

DAVID Y. IGE
GOVERNOR OF HAWAII



STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson

Before the House Committee on
WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

Wednesday, February 6, 2019
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 808
RELATING TO SHARK AND RAY PROTECTION

House Bill 808 proposes to establish penalties and fines for any person who knowingly captures, takes, possesses, abuses, or entangles any shark or ray, whether alive or dead, or kills any shark or ray within state marine waters and makes it a misdemeanor. This measure provides exemptions for special activity permits and removals of sharks by the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) for reasons of public safety, and protects traditional and customary rights. **The 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.

Finally, the Department recognizes that ocean goers, such as spearfishers and surfers, occasionally encounter sharks in situations where the person may need to act defensively to avoid personal harm. The Department therefore recommends inserting language to exempt any person from the prohibitions regarding sharks if the capture, taking, possession, abuse,

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

entanglement, or killing is the result of defense of the person's self or of another against death or bodily harm.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



HB808
RELATING TO SHARK AND RAY PROTECTION
House Committee on Water, Land & Hawaiian Affairs

February 6, 2019

9:30 a.m.

Room 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) Beneficiary Advocacy and Empowerment Committee will recommend that the Board of Trustees **SUPPORT** HB808, 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. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 9:27:28 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rafael Delfin	Mother Nature and Planet Earth	Support	Yes

Comments:

1. This is a small step for man but giant leap for mankind
2. Big things have small beginnings



TO: Honorable Chair Yamane and House Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs 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 japonica*, NT

CHIMAERAS

Order Chimaeriformes

Family Chimeridae

Purple chimaera, *Hydrolagus purpurescens*, DD

Family Rhinochimaeridae

Longnosed chimaera, *Rhinochimaera pacifica*, LC

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 9:44:14 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Cathy Goeggel	Animal Rights Hawai'i	Support	Yes

Comments:

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 2:23:08 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Lisa Bishop	Friends of Hanauma Bay	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha Chair Yamane and Committee Members,

Friends of Hanauma Bay strongly supports this bill which helps protect sharks and rays in Hawaiian waters. In addition to the critical role they play in the marine biosphere, these magnificent sea creatures are deeply embedded in Hawaiian culture. We therefore respectfully request that this bill be passed out of Committee.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify in support of HB808.

Lisa Bishop

President



TO: Honorable Chair Yamane and Members of the House Committee on Water, Land & Hawaiian Affairs

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. 40 species of sharks may be found in Hawaii waters, however, 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).

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important measure.

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 3:24:25 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Angela Thomas	One Ocean Research	Support	No

Comments:

Hi. My son works and lives in Hawaii and he (along with Ocean Ramsey and Juan Oliphant) are educating the public on the importance of protecting sharks to maintain the balance of our eco system.

Protecting sharks and other marine life protects us all and provides a healthy ecosystem for generations to come.

Thanks so much for your thoughtful consideration to pass HB 808.

Angela Thomas

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 8:09:46 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ocean Ramsey	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

I am strongly in support of bill HB808 to help protect Hawaii's sharks and Rays. Growing up in Hawaii I have been privileged to get to know many individual sharks and rays and through my studies on population and behavior, I have come to realize how few sharks and rays we actually have. I have personally seen the devastation and impacts from local and longline fishing. I constantly cut and remove fishing line off sharks another marine life. Sharks are very misunderstood creatures who need protection now, more than ever, because of the decimation of their populations. If you search social media you will find that there are still many night fishermen who catch and kill baby hammerhead pups and use them as bait for ulua. Some fishermen kill them and leave them on the beach because they perceive them as a nuisance or competition for fish when in fact, scientifically or ecologically we know they are actually the ones keeping our fish stocks healthy by picking off the weak, wounded, and sick keeping diseases from spreading and encouraging the evolution with the strongest and healthiest traits.

Traditional Hawaiian culture respects Manā• but it is a fact that we have more people than ever visiting or moving to Hawaii and not all of them were raised to respect sharks, even some of the guys I grew up with have lost that traditional respect. Please help sharks and rays, help Hawaii, and Hawaii's future by passing this law in support of desperately needed protection. I have data showing continual declines in shark populations at 3 mile aggregation sites. You can survey the block anyway to see the the commercial longline fisheries are still catching sharks and even a couple months ago hard evidence that they are still finning them came into local news with the fishermen who were trying to smuggle fins out of Hawaii. These men got away without a fine so even the current law to ban finning is still not enough protection.

We could supplement the cost of enforcing this new law with a voluntary tax from the shark tourism operators. The people wanting to go see sharks alive could help pay for any additional costs to enforce their protection with a \$5 donation/tax/fee :)

Please contact me if you have any questions or need any help to get this bill passed.

Mahalo nui loa,

Ocean Ramsey

Aloha,

Ocean Ramsey

1-808-722-0969

Senior Researcher & Dive Safety Officer for One Ocean Research and Diving

Co-founder of Water Inspired conservation group.

President of Save The Sea Turtles International.

Advisor for the International Shark Project and HSC.

PADI MSDT #197766

E02 & AED Instructor

1st Aid & CPR EFR Instructor

Find out more about my work and check out my TED talk on:

OneOceanResearch.Org

WaterInspired.Org

OceanRamsey.com

HelpSaveSharks.Org

Social Media:

Instagram: @OceanRamsey

@OneOceanDiving

@WaterInspired

@OneOceanResearch

@OneOceanEducation

@OneOceanConservation

@OneOceanGlobal

@OneOceanDesigns

Twitter: @OceanRamsey

Facebook: Ocean Ramsey Water Inspired

Aloha

“In the end, we will conserve only what we love; we will love only what we understand and we will understand only what we are taught.”

â€• [Baba Dioum](#)

“It may feel that what you do is only a drop in the ocean but the ocean would be less without that drop.” -Mother Teresa

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 9:20:13 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 8:34:21 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please pass this bill to help further protect sharks and rays. There is scientific evidence showing how important sharks are for a healthy ocean. Sharks and rays are also very special to the Hawaiian people and deserve more respect. Thank you for your time.

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 8:37:49 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I am in support of HB808.

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 8:44:45 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Aloha,

My name is David Mason. I fully support this bill. Sharks are not only important to the health of our oceans but also represent “amuakua” or past relatives here in Hawaii. Travelers from all over the world come to Hawaii see fish and other wildlife. If sharks go missing from our waters, so will all the beautiful fish people come to see. Please set an example for the rest of the U.S and the world by protecting these beautiful animals.

Mahalo nui loa,

David

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/1/2019 10:28:08 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Rylee Brooke Kamahele	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I am writing in today representing The Plastics Project and Hashtag Speak Up Movement, two projects run under my organization the Love is a Verb Foundation, as a One Ocean Ambassador, and most importantly, as a voice for future generations, including my own. The decisions that you make in this hearing regarding the protection of sharks is just as important as the other bills I fought for last week to help our oceans. Humans need the ocean to survive. Our lives literally depend on it! Between pollution and humans killing off sharks, their populations are declining and this scares me. It should scare all of us! In school we learn about photosynthesis as the way that humans get the air we breathe. What I didn't learn until I started doing ocean conservation is that most of the air that we breathe actually comes from the ocean. In fact, around 85% of the air we breathe is from the ocean so I don't understand why ocean conservation isn't more important to everyone. Losing the apex predator of our seas will cause a domino effect and it won't be good. Certain sea animals can grow uncontrollably and many fishes and other animals will go extinct Mid-level predators will increase and eat most of our algae eaters Our seas will be overrun with algae and the gross stuff that comes with algae making the water slimy Sunlight will have a harder time penetrating the water The overgrowth of algae would also suck the oxygen out of the water and marine life will suffocate to death Algae can produce toxins that are harmful, even for people, and toxins will lead to mass die offs in the ocean Coral reefs will start to die and many will go extinct Without sharks to eat the ill or the weak, diseases will spread among fishes and animals and this could also cause mass die offs Without sharks controlling other predators, their prey will be overeaten and will cause other species to disappear The ocean regulates the carbon cycle of the planet because carbon is stored in marine plants. Without sharks, the animals and fish that eat marine plants would not have a predator and they will grow out of control. They will eat all the marine plants and our carbon levels will go up. This will speed up global warming and climate change. So you see, every thing has a role in the ecosystem of the ocean and sharks are one of the most important things keeping that ecosystem functioning. We need to protect sharks! If you enjoy breathing and you want your kids and your kid's kids and generations after that to have air to breathe, we need you to PLEASE protect our oceans. Please pass this bill. Thank you!

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 1:33:57 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Deanna Spooner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this legislation that takes an important step to protect all sharks and rays for ecological purposes and their importance to Native Hawaiian cultural practices. Sharks play crucial roles in marine ecosystems, and their value alive is almost incalculable. There is no justification to allow them to continue being killed for sport or as victims of bycatch.

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 2:50:11 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Claire Bardin	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello Hawaii State Legislature,

I am in support of the bill HB808 to protect all sharks and rays in Hawaiian waters because sharks are a keystone organism that are CRUCIAL to the overall health of the ocean ecosystems. Sharks play an important and necessary role in managing the populations of their prey by preying on the weak, sick, and dying individuals that are not fit to survive. If sharks continue to be overfished for fins, legally allowed to be killed in bycatch, or harassed and even killed for fun or as the result of an attack, then their numbers will continue to decrease and the oceans will suffer.

The decreasing numbers of sharks in Hawaiian waters is something that everyone in Hawaii should be concerned about, because not only will it negatively impact the environment, by allowing other fish populations to unhealthily explode, but it will also affect tourism. If the oceans surrounding the Hawaiian Islands become unbalanced due to a decreasing shark population, coral reefs, water quality, and beaches will also be negatively affected by an increase in fish populations that would otherwise be regulated by shark populations. In addition, shark ecotourism is a phenomenal way to bring in revenue for the state in addition to showing tourists and locals that we can have harmonious interactions with sharks. I recently interned for Ocean Ramsey and Juan Oliphant at One Ocean Diving and saw firsthand how so many people's view of sharks changed after just one open water, cageless, dive with them off the coast of Haleiwa.

Please support this bill so that it can be passed and the oceans surrounding the Hawaiian islands can remain healthy and balanced.

Regards,

Kelly Deuser, current marine biology student at Eckerd College (Florida)

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 5:50:16 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Thank you for taking the time to read my testimony. I am a graduate student at Scripps Institution of Oceanography studying marine conservation policy and fisheries management and I support the passage of SB489 to protect sharks and rays in Hawai'i State waters.

Sharks are a crucial top predator in our oceans. They keep ocean communities healthy, which yields a robust food supply with fish as a top source of protein for much of the world. They are likewise vital to maintaining marine ecosystems which are of high commercial value for ecotourism revenue in Hawai'i.

Many species have already declined to the brink of extinction over the past 3-4 decades. The evidence is empirical: as a diver, seeing a Tiger shark is rare. Many large species are popular for sport fishing because of the "fight" they put up when hooked. Unfortunately, catch and release has been shown to result in high post-release mortality often due to high lactate buildup and that these species require constant swimming to breathe.

The passage of this bill can in turn help transform public opinion of sharks so we can coexist with these keystone species of our ecosystem. The State of Hawai'i, therefore, will benefit from protecting its shark populations from recreational angling, which may account for higher shark mortality worldwide than commercial industries.

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/2/2019 8:00:50 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please help us pass HB808.

I spend a lot of time in the ocean on Maui and have the great privilege of sharing the water with many sharks and rays. They are magnificent animals that deserve and need protection. I recently came across a baby white tip reef shark that someone had caught, cut loose and left to die on the beach. I sat down and cried, thinking about how this perfect and beautiful animal died in suffering, needlessly. Please make this illegal.

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.

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 HB808 and I hope you will, too.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Kelly Costas

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/3/2019 2:33:49 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I support legisltion HB808

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 6:04:58 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

todd1 - Harrison

From: Sebastian Brose <sebastian.brose@gmx.de>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 9:41 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 808

todd1 - Harrison

From: Stephanie Grieve <stephaniegrieve@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 9:45 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 808

Hello,

I am writing from New Hampshire, as someone who has never had the privilege to meet a shark in person, but who knows how vital they are to our ecosystem. Please ban the purposeful killing of sharks and rays. They are apex predators and without them, our oceans and our world will never be the same.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Stephanie Grieve

todd1 - Harrison

From: Ashley Mason <ashley.lynn.mason113@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 9:45 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of HB 808

Aloha and thank you for the opportunity to express my support for HB 808 banning the purposeful killing of sharks and rays in Hawaii.

