 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Chelsea L Jeppi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 2:05:56 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jordan E Victor	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 4:24:47 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

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

Comments:

Sharks are an important part of a healthy eco system. They require, and deserve, our respect and protection. Please pass this legislation to insure sharks and rays are protected from unnecessary killing. Thank you!

LATE

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 4:28:32 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nicole Tavarez	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 6:12:34 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lois Chung	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support this bill. Thank you!

LATE

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 7:23:16 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Maria Cecilia Brown	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 2:09:01 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eric Sigg	One One Five, Ltd	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 5:38:05 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ashley LeCarno	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 5:54:40 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Melanie Hutchinson	Individual	Oppose	Yes

Comments:

I am writing to submit testimony in opposition of HB808 on behalf of myself and based on my scientific opinion as an expert in the field of shark conservation and shark fishery interactions. This bill is misguided and ineffective in its current form. While sharks and rays are an important component of any marine ecosystem and conservation management measures have been implemented, in some regions, to reduce the impact of overfishing on several populations. These measures were based on data (ie catch and fishing effort) that indicated population declines and or overfishing. This is not the case in Hawaii as Hawaii has zero regulations that require reporting of fishing effort or shark catches. As such, there is ZERO data to support a need for a (unenforceable) measure in a state that does not require fishing licenses or require reporting of catch. While the pre-cautionary approach to resource management must be invoked in some cases, it should be based on data that indicates declines in population status or some other issue. This bill will create a blanket regulation, to ban interactions on populations that the state knows absolutely nothing about, where there is no fishery for sharks nor is there a market for them. This measure is an unnecessary and irresponsible means of managing natural resources. There is a process for effective governance, it is data driven and enforceable. This bill is neither. The most obvious way forward is to implement reporting requirements, set catch limits based on stock sizes, spawning biomass, natural mortality and fishing mortality and other indicators of population health. Again there is a process for effective conservation management -- it is data driven -- exists almost everywhere else in the world -- and is enforceable.

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 1:43:03 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kim Holland	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am Dr. Kim Holland, leader of the shark research group at the Hawaii institute of Marine Biology, University of Hawaii. Our group has been conducting research to support shark conservation for over 40 years. This is my own personal testimony.

This bill is unnecessary, is unenforceable and could have negative unintended consequences.

This bill is UNNECESSARY - shark populations in Hawaii state waters are healthy and not impacted by intentional fishing. There is virtually no one "knowingly" fishing for or "abusing" sharks in Hawaii state waters. Also, the few sharks caught in state waters (even by sport fishers) are released alive. Concerns about shark finning are addressed by existing regulations.

The bill is INAPPROPRIATE - Hawaii's marine resources should be managed by development of comprehensive marine resources management plan - not piecemeal legislation that adresses no real problem .

The Bill is UNENFORCEABLE - What defines "knowingly"? The same fishing gears that catch sharks and rays also catch other species (uluu, tunas, etc) so enforcing "Knowingly" fishing for sharks is extremely vague (as is "abuse") and difficult to enforce. Shark tour operators could be accused of "abuse" by simply diving next to sharks. Already overstretched enforcement resources will be unable to enforce this language.

UNINTENDED CONSEQUENCES - although there is language in these bills that appears to protect legitimate research, that is in fact not the case. The language gives complete permitting discretion to DLNR but there are no scientific data upon which to base the decisions that DLNR will have to make - thereby leaving permitting decisions to the OPINIONS of state employees with no data to work with. These opinions can change from person to person. This could shut down the *bona fide* research upon which sound management relies and which brings very large amounts of money into the state every year.

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 5:16:01 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
ashley	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/25/2019 8:56:06 PM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Darrell Tanaka	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

banning is not management....fishermen catch and eat certain species of shark.

LATE

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 7:00:41 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kimberly Jeffries	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am writing to submit testimony in opposition of HB808. This bill is misguided and ineffective in it's current form. While sharks and rays are an important component of any marine ecosystem and conservation management measures have been implemented, in some regions, to reduce the impact of overfishing on several populations. These measures were based on data (ie catch and fishing effort) that indicated population declines and or overfishing. This is not the case in Hawaii as Hawaii has zero regulations that require reporting of fishing effort or shark catches. As such, there is ZERO data to support a need for a (unenforceable) measure in a state that does not require fishing licenses or require reporting of catch. While the pre-cautionary approach to resource management must be invoked in some cases, it should be based on data that indicates declines in population status or some other issue. This bill will create a blanket regulation, to ban interactions on populations that the state knows absolutely nothing about, where there is no fishery for sharks nor is there a market for them. This measure is an unnecessary and irresponsible means of managing natural resources. There is a process for effective governance, it is data driven and enforceable. This bill is neither. The most obvious way forward is to implement reporting requirements, set catch limits based on stock sizes, spawning biomass, natural mortality and fishing mortality and other indicators of population health. Again there is a process for effective conservation management -- it is data driven -- exists almost everywhere else in the world -- and is enforceable.