These animals are critical to our oceans ecosystems and both deserve and critically require our protection.

These animals play a vital role in our fragile marine ecosystem and believe that they are currently being purposely killed by humans at an unsustainable rate.

This bill could serve as a saving grace to these species that have been here on earth far longer than we have and a chance to save them from extinction.

Mahalo nui loa and mālama kai,
Ashley Mason
--
Ashley Mason

todd1 - Harrison

From: aj welch <dhsdconcepts@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 9:46 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 808

To whom it may concern,
Please ban the purposeful killing of Sharks and Rays.

Anthony Welch
Dragon's Hand's Self Defense Concepts

todd1 - Harrison

From: Balthazar Desplain <bdesplain@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 9:51 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 808

Time to save our sharks

todd1 - Harrison

From: Hollie Marsolino <ladymaslo@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 10:01 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In Support of HB 808

To Whom it May Concern,

I would like to show my support for the passing of HB 808. The oceans are our lifeline and the killing of sharks and rays is detrimental to the ecosystems they survive in. This is important not just to Hawaiians, but to all of us who live in the United States.

Thank You,
Hollie Marsolino

todd1 - Harrison

From: Rafael Delfin <raffadelfin@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 10:02 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 808

Let's not be [REDACTED] to our fellow creatures.

Regards,

Rafael

todd1 - Harrison

From: Kelsie <kelsie_phillips@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 10:23 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL HB808

Hi,

My name is Kelsie Phillips. I am writing to help save sharks. I have a love for sharks and I think they have vital role in the ocean. 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. Thank you for your time.

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:49:23 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
cybil moran	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Sharks, rays, and mantas are not good to eat so I see no reason why anyone would possibly want to hunt, catch or capture these animals other than research?

FOR, MAHALO NUI LOA

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 11:03:34 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ruth Coules	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

todd1 - Harrison

From: Ryan Seay <ryanmseay@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 10:27 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB808

Please ban the purposeful killing of sharks and rays!

Thank you

Ryan Seay
Concerned citizen

todd1 - Harrison

From: Bella Nelson <h.bell.nelson@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 10:40 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In Support of HB808

Aloha,

I'm emailing to show my support for HB 808. Sharks are an important part of the ocean's ecosystem and we cannot survive without them. They are being killed by the hundreds of thousands across the globe, which is not sustainable. May I suggest that you please research Ocean Ramsey and her efforts on shark conservation— she is very educated on the issue and could explain in more detail the importance of sharks to our Earth much better than I could.

Mahalo,

Bella Nelson
h.bell.nelson@gmail.com

todd1 - Harrison

From: Natalia Ewton <nataliaewton@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 10:45 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF HB 808

Hello!

Here is a detailed report of why sharks should and NEED to be protected! I am a high school student with a passion for these creatures. They regulate the seas and without them, our oceans will die.



Research Paper.docx

Thank you!

todd1 - Harrison

From: Jeb Shelton <jebshelton@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 10:48 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In Support of House Bill HB808

Hello,
Sharks are vital to the health of our planet. They need our protection. I support HB808!
Jeb Shelton

todd1 - Harrison

From: Michael Cima <michael@coleworkwear.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 10:48 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 808

Sharks maintain a balanced ecosystem. Without sharks we have imbalance - too many prey species such as seals left unchecked adds pressure to edible fish stocks. Already depleted fish stocks are needed to feed not only the Hawaiiin population but all pacific island nations. Sharks are the clean up crew that helps ease the pressure applied to the fish stocks by the middle managers (seals)!

Sharks have been here for millions of years and are perfectly evolved creatures, yes they're a little scary but they're apex predators so what do we expect? Why destroy them? The numbers of attacks, let along fatalities are infinitesimally small and these are from only 3 types of shark out of hundreds of different types. Sharks don't deserve the bad press based on hard numbers compared to benign looking creatures like bees or wasps that kill & injure far more people every year. We don't implement programs to cull these creatures? Sharks are as essential as the reef itself for the survival & health of our oceans which covers most of our planet - therefore they matter & should be protected.

Don't get me wrong here, I'm no Greeny that chains myself to trees, or even risks my life free swimming with great whites; I'm a human, I'm a surfer, I'm a father, I'm a Dad, I'm a son, I'm a tax paying businessman, I want a natural environment to show my children, my grandchildren & great grandchildren one day. I care about the oceans & I know that others like myself do too.

I sincerely hope this bill passes.

Kind regards,

Michael Cima
Director
Cole Workwear Pty Ltd

T [1300 186 653](tel:1300186653)
F [1300 361 759](tel:1300361759)
M [+61 \(0\)450 882 480](tel:+610450882480)
E michael@coleworkwear.com
W www.coleworkwear.com

ABN: [51 166 955 602](http://www.abn.gov.au/51166955602)

WA Office
Lvl 1, [17 Howlett Street,](#)
[North Perth WA 6006](#)

[AUSTRALIA](#)

NSW Office

135 Robey Street,
[Maroubra NSW 2035](#)
[AUSTRALIA](#)



Ask us about our new Boomerang® Safety Range!

todd1 - Harrison

From: Matt Parker <mattparker0308@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 10:49 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF HB 808

Marine Species Would Face Extinction

Another major consequence if sharks were to disappear, is that many marine species would face extinction. This happens for two reasons; one, sharks often prey on the weak or ill members of marine life. These weak and ill members are easier to catch than the strong, healthy members of a population. If the weak and ill members continue to thrive, it will weaken the larger population. First, because they could potentially spread illness to the other members of the population, which could lead to massive die-offs. Secondly, because when these weaker members of the species are allowed to reproduce, it weakens the genetic makeup of the species as a whole, putting them at risk of extinction. The second reason marine species would face extinction is because when sharks are not around to consume other predators, those predator populations grow exponentially. Meaning, their prey is at risk of being over-consumed. This was observed in 2007 in the Northern Atlantic where sharks had been overfished; sharks preyed on bullnose stingrays which preyed on scallops. Once the shark populations declined, the population of bullnose rays grew and consumed a vast majority of the scallops in that region. This led to a collapse of the species. Other studies in Belize have shown reef systems falling into extreme decline when the sharks have been overfished, destroying an entire ecosystem. The downstream effects are frightening: the elimination of sharks in the area caused a spike in grouper population, resulting in a decimation of the parrotfish population. The parrotfish could no longer perform their important role: keeping the coral algae-free and therefore reducing the oxygen quantities in our atmosphere. The knock on effects of this could be devastating for all life on Earth.

todd1 - Harrison

From: Raegan Merchant <raeganmerchant19@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 10:57 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 808

I support the government BAN of purposefully killing sharks and rays.

Raegan Merchant

todd1 - Harrison

From: slavka.sopkova@gmail.com
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 11:04 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In Support of HB 808

To Whom It May Concern,

I support HB 808.

As a Natural Scientist, I believe we have the power to stop the mass extinction caused by humans. Because every living being/creature matters and we cannot take them for granted.

Even though my country does not have an ocean, I have a hope for a thriving marine ecosystem.

Please help to protect and save SHARKS and RAYS.

Thank you
From Europe With Regards
Slavka Sopkova PhD.
(Hydrogeologist)

todd1 - Harrison

From: Riley Cox <rileycox27@yahoo.com.au>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 11:13 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of HB 808

> To whom it concerns

>

> I support the banning of purposeful killing of sharks and rays in Hawaii. I do not live in Hawaii, nor have I been able to visit. I do however live and work on the Great Barrier Reef in Australia. I see everyday the beauty of these creatures. I myself understand the risk that these animals could impose; my friend was killed by a shark. But we have to understand that every time we jump into the water we are in their territory. We need realise the beauty of the animals we have in the deep blue before it's too late.

>

> Riley

>

>

todd1 - Harrison

From: Cami W. <camiwight@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 11:15 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 808

To the legislators of Hawaii:

Thank you for taking the time to consider House Bill 808, which supports the protection of sharks and rays, keystone species that grace the marine ecosystems so precious to Hawaii with their presence. Without sharks and rays, many forms of marine life would collapse. Protecting these species not only supports the environmental and economical health of the state of Hawaii, but also helps to educate the public about the vital connections man holds with nature. As an ambassador for One Ocean Diving, based in Oahu, and a student of conservation, **I fully support the passage of this bill in its entirety.**

Thank you for taking the time to read this message. Thank you for all the work you do.

Mahalo,

Cami Wight
ourbluemother.com

todd1 - Harrison

From: Lauren Dickens <laurendickens@ymail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 11:20 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 808

The sharks and rays NEED our help. We are higher level beings, capable of doing so much good in this world and unfortunately capable of doing so much harm as well.

But the beautiful thing is that we have the choice!

Why do animals need to almost go extinct before anybody realizes the horrors that we are inflicting upon them? There is no need for this unnecessary abuse to be allowed to continue. We, as people, are above this!

Do what you know in your heart is right.

Pass the bill to protect and save sharks and rays from this atrocity. Be a hero. Die one day knowing your life meant something to other living beings on this planet. Be apart of the solution and not the problem.

Thank you, from the bottom of my heart.
Lauren Dossev

todd1 - Harrison

From: T <ftl743@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 11:45 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of HB808

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 manō 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. 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,

T.H

todd1 - Harrison

From: Heidi :o) <smilesugar00@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 11:41 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL HB808

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 manō 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. 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.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

from Heidi

todd1 - Harrison

From: Gabriela Maranchello <gmaranchello16@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 11:42 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL HB808"

Sharks are CRUCIAL to the health of the ocean and to people. Without sharks, the ocean's ecosystems will be out of balanced and unfixable. Sharks eat diseased and sickened animals and fish promoting healthy genetics amongst it's prey. They maintain the food chain, and keeps the ocean in balanced from being over run by it's prey, over populated, and keeping the ocean nutrient rich. With pollution eroding coral reefs, sharks keep coral reefs from becoming bare. They are intelligent beings who do not deserved to be over fished and fished for sport. Protect them if you want to protect the ocean.

Gabriela Maranchello

todd1 - Harrison

From: Krista Jaspers <krista.jaspers@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 12:00 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 808

Krista Jaspers
[2562 Halekoa Drive](#)
[Honolulu, HI 96821](#)

Aloha,

I strongly support HB 808 to ban the purposeful killing of sharks and rays in Hawaii. Sharks are a vital part of our marine ecosystem, and an important indicator of the health of our valuable reefs, which inspire thousands of visitors to our islands each year. Studies show that removing sharks has consequences down the food chain, affecting commercially viable fish and shellfish species, including tuna. They are a keystone species and removing them for sport or otherwise should be banned.

Thank you for your time.

Krista Jaspers
[Krista.jaspers@gmail.com](mailto:krista.jaspers@gmail.com)
[\(714\)624-5967](tel:(714)624-5967)

Sent from my iPhone

todd1 - Harrison

From: Shera B <sherbear1@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 12:07 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 808

I am moving to Hawaii, and I support this bill.

todd1 - Harrison

From: Taylor Barnett <taybarnett262@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 12:12 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 808

Representatives of Hawaii;

I write to you to show my support of HB 808 and to urge you to support this important bill, as well. The purposeful killing of sharks and rays is not representative of the State of Hawaii or its values. These are beautiful creatures that are essential to the ecosystems they live in, and are necessary to maintain an ecological balance. Furthermore, it's time to give them the respect they deserve and cease killing them by the millions each year.

By supporting HB 808, Hawaii would be setting a positive example for the rest of the world to look to. Hawaii has made great strides to ensure a better ecological future. Please don't overlook this important next step to a better tomorrow.

Hopefull and Thankful,

Taylor M. Barnett
Ohio University '16 | Music Production
Audio Engineering Society
taybarnett262@gmail.com
(740) 243-9655

todd1 - Harrison

From: Kayleigh Burns <kayleigh.burns0920@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 12:18 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT HB808

Aloha Committee Members,

I strongly support HB808 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 HB808.

Mahalo nui loa,

Kayleigh Burns
PADI Divemaster
One Ocean Diving
Water Inspired Conservationist
Mobile: [\(215\) 208-5432](tel:2152085432)
IG: [@mermaid_kayleigh](https://www.instagram.com/mermaid_kayleigh)
FB: Kayleigh Nicole Burns

todd1 - Harrison

From: Alan Campbell <campbell.alan@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 12:27 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 808

I fully support this bill to protect sharks and rays in Hawaiian waters.

This is an opportunity for Hawaii to show leadership in the protection of the apex predators that are so vital in ensuring the health of our oceans.

The benefits will extend beyond the oceanic ecosystem to the Hawaiian Islands in the shape of increased tourism and public awareness.

Thank you.

Alan Campbell

todd1 - Harrison

From: Matthew Aaron Lewis <mlewis5@stanford.edu>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 12:40 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 808

To Whom It May Concern,

I am emailing to support this house bill that bans the killing of sharks and rays.

Thank you for listening.

~Matt

todd1 - Harrison

From: Laura Calvo Londoño <lauracalvo27@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 12:40 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 808

Hi! From Spain i really want to support the sharks and rays. The oceans need them

todd1 - Harrison

From: Cameron Brann <brann.cameron@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 12:59 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 808

Hello,

Please vote for this bill as sharks are an extremely important animal for oceanic ecosystems. They contribute to the health of the reefs and ocean as a whole. Sharks are being killed at an alarming rate with estimates between 70-100 million a year.

Please support this bill.

Thank you,
Cameron Brann

todd1 - Harrison

From: Carolin Roßkopf <caro.rosskopf@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 1:06 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: HB808

It is extremely important to add protective legislature due to sharks and rays being highly vulnerable to human impacts such as over fishing and marine pollution. Help us pass HB808 to conserve Hawaiian pollutions

Mahalo

todd1 - Harrison

From: Nicole Pangari <nicole.pangari@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 1:24 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB808

It is time to protect our planet and everything in it including Sharks ... I understand industry pressure from outside countries may make your decisions difficult, but this is your ocean and Sharks and Rays as all ocean dwelling mammals deserve our protection not exploitation.

Please ban any purposeful killing of sharks and rays. Your decision is for the future of our planet & our children ...not just sharks and rays.

From New Zealand

Nicole Pangari

todd1 - Harrison

From: Miranda Adams <cnrbfox@yahoo.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 1:25 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of HB 808

I am in support of HB 808 the bill to ban the purposeful killing of sharks and rays. Please save the ocean by saving these beautiful animals who help keep the ocean healthy.

- Miranda Adams

Sent from my iPhone

todd1 - Harrison

From: Alena Vasilyeva <alena.vasilieva@me.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 1:30 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF HB 808

No more killing sharks and rays!

todd1 - Harrison

From: H Kranz <heather.laine.kranz@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 1:39 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL HB808

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 manō 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. 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.

Thank you for your time and consideration,

Heather Kranz

todd1 - Harrison

From: Kalani Minihan <kalaniminihan@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 1:44 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In Support of HB 808

The shark population is drastically decreasing. Without sharks, we won't have a healthy ocean. Without a healthy ocean, we won't have a healthy food chain and for our sake, the economy would suffer horribly and the seafood industry would slip into oblivion. We have the power to make a difference, so let's do it.

Mahalo

todd1 - Harrison

From: Jamie <jamie@webstersscaffolding.com.au>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 2:03 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: in SUPPORT of HB808

Please ban purposeful killing of sharks and rays.

Best regards,

Jamie Webster

Websters Workplace Solutions Pty Ltd

T/As Websters Scaffolding

P.O Box 463 Narrabeen 2101

E: ww.solutions@optusnet.com.au

jamie@webstersscaffolding.com.au

Phone 02 9944 6509 / Mobile 0411 736 334

todd1 - Harrison

From: Whiteford, Nicole <whitenic000@mysbisd.org>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 2:04 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 808

I strongly support this bill because the purposeful killing of sharks and rays should be outlawed! It is the most painful ways to kill a living being. Just imagine if someone wanted your arms and legs so they just took them by chopping them off and throwing you into the ocean to drown. This bill should be passed without hesitation not just to stop the brutal murders but to start saving our oceans!

todd1 - Harrison

From: Virginia Cassel <virginiamcassel@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 2:11 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: I support HB 808

Hello,

Today I write this testimony with the hope that it will contribute to the chorus of human voices speaking out for the Earth's oldest and most crucial apex predators. The success of sharks globally is key to the stability of ecosystems everywhere. The aggressive stewardship and protection of shark population size and diversity is ultimately key to the continuity and progression of our fragile civilization.

Thank you,

Virginia Cassel
Durango, Colorado

todd1 - Harrison

From: Kialy Barker <barkerk3@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 2:16 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of HB 808

Aloha Legislative committees,

Please help us pass the HB 808!

Sharks play a very important role as apex predators in our ecosystem. They are what keeps our oceans at a healthy balance by maintaining populations underneath them which in turn helps maintain a stable coral reef population. Without them could lead to catastrophic outcomes for our ecosystem, climate, and economy. Without sharks there would be a decrease in herbivorous fish which would increase algae in our coral reefs. This could lead to destruction of our coral reefs and not just impacts the ecosystem but the climate. shark as apex predators would lead to a decrease in commercially important fish and shellfish which in turn hurts the economy.

Sharks are unable to reproduce quickly and only produce a few young a year which makes them extremely vulnerable to extinction if we continue down the path we are on. The benefits of keeping shark populations at a healthy level outweighs any value of killing millions a year, so I support HB808 to protect this amazing species and take action to support a healthy future and I hope you do too.

Mahalo for your consideration,
Kialy Barker

todd1 - Harrison

From: Kimberly Hermann <kimberswim1@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 2:31 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 808

Reaching out to the committee,

I am in SUPPORT of HB 808. Sharks are vital to keeping our oceans healthy and are an integral part of the marine ecosystem. Without sharks, the oceans will collapse. Sharks help to maintain marine food webs, keeping them intact, and sharks also help to ward off disease by killing off the ocean's weak. Sharks also bring in a large sum of ecotourism dollars for the Hawaiian economy. People wish to see sharks ALIVE, not dead. For all of these reasons, and many many more, sharks need to be protected.. for the ocean's sake; for our sake. The purposeful fishing of sharks and rays in Hawaii's pristine waters MUST STOP.

Thank for you allowing my voice to be heard.
I hope you too will SUPPORT HB 808 and help to save our oceans.

Sincerely,
Kimberly Matucci
Soon-to-be resident of the Big Island

todd1 - Harrison

From: Jess Rooke <jessrooke@icloud.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 2:36 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL HB808

Aloha Legislative Committees,

I write in support of to 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 manō 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. 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,

Jes Rooke



todd1 - Harrison

From: Natalie Held <nheld@me.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 2:49 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: HB808 and SB489

I support HB808 and SB489 to protect sharks and rays. Sharks and rays are a vital part of our ocean's ecosystem and without apex predators such as these incredible creatures, our oceans would continue to struggle even more than they already do with climate change. What scares me the most about losing these animals by not protecting them is the fact they have been around for hundreds of thousands of years. Think about this for a second. These creatures have been around since dinosaurs. Sharks and rays were able to survive whatever caused the dinosaurs extinction. If that scares you, living in a planet without them because of human selfishness should scare you more. Please vote to project these miraculous and important creatures.

Best,

Natalie

todd1 - Harrison

From: Jay Gunter <96tarheel@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 3:30 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 808

I support HB 808! 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.

Looking forward to hearing good news about passing legislation to protect and preserve sharks and Rays!

Best regards,

Jay Gunter
Raleigh, North Carolina
919.521.1596

todd1 - Harrison

From: JEF <konarider76@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 3:52 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: in support house bill HB808

i have always been captivated with sharks and the ocean in general. it would be a wise move to protect its inhabitants like the sharks and rays before it is too late. for our childrens future.

jeff

todd1 - Harrison

From: Hillary Legrain <hillarylegrain@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 4:02 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 808

I am emailing in support of HB 808. Sharks and rays play a critical role in the marine ecosystem. They are essential to maintaining a healthy marine habitat. They clean out all the diseased, sick and wounded fish in the ocean. Please vote in support of HB 808.

Thank you!

Hillary Legrain

todd1 - Harrison

From: Mark MacLeod <marknormanmacleod@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 4:13 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In Support of Bill HB 808

Aloha and to whom it may concern,

I'd like to submit my voice in support for HB 808 which would take further steps to protect Sharks and Rays which visit and are found in the waters of Hawaii.

Although I'm a resident of Canada, I find this cause an important one. I recently visited Hawaii for the first time (Oahu) on vacation and subsequently a trip primarily for marine ecotourism. I can't say enough about my experience (with OneOceanDiving) and hope the steps taken to protect Sharks and Rays under this bill will allow other visitors to discover the beauty of marine life in their natural environment in your beautiful waters.

Mahalo for your time and letting me share my voice.

Aloha from Canada

Mark N. MacLeod

Sent from my iPhone

todd1 - Harrison

From: Christine Madro <scottandchristie2012@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 4:21 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of HB 808

Hi ,

Please consider this letter as my effort from the prairies of Alberta, Canada.

It is so frustrating to hear the lack of knowledge and consideration for the Ocean from a government stand point.

It is imperative that everyone making this decision be informed before doing so.

Please, educate yourselves in the conservation of the Ocean for our future and for our children. Please save the Sharks and Rays and all the species that play the most important role in our Ocean! We have already witnessed the decline in shark populations globally! Don't let Hawaii be among them! Be a leader!

It is very depressing that decisions are made upon greed and ignorance.

Please don't be ignorant! Please don't be sel"fish"!

Save our Ocean

Save our Sharks

Christie Madro Stewart, RDH

todd1 - Harrison

From: Crystal Recio <crystalrecio@hotmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 5:19 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL HB808

Sharks are vital to our ocean's ecosystem. These beautiful and extraordinary, yet misunderstood, creatures deserve our admiration. They have been around for millions of years. But, now they are disappearing because of us. Instead of fearing them, we should have respect for them and learn how to coexist together. After all, the ocean is their home and we're only guests in it.

#helpsavesharks

todd1 - Harrison

From: bridgetashleyb <bridgetashleyb@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 5:22 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT OF HB 808

Dear Hawaiian Senate,

I am reaching out on behalf of the sharks with full support for the HB 808. This bill is extremely important to me and many others who understand the ecological, cultural, and spiritual importance of sharks. This bill has the power to help to protect these intelligent beings for generations to come. I hope that you will consider the positive impact that you will make by supporting this bill. I ask you from my heart to please support this bill and protect the sharks who do not have a voice.

Thank you,

Bridget Berg

Sent from my Verizon, Samsung Galaxy smartphone

todd1 - Harrison

From: Kayla Lamberson <klambers@hawaii.edu>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 5:52 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of HB 808

Aloha! I wanted to ask that HB 808 passes to protect sharks. Up to 99% of their population has declined, so it's very important that we have continued protections laws around the world to save these animals. Sharks have outlived the dinosaurs, but might not outlive humans. They are considered keystone species- "kestones species are a [species](#) that has a disproportionately large effect on the [communities](#) in which it occurs. Such species help to maintain local biodiversity within a [community](#) either by controlling populations of other species that would otherwise dominate the [community](#) or by providing critical resources for a wide range of species." Sharks play a crucial role in keeping our ocean healthy, which ultimately effects us on land as well. Over 100 million sharks are killed annually by humans. In contrast, sharks of any type only claim approximately 10 human lives per year. (NOAA 2012). Thousands of sharks are being killed each hour, at which their population rate is not easy to reverse. They have a relatively slow growth, late sexual maturity, and a low rate of offspring. Also, as respect to the local Hawaiians, they hold an important cultural significance, as their "Aumakuas." These are a few of the reasons I have so much respect and desire to save these animals, not just for them but for our planet as well. The ocean was once such a thriving, healthy ecosystem, and without sustainable laws in effect, our ocean is going to be bare in the future. Sharks are at a point where they are too vulnerable, so banning shark fishing, and keeping a sustainable fishing rate for other species are crucial at this time. With your help, Hawaii can help protect sharks and our future. Mahalo!

Sent from my iPhone

todd1 - Harrison

From: Stephanie Frye <stephanie.frye@aol.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 6:09 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In Support of House Bill HB808

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 manō 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. Sharks have very little functional protection here in Hawaii, and with shark populations dropping rapidly around the world the time for action is now. Approximately 75-100 million sharks are killed per year all over world. Sharks are in dire need of protection and Hawaii can lead the charge!