LATE

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 7:20:44 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Patty Peters	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

Aloha,

As part of local citizens that are avid ocean advocates and offer my time and money to research organizations to aid in collection of usable data specific to sharks and rays in an effort to create bills that protect and MOST important are enforceable, I am strongly against this bill. This is blanket statement that has nothing but grey area. If we want to make an effort in drawing boundaries and creating more space this is not the bill. The reason being that and unenforceable law only pisses people off and worst of all the importance of the topic gets forgotten about. This bill has come about, in my opinion, because people are beginning to notice that these species need protection. But none of us have complete data AND knowledge of what exactly our local populations of sharks and rays are up to and where they actually need regulation. The data is being collected and we learn more each year. A lot of that knowledge is from interactions, sightings, accidental catches and photographic cataloging. Finally there are tags being placed to learn more. Let's take the patience to learn more about these species on an individual basis and find the best way to write bills specific to their needed protection. It becomes enforceable, clear and is effective. This bill is not and will put efforts back in years and most important the actual data will be put at risk of not being heard at all when the time comes.

mahalo for your attention on this matter,

patty peters

LATE

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 9:17:25 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Geof Walker	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

STOP this bill. Scientists dont support it, please start using common sense and science and not emotion in your law making(as in last year when your voted not to lift the botttomfishing restriced areas based on emotion driven opinoin of DLNR). Scientific community doesn't support this bill, there is no data to support this bill as there is no shark/ray reporting required by the state, and what there is doesn't support this bill. Not to mention that is unenforceable. I participate in shark research here as a commercial fisherman and the scientific community does not suport this. Another waste of your time and our time

LATE

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 10:35:36 AM
Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sandra Klama	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Sharks and rays are highly important to our ocean's ecosystems and need to be protected. The State of Hawaii should lead by example in driving the protection of sharks forward.

LATE

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 11:43:49 AM
Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lindsey Kramer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Current science suggests that global shark and ray populations are significantly depleted and need protection from overharvesting. Examples include Nicholas Dulvy et al. 2013, "Extinction risk and conservation of the world's sharks rays," and recent NOAA CRED data showing a significantly lower shark and ray populations for the Main Hawaiian Islands compared to the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands, with a severe depletion of reef sharks noted for the Main Hawaiian Islands (> 90%).

Please help ensure the longevity of these critically important marine species and **support** HB808.

LATE

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 11:44:28 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Megan Lamson Leatherman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha kākou,

I am in full support of HB 808.

Sharks and rays are a critical component of healthy marine ecosystems, and this bill would help protect these apex predators. A similar law was passed in December 2015 for West Hawai'i, and this bill would extend this success to a statewide level.

The recent 2017 Friedlander et al. paper indicates that fishing of the three most common Hawaiian shark species (Galapagos, Grey Reef and Whitetip) was *highly unsustainable*. As they noted, even these "common" species are only rarely encountered in the Main Hawaiian Islands, and that's certainly true for all other shark species. It is challenging to do any sort of studies on such uncommon and wide-ranging species.

However, there is a wealth of information on threats to sharks and rays worldwide, and we ought to learn from these experiences. In particular, shark population declines in locations around the globe are primarily due to conservative life-histories and fishery exploitation. Proposed HB 808, like companion SB 489, moves Hawai'i in the right direction of protecting these important species.

Mahalo nunui for your time and support,

Megan Lamson Leatherman, M.S.

Honalo, HI

Reference cited:

Friedlander AM, Donovan MK, Stamoulis KA, Williams ID, Brown EK, Conklin EJ, DeMartini, Rodgers KS, Sparks, Walsh WJ. 2017. Human-induced gradients of reef

fish declines in the Hawaiian archipelago viewed through the lens of traditional management boundaries. *Aquatic Conserv: Mar Freshw Ecosyst.* 2017; 1–12. <https://doi.org/10.1002/aqc.2832>

LATE

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 11:55:27 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nikki Sanderlin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Current science suggests that global shark and ray populations are significantly depleted and need protection from overharvesting. Examples include Friedlander et al. 2013, which "indicates that fishing of 3 of the most common Hawaiian species (Galapagos, Grey Reef and Whitetip) was *highly unsustainable*," as well as Robbins et al. 2006 which states that "marine ecosystems are suffering severe depletion of apex predators worldwide; shark declines are principally due to conservative life-histories and fisheries overexploitation. On coral reefs, sharks are strongly interacting apex predators and play a key role in maintaining healthy reef ecosystems." Further steps are urgently required for protecting this critical functional group from ecological extinction.

Please help ensure the longevity of these critically important marine species and **support** HB808.

HB-808-HD-1

Submitted on: 2/26/2019 11:55:31 AM

Testimony for JUD on 2/26/2019 2:05:00 PM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ross Martin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support protection of sharks and rays!!! They extremely important to the marine ecosystem.

Ross Martin

Marine Biologist, Kona. Graduated UH Hilo, Marine Science degree '06