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

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Stephanie Frye
Attorney at Law
(774) 207-8084
Stephanie.frye@aol.com

todd1 - Harrison

From: amanda batts <amandajbatts@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 7:06 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of HB 808

Hello,

This is an incredibly important piece of legislation to protect sharks. They're such an important part of our ecosystem and killing them off as we are currently will have disastrous effects in the future in so many ways. We need to protect them with this bill to help them and ourselves.

Amanda Batts

todd1 - Harrison

From: Kaitlyn Nava <kaitygracen@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 7:48 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: HB808

Aloha Legislative Committees,

Please help us pass 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 manō 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. 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 HB808 and I hope you will, too.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,

Kaitlyn Nava

Sent from my iPhone

todd1 - Harrison

From: Kelsey Graham <info@kgxdesign.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 2, 2019 11:35 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: Ban Shark hunting

I am a dive master, rescue diver and free diver, and I can tell you in all my years of being a passionate ocean lover , sharks and rays are BY FAR the most beautiful animal to see underwater.

Tourism helps Hawaii so much and with there being world class diving there , it will attract millions of tourists. Especially if the shark and ray sightings are abundant.

You and I both know it's been proven and backed up time and time again that we NEED sharks in our food chain. 80% of our oxygen comes from the ocean , not plants. And with no sharks, down the line , there will be no coral and with no coral , no oxygen.

Please... make the right call that you KNOW is right.

I forbid shark and ray hunting.

Sincerely,

Kelsey Graham
Half time resident in Maui, HI
604-996-6748

Sincerely,

Kelsey Graham
604-996-6748



todd1 - Harrison

From: Isabella Naef <director@isabellayachts.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 2:01 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: HB 808

To whom it may concern,

We are a company based in Thailand specializing in luxury private day trips (no mass tourism speed boats).

We try in any way to help contribute whenever possible to support all the beautiful creatures leaving in our oceans. Unfortunately we know that our business surely isn't helping the ecosystem and environment, hence why we want to give back in any way we can.

We love sharks and turtles in particular and know how many of these are being killed everyday for the chinese markets.

We strongly hope at least in Hawaii that people will do something for saving sharks.

In South East Asia fortunately they just started educating people regarding pollution, plastic and other major concerns.

Thai people have changed a lot and I see it getting better and better everyday.

Education is the key, please help support wherever possible!!

With Best Regards,

Isabella



Isabella Naef Founder & Director
Isabella Yachts Phuket
w: www.isabellayachtsphuket.com
e: info@isabellayachts.com

Follow us:



todd1 - Harrison

From: Kraetsel Oconnor <kraetsel@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 2:08 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of House Bill HB808

For the good of our oceans, the world, it's people... for your own good; stop killing sharks and rays of all kinds!!! We need them if we want our beautiful oceans to remain a wonder for all to see and if we want to them to continue to support our ecosystem. They are becoming more and more in danger amongst many other animals. It's time for al of us to make a change. They are of more value alive than for food or the rubbish you think is necessary to make out of their bodies.

[Sent from Yahoo Mail for iPhone](#)

todd1 - Harrison

From: Kelly Maracin Krieg <kelly@scriptuk.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 2:18 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of HB808

Dear government

This bill is not just important to marine life but also crucial to our existence.

Without sharks the ecosystem under water falls apart which has a huge effect on our air to breathe. Due to survival instincts corals have been moulded to survive sharks and other predators over time. These corals have evolved to produce our air to breathe. Once sharks are no more they no longer require the instinct and will change. This will cut off our oxygen and we cause our own extinction.

Shark fin soup is merely a texture luxury status without any taste. Sharks are being killed in uncountable numbers by the second only to cut off their fins and then thrown back into the water where they drown to the bottom on the ocean and suffocate because they can only breathe by moving.

They have been here before the dinosaurs and us. We managed to kill over 90% of the world population in the last 10 years.

They need our protection. If you have ever seen one in flesh you will understand the beauty and perfection they represent. New numbers show we o my have 5000 great whites on this planet.

With all my heart I ask you to pass the bill.

With kind regards
Kelly Krieg

todd1 - Harrison

From: Chrissy Porter <cmporter33@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 3:37 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of house bill HB808

I'm writing to show my support of house bill HB808. Sharks play a very important role in maintaining the balance of life in our oceans. They need your protection.

More than 1 million sharks are killed each year by shark finning. Since most species don't reach sexual maturity until they're 7 years old, their populations aren't able to sustain. Currently, more than 30% of shark species are listed as endangered, threatened or vulnerable, and another 46% don't have enough scientific data to fully assess their populations.

Please support HB808 and commit to saving sharks.

Best wishes,
Chrissy Porter

todd1 - Harrison

From: San Juan, Victoria <victoria.sanjuan@aquinas-sta.org>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 4:17 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 808

Sharks and rays are vital for the stability of our oceans and economy. They keep a balance that regulates the weak/ill fish to maintain an equilibrium in the health of marine populations. The health of the ocean determines the health of our world and environment, all these aspects control our future. Not only does this ban benefit the sharks, but it also benefits the sharks so if you do not do it for yourself than do it for the sharks. Please ban the purposeful and senseless murder of sharks and rays!!

todd1 - Harrison

From: Chiara Gold <studywithgold@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 4:30 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL HB808

Sharks and rays need more protection, because they are like humans and are loved by some of us. Last week I saw an dry ray on a sandbank in Panama, I felt so sorry for him like a human but never saw him before - this connection was so strong and I don't get this picture out of my mind. Maybe everyone of this world can have such a moment, which can influence you, and get a real near close to a shark or a ray- but for this we need them and the protection to learn from them.

todd1 - Harrison

From: Sara Kirkpatrick <sarakirkp@yahoo.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 5:00 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL HB808

Aloha,

I am writing to express my support of SB489 and HB808. Sharks and rays are a vital part of the ocean ecosystem. They reproduce at a relatively slow rate, which means that the damage we do to their populations takes much longer to come back from.

Healthy oceans are essential to the health of the planet, and every day that we don't act on behalf of the environment we occupy, it becomes more volatile. Hawaii is uniquely vulnerable to the catastrophic weather which will continue to increase in frequency as we neglect our responsibly as environmental stewards.

If that alone doesn't convince you, I urge you to consider the financial benefits as well. The tourism industry, among many others, in Hawaii is irrevocably tied to the health of the ocean ecosystems. If we allow populations of keystone species like sharks to be depleted, we cheat ourselves of one of our greatest resources.

We are lucky to be living in a time when public opinion about large sea life is particularly positive, this fact will make the decision to protect these species even easier, as it is both the popular decision, and the moral one.

Mahalo for your time, and for your serious consideration on this topic.

Respectfully,

Sara Kirkpatrick

todd1 - Harrison

From: kellknight@tutanota.com
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 5:18 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL HB808

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 manō 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.

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,

Kelleen Knight

--

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<https://tutanota.com>

todd1 - Harrison

From: Melissa Schilling <leonandboo21@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 6:34 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In Support of HB 808

I am Here to have a voice against the deliberate killing of sharks and rays. These species have proved massively important to the ecosystem of not only the ocean, but the world. Their numbers have been declining, while their murders have been staggering. Please consider my thoughts, and the thousands of others, in the decision to ban the purposeful killing of these amazing creatures.

Thank you.
Melissa.

todd1 - Harrison

From: Davi Santiago <davisantiagobr@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 7:04 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 808

I SUPPORT HB 808,

Please, save sharks and rays!

No sharks, no ocean,

No ocean, no life... They were here before almost everything we know and we have to respect and protect them as a crucial part of our world.

If you care about everything you love, you should care about what happens to sharks and rays either, because If they desappear, a lot of species will desappear too, including us.

We don't have a planet B...

todd1 - Harrison

From: David Peterson <davidpeterson813@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 7:42 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of HB808

I am writing in support of the proposed bill HB808. Hawaii provides an incredibly important habitat for a wide range of Shark and Ray species. These beautiful animals are vital not only to keeping life in the oceans healthy but life on land as well. Please do the right thing and help see that these animals gain the protections that they deserve.

Thank you,

David Peterson

todd1 - Harrison

From: Isabel Borman <isabelborman@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 8:43 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In Support if HB 808

Sharks are key predictors that have been victimized and killed due to fear. Our oceans need these predators. In fact the healthiest reefs I've seen have both an abundance of sharks and fish. We need both for a healthy, balanced ecosystem.

Isabel Borman

todd1 - Harrison

From: Morganne Aaberg <moaaberg@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 10:51 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of HB 808

Please note my support of HB 808, a ban on the purposeful killing of sharks and rays. Sharks play an important role keeping our marine eco system in balance, and yet humans kill an estimated 100 million sharks per year! (To put that in perspective for those who think of sharks as "man eaters," sharks are responsible only for 12 human deaths per year.)

Hawaii should take the lead in showing the world that this is not OK, and set an example of how a society can live in harmony and peace with the natural world.

Thank you,

Morganne Aaberg
(Hawi, Hawaii)

--

Morganne

Violinist & Educator
morganneaaberg.com

todd1 - Harrison

From: Aleah Ross <aleah_ross@hotmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 11:09 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 808

Hello,

I am writing to you in support of the bill to ban the purposeful killing of sharks and rays. I don't believe words can speak to the gravity of such an important decision for the state, the country and the world. I look forward to having healthy ecosystems, including the ocean, to support my family as it grows and to share with my kids one day. I think that while it has taken many years for humans to realize the impact we have on our planet, we now have the science to support better decisions when it comes to protecting environments and species. Ensuring a healthy and balanced food chain is part of the science, and this bill would support sustainability into the future. While I don't live in Hawaii, I have visited and share the ocean across the way in Canada. I have seen the impacts on my local coast of what legislation can do here, positive and negative, which is why I am in such support of this bill. I am making personal changes in my life to reduce my impact on the planet (and in particular the oceans), and I would hope that government would be interested in supporting legislation that does the same. Thank you for your consideration.

Aleah Ross
British Columbia, Canada resident

Sent from [Mail](#) for Windows 10

todd1 - Harrison

From: Katie Freeman <kefreeman42@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 3:38 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 808

Hello, my name is Katie and I wanted to make my voice heard. This new law needs to be passed in order to protect such a CRUCIAL part of our marine ecosystems. There is no good reason to be killing sharks and rays. There are so many of these species that are critically endangered. If this law isnt passed and people are allowed to continue killing these animals for sport, or even just as a byproduct (in nets used by mass fishermen), it won't be much longer until we won't have these beautiful and meaningful creatures in our oceans anymore. PLEASE, think about the future of all of the marine life if the sharks and rays cease to exist. Please don't let this happen.

Thanks you

Katie Szydowski

todd1 - Harrison

From: Tracie Sugo <koholakaiblog@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 7:12 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB808

I Support HB808

Sharks keep marine ecosystems healthy by feeding on weak, sick and dying animals. When there are more sharks, there are more fish. As predators, they play a vital role in balancing the food chain.

Protect Hawaii's natural beauty (which in turn is an anchor in much of Hawaii's tourism) by protecting sharks. Support HB808!

Thank you,
--
Tracie Sugo

todd1 - Harrison

From: Crutcher, Amber E. <amber_crutcher3@mymail.eku.edu>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 7:28 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of hb808

I'd like to voice my support of hb808 to prohibit the intentional killing of sharks and rays in Hawaii. Sharks are integral predators in ocean ecosystems, and play a vital role in marinelife dynamics. Sharks are being killed at an unsustainable rate worldwide. Protecting sharks in Hawaiian waters would allow for shark populations to have a haven from finning and other intentional kill practices, while demonstrating to other states and the world the importance of the conservation of these animals. Our oceans need these animals and we are decimating their populations. Please, support HB808 so that sharks and rays have a better chance at a future.

Amber Crutcher
8593585655

todd1 - Harrison

From: Shea Prueger <shea.prueger@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 7:32 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: please protect sharks and manta rays!

Aloha Legislative Committees,

Please help us pass SB489 and HB808.

I live in Hawaii on the Big Island. My love of the ocean and the species in it began just a few years ago in South Africa. I took freediving lessons and began diving with a shark conservation group that did dives with sharks. I love sharks and over the last few years I have educated myself with how important their survival is to the ocean's ecosystem. Upon moving to the Big Island my partner and I did a manta ray snorkel. They are an amazing species that also desperately rely on humans stepping up to protect them (as well as all shark species).

My support of politicians in Hawaii and the way I vote relies heavily on those that support sharks and manta rays, as well as ocean conservation. Whales also come to mind as something we need to protect. My friends who come to the islands love enjoying the ocean and supporting manta ray and shark dives. There is no reasonable excuse to not protect these amazing animals. They need us to step up! Our planet needs us to step up!

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 manō 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. 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,

Shea Prueger
8087472836
12-7003 Kaihulali Street
Pahoa, HI 96778

todd1 - Harrison

From: Shailendra Segobin <shailsegobin@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 8:12 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: Fwd: In support of HB 808

Greetings,

Through this email, I would like to support your bill for the preservation of sharks in their natural habitat.

Sharks are essential for the smooth running of our marine ecosystem. Their numbers have been decreasing alarmingly (70-100 million a year) as they are killed for their fins or misunderstood as being a danger to humans. Our ecosystem needs protection, via their preservation, if we want us and our next generations to live in a healthy ecosystem.

Thanks and kind regards
Dr. Shailendra Segobin

todd1 - Harrison

From: Crystal Emory <emory.crystal@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 8:59 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL HB808

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 manō 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. 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,

Crystal Emory

Sent from my iPhone

todd1 - Harrison

From: Angel Seery <seery.angel22@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 9:32 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: HB 808

Aloha,

You don't realize how important the environment and wildlife play such a strong role in indigenous culture, until it's already gone and that connection is lost. So much culture and tradition has all ready been lost, especially with the manō.. Let's not lose them too..

Mahalo nui loa,
Angel

Sent from my iPhone

todd1 - Harrison

From: Elena Marcoz <marcoz.elena@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 11:01 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL HB808

Sharks (manō) and rays need and deserve to be better protected.

Please consider their importance for the environment!

Tourists love to see the “big fishes” and are more and more sensitive to enviromental protection.

Please act!

Best regards

Elena Marcoz

Inviato da iPhone

todd1 - Harrison

From: Samantha Milnes <Samantha_Browne@hotmail.co.uk>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 11:45 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL HB808

Sharks are such an important part of our marine eco system, with out them the food chain will be incomplete and out of balance. They deserve our protection and care, I strongly believe Shark and Ray fishing in Hawaiian waters should be made illegal.

Thank you
Samantha Milnes

todd1 - Harrison

From: Katarzyna Głowacka <kaglowacka@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 2:42 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of HB808

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.

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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,

Kat Glowacka

todd1 - Harrison

From: Dawna Darrow <tigerpie@att.net>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 3:27 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: Protect Sharks

Hi,

Please protect sharks. They are innocent animals who do not deserve to die by having their fins cut off. The same goes for rays. It would be the equivalent of cutting off a humans limbs and throwing the person in the wilderness expecting them to survive. Sharks and rays are beautiful animals. Help protect our oceans and life on earth by protecting sharks and rays.

Thank you.

Dawna G. Darrow
973 W. 25th St., #C
Los Angeles (San Pedro), CA 90731
tigerpie@att.net

todd1 - Harrison

From: Marika Castillo <eyestarlet@icloud.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 4:48 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of House Bill HB 808

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 manō 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. 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,

Marika Maritz

todd1 - Harrison

From: Jill S <jillstuer@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 5:17 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: IN Support of HB808 to save sharks and rays. Yes please!

Hi !

My name is Cade and I would like for you to please pass bill HB808 to protect sharks and rays. I support it and so do all of my friends! I am only 11 but I work really hard to save sharks. Sharks are a super important part of the oceans. They are a keystone species. If you take them, out everything else collapses. I don't know if you know this, but in the past 30 years sharks populations all over the world have gone down and many sharks are at risk of becoming extinct in my lifetime 😊 This is not right. I think to myself how can the world be letting this happen? Sharks are being wasted as bycatch or the worst thing that is happening to them right now is finning for a bowl of soup. Finning is the most horrible act of cutting of a sharks fins whennit is still alive and then throwing it back into the ocean to drown and bleed to death . No animal deserves this. Hawaii you are beautiful and the whole world watches you. The whole world loves you . I know you can pass this bill to help sharks and rays. You don't want one of your most beautiful ,wonderful resources wasted away and to be known for being the place that didn't love its Ocean wonders of sharks and rays? I dream of swimming with the sharks of Hawaii someday. And I pray and hope when I do , they will be protected and respected by you. Please, please, please pass this bill. I would be so happy and thankful and grateful if you do. I also will be so proud! I know you can do this!!!

Thank you!

Cade

@CadeSavesSharks

P.s if you want to learn more about sharks you can visit my page on Instagram I dedicate my whole page to sharks and trying to help them before it is to late!

todd1 - Harrison

From: Ed Arocha <dwardo101@yahoo.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 8:25 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: I'm in support of HB808

I want to protect sharks and rays in Hawaii!! Shark species are becoming more and more endangered and since it is us (humans) that are mostly responsible for that, it is also our responsibility to do what we can to prevent further decline. I think without penalties and proper enforcement of those penalties, these magnificent creatures that have been here since the dinosaurs will fade away and become only memories and pictures in books.

Please recognize my support in this house bill.

Thank you,

Ed Arocha
781-640-4775

todd1 - Harrison

From: Kristian Omell <kristian_omell@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 9:27 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL HB808

Sharks and Rays are vital for the health of the oceans and all the species therein. The human race has done untold damage to these ecosystems and it is time that we say enough is enough and start being part of the solution rather than THE problem.

Sent from my iPhone

todd1 - Harrison

From: Daniel Horgan <dhorgs@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 9:42 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 808

Dear Hawaii,

As you know, habitats for marine (actually, all) animals are being destroyed / developed for human use worldwide.

We are a part of the greatest mass extinction of ALL TIME.

If we aren't part of the solution, we are certainly part of the problem.

Please think more about the future of tomorrow's wildlife than today's dollar. The biodiversity of this planet is vital to our survival. Please do the right thing and pass HB 808.

Thank you,
Daniel Horgan
Huntington Beach, CA

todd1 - Harrison

From: Matt Payne <mattepayne@hotmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 11:02 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB808

Dear Sir/Madam

Please register my support for the banning of purposeful killing of sharks and rays in the Hawaiian waters.

They are a beautiful part of life and should be protected as our waters will never be the second without them.

Matt Payne

Get [Outlook for Android](#)

todd1 - Harrison

From: GinnyJo Minamishin <wahinemano54@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 11:02 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: HB808

Aloha-

My name is GinnyJo Minamishin and am a kanaka of Hawai'i. I have lived here all my life, and the ocean is my playground, as well as a source of life as it provides for us. I have spent most my life surrounded by manō.

I am writing in concern of saving our beautiful sharks and Rays in Hawaii waters. I am in support of HB808 .

I am an ambassador for one ocean global on the Big island of Hawaii and am doing my best to bring shark awareness to our people. They are the greatest assets of Hawaii and our oceans. With out them our ocean becomes unhealthy which will cause unhealthy reefs and fish. Hawai'i was recently acknowledged for the most requested fishing destination. Also, most free divers across the world come here to do there main certification dives. And why you ask? Because our ocean is presitine and healthy. We have our sharks to thank for that. We live on islands which need healthy reefs and healthy sharks to provide what we need.

Did you know that sharks actually are responsible for almost 80% of the earths oxygen?

Hawai'i has already passed the no shark fining law in Hawaii. And recently people were caught of Oahu and set for a hearing. We need to stop this completely. There is no excuse. Recently "DEEP BLUE" had visited Hawai'i and the controversy over her was overwhelming in protecting her well being from humans. When in reality these humans (ocean Ramsey and her team) were trying there best to protect her from the bad ones. We need sharks they don't really need us. We need to protect them and spread more awareness. Some people just have no idea how valuable they are to our eco system and island life.

I humbly ask that you pass the bill HB808 in support to protect sharks and rays in Hawaii oceans territory.

I am of HAWAIIAN descendant direct line of Kamehameha Ekahi. My kuleana (responsibility) as kanaka to my ancestors are to protect manō.

Mahalo nui loa -

Mākālani

GinnyJo Minamishin

todd1 - Harrison

From: Paul Friese <pfhawaii@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 1:18 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: Testimony in Support of HB808 (Shark/Manta protections)
Attachments: 07.Liver_Results.PDF; mercury_PR.pdf; Keehi Hammerheads notes.pdf; _Kyoshin Maru case.pdf

Aloha-

Please accept my support for HB 808.

Besides the obvious environmental & cultural reasons please consider the following.

1. People that consume sharks are unaware the species are full of mercury which is not regulated by FDA or USDA. State of Hawaii should take responsibility to protect and educate their consumers. The World Health Organization recommends the safe level of mercury to be 0.5ppm (parts per million,) while sharks consistently contain much higher levels. (1.0 - 4.0 ppm) *references attached

2. Hawaii is far behind in the IUU (Illegal Unreported, Unregulated) Fisheries battle. Last year despite Hawaii's Shark Finning Law passing in 2010, 75+ unborn Hammerhead pups were dumped at Keehi Lagoon. This past November, illegal Indonesian "mules" trafficking 962 shark fins (off the Japanese flagged vessel Kyoshin Maru) were arrested at the airport. In 2017, the commercial longliner 'Pacific Paradise' ran up the reef at Kaimana beach in Waikiki. DLNR registered the permit for the boat to fish with a crew of 6. However the vessel was not fishing & had picked up 20 foreigners (from America Samoa) to staff Hawaii's Longline industry. 19 other Hawaii Longline boats have made similar human trafficking runs to America Samoa since mid 2016. (<http://globalfishingwatch.org/map/workspace/udw-v2-f9080272-267a-4978-b88e-6efdd9241ca7>)

The 'Keehi Dumping" and airport bust (*reports attached) expose Hawaii as a notorious transnational IUU fishery hub. Since 2012, the Japanese Kyoshin Marus' have pulled up 12-15 miles outside Honolulu Harbor 21 times. (<https://youtu.be/DfsYtbQQYow>) Besides shark finning, Kyoshin Marus' are illegally transshipping and violating human rights which Hawaii caters to. Our local resources become laundered and in many cases for oversea monetary benefit. The black market demand for shark product, i.e. fins, non transparent & mislabeled meat, liver, cartilage, gills, etc. are a main driver for these additional crimes.

Passing this law not only respects the environment and culture, it is a progressive step to cleaning up Hawaii's fishery and mitigate IUU issues. Feel free to contact me if additional clarifications are needed.

Mahalo,
Paul Friese
808.366.9365

todd1 - Harrison

From: Skate Patrick's Day <patskates208602@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 1:54 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 808

Hello,

This is in support of HB 808. Sharks and rays must be protected. Our oceans produce most of the oxygen we breathe and provide more than half of the protein for the world's human population. If sharks and rays are compromised, we ultimately are compromised. Thank you for your time and consideration for passing this bill.

-Pat Crowley

Phoenix, AZ

todd1 - Harrison

From: Aubrey Flagler <aflagler@nd.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 3:05 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB 808

Why sharks should be protected:

We all deserve dignity and the right to live peacefully on this beautiful earth. This is not just a human right, but one that extends to all animals of the land and sea. Sharks are perhaps some of the most elegant and powerful apex predators we still have on our earth, and they pose an insignificant threat to us over the one we pose to them. They deserve a place in our planet's future too.

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 12:28:45 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexandria Barkman	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Sharks and rays are important parts of marine ecosystems and deserve to be protected. Sharks remove weak or sick fish before disease spreads across the population of fish. They also consume other predators which allows for larger prey populations. Additionally, the possibility of seeing sharks and rays during diving and snorkeling trips attracts many tourists each year. Sharks and rays are far more valuable alive than dead, so purposeful killing of sharks should not be allowed.

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 7:12:45 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jenny Caban	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Hello, I'm a long time local resident and I'm in support of HB808. Thank you.

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 5:11:33 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Stefani Specker-Cook	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I love the ocean more than anything and i have no idea why. I would like to think it is because of its magnificent array of beautiful species that effortlessly organizes an elite ecosystem, however, i believe the unknown is what attracts me the most. I believe the evolution in millions of years of history is what pulls me in. The ocean is more than salt and water. The ocean is what keeps me and you alive. The ocean is what keeps the land's elite ecosystem alive. We live on a planet that needs nothing from us. We are now the determining factor on how long our world survives, what are you going to do to help?

Our kind is responsible for the millions of sharks killed every year for the constant demand of seafood. Shark meat is extremely toxic which contains high levels of mercury that is poisonous to the human body. It is easy to blame the shark fishermen but in reality it is the cause of our first world demands. I can not hate the fishermen but give them respect for their traitorous journeys. As they are not the ones killing the sharks, we are. The increasing demand for shark meat is forcing fishermen into illegal ocean regions, killing off the younger species before they are able to reproduce, and threatening the species to extinction. Our oceans desperately need our help and it starts when the exploitation of marine species stops. When we blindly buy our tuna, salmon, sailfish and other species from supermarkets and restaurants it results in a mass destruction of the entire ecosystem.

Our world can live on without humans in it, but a world without sharks is a world that will collapse. Our lives depend on sharks to provide us oxygen to breathe, food to live, and an environment to survive. It is vital for this planet to educate yourself about something that matters, learn to love your surroundings that nature has created for us to explore, enjoy, and protect. Without a blue world, there is no green world.

The islands of Hawai'i we're once a home to beautiful schools of fish, lively corals, and many other marine animals such as dolphins, whales, turtles, manta rays, sharks. I arrived to O'ahu as a resident 2 years ago. Except t the difference is the massive decline in marine biodiversity, rare to no schools of fish, entire reefs dead, and extremely rare findings of larger marine animals. The massive decline in fish species is a contributing factor to the decline in larger animals... how can a population survive with no food chain. The sequences of over fishing, plastic pollution, bleaching, and species exploitation for aquariums are all factors that ocean cannot sustain. 60 Million reef fish

have been taken alone in Hawai'i for aquariums across the world, often on eBay. If just one small sector of a species collapses it cascades towards every other specie. Now imagine, hundreds of species taken. Eco-tourism brings in a revenue of about \$33 trillion every year. It is a basis of our economy in Hawai'i and for many other regions of the world. Taking down one ecosystems echos to other ecosystems, ultimately, declining tourism. As a student at the University of Hawai'i, I know that my peers stand strong on this issue to help protect our home, the islands and Earth. -Stefani

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 7:37:20 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Honorable Chair Yamane House Members

I must oppose as written I am a Akule Boat Captain. as You well may know sharks can accompany massive schools of akule into near shore areas. This last year many sharks accompanied massive school's off Pokai Bay Waianae, Makaha Beach Waianae, and White Plains Off Ewa Beach. it is rare but on occasion Our divers must remove large live sharks from a surround this is done manually at minimal risk to the diver or diver's by lifting the leadline or dropping the floats and guiding them out. The wording alive or dead robs us from the opportunity to remove unharmed these animals . Our job is to release unharmed anything, and conserve anything that we know to be in a category of unwanted, undersized , out of season etc. I humbly ask that either akule operations be exempted or the word entangled be removed from this bill.

Sincerely Carl P Jellings SR

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:19:03 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Steven Blasco	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Our world can live on without humans in it, but a world without sharks is a world that will collapse. Our lives depend on sharks to provide us oxygen to breathe, food to live, and an environment to survive. It is vital for this planet to educate yourself about something that matters, learn to love your surroundings that nature has created for us to explore, enjoy, and protect. Without a blue world, there is no green world. Eco-tourism brings in a revenue of about \$33 trillion every year. It is a basis of our economy in Hawaii and for many other regions of the world. Taking down one ecosystems echos to other ecosystems, ultimately, declining tourism. As a student at the University of Hawaii, I know that my peers stand strong on this issue to help protect our home, the islands and Earth. -Steven Blasco

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 8:27:42 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:20:24 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Klayton Kubo	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments:

I am a fisherman. I was thought to use shark for bait and also for food. By the way are any of the sharks on the endangered species list? Aloha Klayton Kubo Waimea, Kaua'i 808-652-2425

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:32:01 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brady George	Individual	Support	Yes

Comments:

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 9:24:12 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:22:03 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/4/2019 10:22:14 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kailey Wilt	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I work at a scuba diver out of Kewalo Basin. My livelihood goes hand and hand with the livelihood of the sharks and rays that habitat these beautiful islands. As a resident, I feel that it is also my duty to protect all of the living organisms that call Hawaii home as well. It is extremely egotistical for us to believe our lives matter more than all animals, expecially sharks and rays that unfortunatly don't have the following like dolphins and whales. It is your deuty as politicians to protect ALL living organisms that reside in the United States, as well as all over the globe. Please do you part in protecting what makes Hawaii.

WLHtestimony

From: Tim Sawatzki <timsawatzki@gmx.de>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 4:30 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of HB808

Dear Water, Land & Hawaiiin Affair Committee,

This is my testimony to ask for a better protection of sharks and rays. Despite their ecological and cultural importance sharks have very little protection here in Hawaii. Please introduce a bill that will prevent the purposeful killing of sharks and rays in Hawaiian waters.

Thank you for your support
Tim

WLHtestimony

From: Emily Walter <emilygwalter@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 7:24 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of HB 808

To whom this may concern,

Please accept this email as my testimony for why the bill to protect sharks and rays should be passed.

Sharks are an important part of the ocean's eco-system and without them, could be detrimental to all the animals and humans that live on this planet.

Sharks are incredible apex predators who keep our oceans clean and keeping the fishes gene pools clean by eating the sick, weak or wounded. Sharks are incredible, smart, apex predators who deserve respect and protection.

I support this bill and will continue to fight and support our oceans, including the sea life that resides in it.

Thank you for your time.

Emily walter

WLHtestimony

From: Sean Lowery <seanlowery1995@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 7:31 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In Support of HB 808

Good day,

My name is Sean Lowery. I am a citizen of the United States and resident of the commonwealth of Virginia. For the greater part of my life I have been enthralled with and in awe of sea life, particularly sharks. It weighs heavy on my mind that the state of Hawaii has yet to ban the purposeful killing of sharks and rays.

Bill HB 808 must be passed to protect these animals, as they are crucial players in sustaining and bolstering marine ecosystem health. Charismatic organisms such as sharks and rays provide much more economic value alive, through tourism, than on any dinner plate.

May the state of Hawaii serve as a forerunner in marine conservation in the United States.

Thank you,

- Sean Lowery

WLHtestimony

From: Abigail Schuster <schustera@tiffin.edu>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 8:04 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: Support of HB 808

To whom it May Concern,

I have always had such a respect for sharks and rays alike.. both powerful and predatory, yet so elegant and graceful. I have swam with both and it was truly a life altering experience. I even wear golden charms day in and day out to remind me of my time with these beautiful creatures. The fact that people could wastefully kill and harm these innocent animals is unbelievable. It's absolutely unacceptable what is going on to sharks and rays in today's world. This passing would mean shedding protection and safety to so many animals that so desperately deserve our help.

It would be a great injustice to our planet and animals, as well as future generations, to choose not to help where we can. We CAN create change and we owe it to our fellow species on this planet to save them from cruel and mindless loss, while we still can.

Thank you for your time and I greatly look forward to hearing a positive outcome.

Awaiting news all the way from Indiana,

Abi & Agustin Mangone

WLHtestimony

From: Patric Melander <patric_melander@yahoo.se>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 8:26 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of HB 808

I am definitely in support of HB 808!

Seeing sharks being slaughtered for us human to eat a certain dish is just mind boggling and sickening.

This is a bill that really needs to pass.

Feeling positive!

Best regards,
Patric Melander

WLHtestimony

From: Shanda Kamien <smkamien@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 8:29 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: Fwd: HB808

----- Forwarded message -----

From: **Shanda Kamien** <smkamien@gmail.com>
Date: Tue, Feb 5, 2019 at 1:27 AM
Subject: HB808
To: WLHTestimony@Capital.Hawaii.Gov <WLHTestimony@capital.hawaii.gov>

I've recently learned about the astounding amount of sharks killed due to sharkfinning and it makes me ashamed of how greedy humans can be. Each living animal, plant, mineral and person on this Earth has its own purpose and it's valued in the circle of life. We need sharks for the ocean or the food chain. They were not meant to be eaten and thrown in the ocean to literally drown. Any living creature deserves to be treated with kindness not abuse for financial abundance.

--

Thank you,
Shanda Kamien

--

Thank you,
Shanda Kamien

WLHtestimony

From: Michael Ross <rossoffshore@outlook.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 8:31 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: Shark Protection

To whom it may concern,

In the hundreds of studies on this subject the science is irrefutable: Large scale over fishing of any species, particularly the comparatively small numbers of apex predators, has tremendous adverse effects on the delicate local natural balance of marine ecosystems. (see attached below) Hawaii has a chance to set an example to the rest of the world. Instead of prioritizing profits & consumerism we should all start thinking more about being good stewards or caretakers during our short stay on planet earth.

Kind Regards, Michael Ross

<https://sharkstewards.org/shark-science-education/ecosystem-effects-by-removing-sharks/>



Ecosystem Effects by Removing Sharks & Trophic Cascades - Shark Stewards

Removing sharks from marine ecosystems has been demonstrated to have detrimental effects on marine ecosystems. Early work by Sala et al demonstrated that coral reefs with apex predators like sharks had more coral cover and healthier ecosystems.

sharkstewards.org

Removing sharks from marine ecosystems has been demonstrated to have detrimental effects on marine ecosystems. Early work by Sala et al demonstrated that coral reefs with apex predators like sharks had more coral cover and healthier ecosystems. Dr. Stuart Sandin of the Scripps Institution of Oceanography and his collaborators concluded that sharks play a vital role in maintaining the health of coral reefs. Removing these predators through overfishing sets off a cascade of effects that ripple through the food chain. A decrease in the Caribbean shark population is met by an increase in its prey, the grouper fish. The expanding grouper population takes parrotfish, normally responsible for clearing coral of algae, in greater numbers. This could explain why algae now dominates many degraded reefs in the Caribbean. It also shows how the systematic elimination of one species—a key link in a complex web of relationships—can destabilize the entire ecosystem. Dr. Sala and his work were featured in our film Shark Stewards of the Reef, including the impacts of shark finning on global shark populations.*

WLHtestimony

From: Cassie <cgtom1@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 8:32 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL HB808

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 reef (Please refer to the importance of wolves at Yellowstone National Park and how rangers and biologists discovered that predators are important to the health of other animal populations and to the health of the land). 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 manō 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. 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,

Cassie

WLHtestimony

From: Satih <ninalisesatih@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 9:02 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of HB 808

Hello!

Im in support of HB 808, because sharks are important for a variety of reasons. One is that some species are apex predators - this means that they have no natural predators and are at the top of the food chain. These species keep other species in check, and their removal could have drastic impacts on an ecosystem. Removal of an apex predator can result in an increase in smaller predators, which causes an overall decline in prey populations. It was once thought that culling shark populations might result in an increase in commercially valuable fish species, but this is likely not the case.

Sharks can keep fish stocks healthy. They can feed on weak, unhealthy fish, which lessens the chance that disease can spread through fish populations.

- They are being fished at a higher rate than they can reproduce

They are good indicators of the health of an ecosystem

But most importantly sharks are beautiful and necessary, they have way more value alive than dead. IT IS UNNECESSARY!!!

greetings, nina

WLHtestimony

From: sofia.westerlund <sofia.westerlund@protonmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 9:08 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of HB 808

Greetings!

I am typing this email in the support of the bill HB 808 that bans the purposeful killing of sharks and rays in Hawaii. My name is Sofia Westerlund. I don't represent any organization, I don't even live in Hawaii, but marine conservation is one of my life missions, and I am hoping that my contribution can help make a difference.

Sharks have existed for almost 450 million years, and it's ironical that even though they have seen many mass extinctions and lived through them, the mankind is the greatest threat they have ever faced. The rapacious slaughter of sharks does not take into consideration the low reproductive capacity of these animals - some sharks reach maturity at the age of 15 years, and they only raise a few pups in a lifetime. So if a population somewhere gets destroyed, it takes a painfully long time for it to bounce back, if ever.

The role of a shark in an ecosystem is one comparable to a white blood cell. In other words, sharks are the immune system of the oceans. They keep the populations of their prey in order, targeting the old, sick and slower individuals. Scientists actually consider sharks to be "keystone" species. That means removing them causes a whole food web to collapse, and this includes commercially important fish, too. Without sharks, the sick and less fit individuals are able to reproduce and lessen the quality of other marine animals, thus affecting the whole ecological system.

Sharks are a sign of a healthy ocean, but they also bring in money. In Fiji, the annual value of shark-based tourism is US\$ 42.2 million (Vianna et al. 2011). In Maldives, the figure is US\$ 38.6 million (Martin et al. 2006). There are also indirect economic impacts when a tourist stays at a local hotel, as the hotel uses that money in a way that serves as income for secondary and primary industries within a country.

One could argue that fishing sharks and rays does create income for fishermen, but as stated before, it is not sustainable. Not to mention the act of finning sharks and tossing them back in the water while still alive is a culmination of human cruelty. It's an excruciating way to die. It also makes no sense, because the higher in the food chain we go, the more accumulation of heavy metals such as mercury and other toxic substances can be measured. What does this mean for humans? Shark meat and fins are not safe to consume.

All of us have the responsibility to be more ethical than the generation that raised us. This is why it's so important to finally pass the bill HB 808. It's not just about sharks and rays. It's about saving humans, too, because an organism that keeps destroying its own habitat won't last long.

There are moments in life when you have the opportunity to do the right thing, no matter how much objection you might encounter from powerful people. This is one of those moments. Will you do what is right? Or what is easy?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Sofia Westerlund

Sent with [ProtonMail](#) Secure Email.

WLHtestimony

From: william erwin <erwinrestoration@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 4, 2019 9:21 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In Support Of HB 808

In Support Of HB808 - Most people out there think of sharks as either a type of ferocious monster or just a fish. The truth is Sharks are very beautiful creatures that must continue to thrive and do their part to sustain the marine ecosystem. Sharks most definitely need protection from poachers fisherman and the shark finning trades of the uneducated and which also include desperate survival trends (small remote regions) of again uneducated people (not their fault) that do not know what their doing. Yes sharks don't speak the human language so the average human being may just say ok to killing it. Again its up to man to speak up for the Sharks and Rays that live in the beautiful ocean. And compared to cars killing 32,999 people last year and bees killing 100 people, there were actually only five fatal shark attacks Worldwide for 2018. Yet As we swim in their domain which of course it is theirs, we should relise that these are wild animals just doing what they do LIVE. And we (Man) does not need to go out and kill everything that he comes in contact with simply because of his limited education on the reality of why they exist and why we need them to exist. Sharks have been on this planet and have survived for millions of years before mans population explosion and our overexploitation of certain species (Sharks for one). Lets not turn our heads and let man eradicate these magnificent creatures for sport or business. Please take my vote in as a plea to let the legislation pass a bill that would allow the Sharks (Mano) of the Hawaiian Islands be kept safe alive and free. My signature on the petition in support of HB808 is to Save Sharks And Rays Of The Hawaiian Islands. Mahalo.

Sincerely
William Erwin
#sharkprotector

WLHtestimony

From: Shira Scherzberg <shira.scherzberg@googlemail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 12:02 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of HB 808

Please stop this insane wasteful killing of sharks. It's incorrect to treat them as not having their place in the ocean- the ocean needs them just as they need EVERY other living creature in its waters. Please do not let sharks lose out. They have as much right to live as we do. Who are we to decide how many of them more should die? As it is soooo many die cruel deaths just cause they are in the wrong place at the wrong time in nets etc. please stop this and protect them instead. Sincerely Shira Scherzberg From NY living in Germany and with a big heart for all animals

Von meinem iPhone gesendet

WLHtestimony

From: annina.lukkarila <annina.lukkarila@kolumbus.fi>
Sent: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 12:37 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of HB 808

To whom it may concern,

A dear friend of mine encouraged me to write this email in the support of the bill HB 808 that bans the purposeful killing of sharks and rays in Hawaii. I am copying her wise words in the hopes that they will make a difference.

My name is Annina Lukkarila. I don't represent any organization, I don't even live in Hawaii, but marine conservation is one of my life missions, and I am hoping that my contribution can help make a difference.

Sharks have existed for almost 450 million years, and it's ironical that even though they have seen many mass extinctions and lived through them, the mankind is the greatest threat they have ever faced. The rapacious slaughter of sharks does not take into consideration the low reproductive capacity of these animals - some sharks reach maturity at the age of 15 years, and they only raise a few pups in a lifetime. So if a population somewhere gets destroyed, it takes a painfully long time for it to bounce back, if ever.

The role of a shark in an ecosystem is one comparable to a white blood cell. In other words, sharks are the immune system of the oceans. They keep the populations of their prey in order, targeting the old, sick and slower individuals. Scientists actually consider sharks to be "keystone" species. That means removing them causes a whole food web to collapse, and this includes commercially important fish, too. Without sharks, the sick and less fit individuals are able to reproduce and lessen the quality of other marine animals, thus affecting the whole ecological system.

Sharks are a sign of a healthy ocean, but they also bring in money. In Fiji, the annual value of shark-based tourism is US\$ 42.2 million (Vianna et al. 2011). In Maldives, the figure is US\$ 38.6 million (Martin et al. 2006). There are also indirect economic impacts when a tourist stays at a local hotel, as the hotel uses that money in a way that serves as income for secondary and primary industries within a country.

One could argue that fishing sharks and rays does create income, but as stated before, it is not sustainable. Not to mention the act of finning sharks and tossing them back in the water while still alive is a culmination of human cruelty. It's an excruciating way to die. It also makes no sense, because the higher in the food chain we go, the more accumulation of heavy metals such as mercury and other toxic substances can be measured. What does this mean for humans? Shark meat and fins are not safe to consume.

All of us have the responsibility to be more ethical than the generation that raised us. This is why it's so important to finally pass the bill HB 808. It's not just about sharks and rays. It's about saving humans, too, because an organism that keeps destroying its own habitat won't last long.

There are moments in life when you have the opportunity to do the right thing, no matter how much objection you might encounter from powerful people. This is one of those moments. Will you do what is right? Or what is easy?

Thank you for your time and consideration.

Sincerely,
Annina Lukkarila

WLHtestimony

From: Mallaise Kenny <kenny.mallaise@totalprojects.be>
Sent: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 12:47 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF HOUSE BILL HB808

Why I think the bill for stopping the purposely killing of sharks and rays should be accepted:

Sharks feed on the sick and the old, meaning they keep the ocean healthy by not only strengthening the gene pools of other species, but also preventing the spread of diseases among sea life.

Think of how many countries depend on the ocean as a source of food, and how sharks play a role in the food we eat.

The more fish brought to land that carry viruses, diseases or are near death, the less people will be able to consume fish.

Some cultures depend heavily on the ocean for their food source along with the nutrients those foods provide.

Because sharks are at the top of the food chain they keep other fish healthy and in proper proportion to ensure a healthy ecosystem.

They also prevent other species from becoming too populous and keep the structure of ocean life from essentially collapsing.

They feed on carcasses, and regulate other species from overgrazing vital habitats.

Scientists have even gone as far to state that the shark's natural intimidation factor may have more of an impact on the ecosystem than what they are actually eating.

Approximately 1/4 of shark and ray species are threatened with extinction, with over half of shark species being data deficient, meaning enough information isn't being assessed to determine how threatened some of these species really are. Some may already be extinct; these sharks are referred to as "lost" by the IUNC. Extinction is a real threat to sharks, and it's not just for their fins or leisure fishing either. The Shark Trust breaks down the many reasons sharks are being hunted, which I have pasted below.

- **MANTA & DEVIL RAY GILL PLATES** - *This is due to the Chinese medicinal trade. It's claimed that gill rakers can filter out disease and toxins from the body. The gill rakers, which are used by the rays to filter zooplankton from the water, are often consumed in a soup called Peng Yu Sai. They're worth an estimated US\$11 million annually. The gill plate trade, centered in Guangzhou, China, has stimulated intensive fishing for these rays in many countries.*
- **SHARK LIVER OIL (labelled squalene/squalane)** - *this can be found in a surprising number of products. From moisturizers, deodorants and sun tan lotion, to lip balm, lipsticks and other cosmetics. It's also used in vaccines, pills and supplements. The highest return of squalene comes from the livers of deep sea sharks. And so, they're intensively fished. Due to the nature of their biology they're unable to withstand this level of fishing pressure. Many are now listed on the IUCN Red List of Threatened species.*
- **SHARK CARTILAGE** - *is sold as a health supplement in many health food shops and pharmacies. It's believed to help a variety of conditions, including arthritis, shingles, rheumatism, hemorrhoids,*

psoriasis and even cancer.

Yet there's no clinical evidence to support these claims

- **SHARK LEATHER (shagreen)** - shark skin has been used for decades to make leather because it's so durable.
It's particularly popular in the United States, northern Europe and Japan.
It's used to create luxury items such as, wallets, shoes (including football boots created by the brand Kelme), handbags, watch straps, belts, gloves, jackets and furniture.
As well as sandpaper and on sword handles, as its rough texture helps with grip.
- **SHARK TEETH & JAWS** - these can often be seen for sale in seaside tourist shops.
Despite the fact that in many countries it's illegal to catch sharks.
White Sharks are protected under CITES, yet their teeth and jaws can fetch huge sums on the black market.
A single tooth can sell for over \$100 and a whole set of jaws can fetch up to \$10,000 in the USA. Sadly, illegal smuggling of White Shark teeth is becoming increasingly common in countries such as South Africa.

Sharks reach the age of reproduction when they are 12-15 years old.

Many sharks don't even live that long, and if they do, they only produce 1-2 offspring in their lifetime, carrying their pups anywhere from 9-12 months before delivering them.

This poses as a huge disadvantage in repopulating the species when marine studies show over 100 million sharks are killed, just by humans, each year.

As you can see, sharks are imperative to the ocean's ecosystem and overall well-being. As long as they are being mass hunted, they cannot possibly reproduce fast enough to maintain their positions in keeping the ocean healthy and functioning as it should. We have to stop hunting sharks and aid in the prevention of their extinction and that starts with refusing to let the media intimidate us into allowing an essential species to be depleted.

Thank you for taking the time to read this message.

Met vriendelijke groeten,

KENNY MALLAISE

Projectleider

Gsm: 0476 / 47 88 25

kenny.mallaise@totalprojects.be



Langvoort 17 | 2430 Vorst-Laakdal | T: 013/67 52 08 | F: 013/67 10 01

Aan elk blad zat ooit een tak. Druk deze mail niet onnodig af.

WLHtestimony

From: David Whyte <dwdavidwhyte@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 1:43 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of HB 808

I'm writing to express my support of Bill 808 that bans the killing of sharks and rays. These are wonderful creatures that help maintain the health of our oceans. Without the health of our oceans, humans and other land roving animals would not survive. Killing sharks means that the rest of the food chain falls. They're exquisite animals that were here long before us and should be after as well. We have a duty to protect them and the greater ecosystem of the ocean.

Thank you,
David Whyte

WLHtestimony

From: leon scheuermann <leon.scheuermann@live.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 1:45 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of HB 808

Hello,

My name is Leon Scheuermann, i am from Germany and 22 years old. I support sharks being protected from wasteful killing, because they are highly important for our eco - system which happens to be the fundament of our all home - Mother Earth. It just doesn't make any sense to let it happen, especially in Hawaii. So what is the point of helping the people who kill sharks with having loose laws? We need a well functioning eco - system to survive. Not only me, but also you. So i ask you to please make that change!

with best regards
Leon Scheuermann

WLHtestimony

From: Gillian Foxall <gillianfoxall@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 4:58 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of HB808

To Whom it May Concern,

I am strongly in favour of protecting sharks and rays from wasteful and needless killing. I have scuba dived for over 20 years and have been fortunate to dive with a number of sharks and rays. They are beautiful creatures and need protecting and preserving for future generations.

Kind Regards,

Dr Gillian Foxall

WLHtestimony

From: Michelle Marino <michelle.g.marino@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 5:16 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: We Need You: Please Support HB808

Hello,

It's critical that we support shark conservation efforts for our ocean's survival and ours. Sharks are targeted simply for their fins, which is inhumane and destructive to sharks and the ecosystem. Please use your voice to give sharks the protection they so desperately need.

Thank you for your support,

Michelle Marino
Massachusetts, USA

WLHtestimony

From: Fridha PIZARRO <fridha.pizarro@hotmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 8:40 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF HB 808

I'm not sure if this email is helping but I just want to say that even if I'm thousands of miles away, as a person that has never been in Hawaii, I fully support sharks being protected from wasteful killing.

No need for fancy words or a long speech:

Sharks are awesome and The Ocean and its species are the greatest gifts that our planet provides.

**Lic. Fridha E. Pizarro A.
cel. 614 152 4039
Delicias, Chihuahua, México**

WLHtestimony

From: tenthousandchariots <tenthousandchariots@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 10:01 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB808

Sharks are necessary for a healthy ecosystem. Since they are slow to mature and reproduce, AND reproduce in small numbers, they are not a sustainable source of food, etc. Killing them is therefore unethical. Purposefully catching them should be made a crime, especially in the only state (Hawaii!) where sharks are culturally significant and historically accounted for as guides and 'aumakua. Sharks deserve our utmost care, protection and respect.

Erika Carlson & Family

Sent from my MetroPCS 4G LTE Android Device

Sent from my MetroPCS 4G LTE Android Device

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:28:08 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

At the current rate of population growth and our overuse of natural resources, we as humans have well exceeded any sustainable rate to keep the Earth and its wildlife as well as its natural resources intact. Sharks specifically are a huge part of an already very fragile ecosystem. Their existence has been tested and threatened for millions of years through evolution, shifts in the earth's surface, changes in ocean temperatures past and present, global warming and most significantly human interference. In an effort to protect what's left of our oceans aquatic wildlife and the ecosystem which revolves around them, I support HB 808 on behalf of my generation and for many generations to come for as long as humans continue to inhabit and jeopardize Earth's natural wonders and creations.

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 1:25:02 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alison Lewis	Individual	Comments	No

Comments:

Aloha, e na po'e apau. Aloha, aloha no!

I am Alison Lewis and I thank your for your hard work in protecting the rights of all people living on the islands of Hawaii. I live on the west side of Kauai. My Niihauan husband and many many of his friends and ohana are subsistence fisherman who could be severely impacted by this bill, if not very CAREFULLY worded. We want the sharks and rays protected, of course, but please read on...

The HB808 needs to be modified slightly to protect the rights of subsistence fishermen. I recommend changing the word "knowingly" to "intentionally". This is a very important distinction. Subsistence fishermen "know" that a small shark may become ensnared in their small near-shore family lay-net. But they do not "intend" to catch sharks. And when we do, which is not often, we do not waste the shark or ray, but we instead fillet, marinate and cook and eat them.

You MUST not make even MORE difficult, the lives of subsistence farmers and fishermen. Especially at this critical time of economic hardship, when the poorest of the poor MUST depend on subsistence fishing to survive. Putting penalties on unintentional catches, even when using small manually set nets, is unfair and unreasonable.

I suggest, alternatively, that you include these words in the bill: "subsistence fishermen, who are fishing to directly provide food (not sales) for themselves and local family members, AND who are using MANUALLY set gear (fishing on foot or by unpowered water craft, with throw net, lay net, or pole), are EXEMPT from this law."

I URGE you ARDENTLY to consider these changes. Do not further beleaguer this already direly struggling and culturally iconic group of citizens who are the subsistence small fishermen of these islands.

Mahalo nui.

O wau, me ke aloha a me ka ha'aha'a,

Alison Lewis

**LARRY JEFTS
FARMS, LLC
PO BOX 27
KUNIA, HAWAII
96759
(808) 688-2892**

HB 451, Relating to Hawaii Association of Conservation Districts
House WLH/EEP Hearing
Wednesday, February 6, 2019
10:30 am
Conference Room 325

Testimony by: Larry Jefts
Position: Support

Chair Yamane and Lowen, and Members of the House WLH and EEP Committees:

I am Larry Jefts, owner and operator of Larry Jefts Farms, LLC, which is part of our family-run business of farms on Oahu and Molokai, under the administrative umbrella of Sugarland Growers, Inc. We have more than 35 years of Hawaii farm experience on Molokai and Oahu. I am a volunteer director for the West Oahu Soil and Water Conservation District (SWCD).

The SWCD framework and authority were created through HRS 180. It helps farmers and ranchers with conservation plan development as well as assist respective County governments' with grading permit and plan reviews. Throughout the State, 80 volunteer directors in 16 SWCD work with local area partners to accomplish its work that includes conservation and environmental education outreach.

Your support of this funding request will go far toward strengthening environmental stewardship of agriculture soil and water use, particularly as Hawaii welcomes many new farmers and ranchers. It will also facilitate eligibility of farmers and ranchers for federal and state programs that require conservation plans and its implementation at the farm or ranch level.

Thank you for the opportunity to present testimony

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 2:30:08 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Joshua J Wittmer	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Sharks and rays serve important roles in ocean ecosystems, and they are culturally, spiritually, and economically important to people in Hawaii. They are subject to killing and abuse as a result of fear and misplaced machismo. This killing and abuse hurts Hawaii as it hurts the sharks and rays. Please pass HB808 to protect Hawaii and it's Mano, Hihimanu, Hahalua, and Lupe.

Mahalo

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 WATER, LAND, & HAWAIIAN AFFAIRS

For hearing Wednesday, February 6, 2019

Re: HB 808 RELATED TO SHARK AND RAY PROTECTION.

Establishes an offense of knowingly capturing, taking, possessing, abusing, entangling, or killing a shark in state marine waters, along with penalties and fines. Expands the existing prohibition on knowingly capturing or killing a manta ray in state marine waters to apply to all rays and to also include knowingly taking, possessing, abusing, or entangling a ray. Provides certain exemptions.

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 3-5 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 races, 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.

WLHtestimony

From: Michael Brown <mikebrown147@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 3, 2019 8:57 PM
To: WLHtestimony; info@onpurple.com
Subject: In SUPPORT of HB808

Stephen Camarillo
Kristine Lautenbach
Julia Koernig
Blats Roman
John Greer
Jenna Kiely
Sara Padrell
Lucia Giannamore
Felipe Olivares
Georgina Swain
Cara Phillips
Melody Lemke
Avalon Marshall
Ann
Gerd Markowitsch
Antoine Janssen
Christina Hetzel
Shandi Vanores
Lili Zeser
Mia Kruger
Vivek Pillai
Nicola Fielding
Mark Poezler
Nikola Stathis
Pamela Vallarta
Pasteles de Fondant
Pamela Cervantes
Ross Cohen
Samuel Korner
Ashley Hutton
Jack Swenson
Pri Cohen
Tracy Pillows
Jaylee Rothwell
Alexandria N. Fall
Melissa Hield
Ariane Hinkel
Jennifer Cortes
Sowmya Ravichandran
Michael Brown
Agata Miedz
Emilia Szubzda
Sebastien Anton
Bianka Ozsvath
Julie Encarnacion
Marc Soccio
Shereen Maria



Jaimilee Mardsen
Alexandra Stevens
kim Green
Lea Heiniger
Laila V
Trevor George
Cristina Alberola
Christina Deletto
Mark Bennet
Lisa Sumner
Chris Zilinske
Laura Maier Fuster
Dominique Braun
Adrian Dennis
Jordy Van Kuijk
Madison Wills
Jana Nurjanah
Amy Pishner
Rolf Liechti
Hawa Bhyat
Anil Badhan
Angie Medina
Grisha Mouromtsev

LATE

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 4:28:23 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Brock Munson	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

LATE

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 7:53:29 PM
Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support HB808 protecting sharks and rays, which are keystone species of the marine ecosystem.

Thank you,

Andrea Quinn

Kihei, HI

LATE

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 8:17:25 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

LATE

HB-808

Submitted on: 2/5/2019 10:21:02 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/6/2019 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

"Our world can live on without humans in it, but a world without sharks is a world that will collapse. Our lives depend on sharks to provide us oxygen to breathe, food to live, and an environment to survive. It is vital for this planet to educate yourself about something that matters, learn to love your surroundings that nature has created for us to explore, enjoy, and protect. Without a blue world, there is no green world. Eco-tourism brings in a revenue of about \$33 trillion every year. It is a basis of our economy in Hawaii and for many other regions of the world. Taking down one ecosystems echos to other ecosystems, ultimately, declining tourism. As a student at the University of Hawaii, I know that my peers stand strong on this issue to help protect our home, the islands and Earth." Stefani Specker-Cook, fellow friend and UH Manoa peer. I support her words and have been an active student and citizen on this issue.

Alexandra Hirst

todd1 - Harrison

From: Abraham Nseir <aj.nseir@gmail.com>
Sent: Tuesday, February 5, 2019 8:12 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of HB 808



Hello!

I would like to voice my support for HB 808 and the ban of purposeful shark and ray killing in Hawaii.

Sharks' control over species below them in the food chain indirectly affects the economy. A study in North Carolina showed that the loss of the great sharks increased the ray populations below them. As a result, the hungry rays ate all the bay scallops, forcing the fishery to close. Without scallops to eat, the rays have moved on to other bivalves.

The decline of the quahog, a key ingredient in clam chowder, is forcing many restaurants to remove this American classic from their menus. The disappearance of scallops and clams demonstrates that the elimination of sharks can cause harm to the economy in addition to ecosystems.

Sharks are also influencing the economy through ecotourism. In the Bahamas, a single live reef shark is worth \$250,000 as a result of dive tourism versus a one time value of \$50 when caught by a fisherman. One whale shark in Belize can bring in \$2 million over its lifetime.

Thank you,

Abraham Nseir

todd1 - Harrison

From: John Flores <jsteely30@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 6, 2019 5:06 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In SUPPORT OF HB 808



@oceanramsey has been working really hard to protect sharks and I am so thankful to her that she is.

The killing of innocent sharks is awful, we need them in our oceans! Unfortunately, Hollywood has made them out to be monsters, and people's ignorance has led them to the mess we have created. I pray that one day it will be illegal to kill these amazing creatures WORLD WIDE.

LATE



**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**



**HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**

**TO: Honorable Chair Ryan I. Yamanes & Committee Members
Committee on Water, Land & Hawaiian Affairs**

February 5, 2019

**FROM: Heather Carpenter, Western Regional Director, The Humane Society of the
United States, hcarpenter@humanesociety.org, Phone number: 702.929.2999**

RE: SUPPORT FOR HB808; 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, we urge your support of HB808, which would impose penalties for anyone who knowingly captures, takes or kills sharks or rays in state waters except for a few specific exemptions, such as research purposes, under DLNR issued Special Activity Permits, exercising native Hawaiian gathering rights and cultural practices and at the discretion of DLNR for specific, emergency public safety reasons.

Why sharks and rays need protection:

- Hawaii is one of the first states to prohibit shark finning. In 2010, Hawaii became the first state to enact a ban on the sale of shark-fins or fin products. To this date, 13 states have adopted similar measures following Hawaii's footsteps. HB808 would further complement existing law, which has now become a global initiative, and further maintain Hawaii's global conservation leadership 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, abuse or killing of sharks in state waters.
- With the growing interest and number of commercial tour operators involved in ray diving tours, this measure would ensure that protections are afforded to ray species. If enacted, with HB808 Hawaii would establish another "first in the world" record by prohibiting the take, capture and killing of ray species in state waters.
- The number of shark and ray landings globally increased by 227% from 1950 to 2003.¹ However, actual number of animals killed is much larger since these data represent when animals 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. HB808 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 ecosystem. 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. HB808 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 HB808 would prevent any future trade in harvesting rays in the 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.
- Sharks and rays share life history traits that make them particularly vulnerable to overexploitation and population collapse.⁸ These include slow growth; low fecundity;

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.

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

few, well-formed young; long gestation period; and delayed age at first reproduction that together are known in the ecological literature as a “K-selected life history”.⁹

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important marine conservation issue. We urge swift passage of HB808.

Below is a list of the 40 species of sharks and rays that may be found in Hawaii waters. DLNR notes that it is difficult to distinguish between certain species of sharks and rays thus this measure applies to all sharks and rays.

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

Family Odontaspidae

Smalltooth sand tiger shark, *Odontaspis ferox*, VU

Bigeye sand tiger shark, *Odontaspis noronhai*, DD

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 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

todd1 - Harrison

From: Grace Kelly Gamble <gracekellygamble@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 6, 2019 7:33 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of HB 808

To whom it may concern,

I'm in support of all species of sharks being protected to restore their status as a sustainable species. The unnecessary killing for their fins is mindless even though it may be cultural. Biomagnification tells us how unnecessary the slaughter of sharks are. They are incredibly important to our ecosystem and need to be protected. There needs to also be more education on sharks and how to coexist the best way. I hope this gets to you in time.

Best Regards,

Grace Gamble

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Grace Gamble