

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

Friday, February 7, 2020
9:30 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325

In consideration of
HOUSE BILL 2414
RELATING TO SHARK PROTECTION

House Bill 2414 proposes to prohibit and establish fines and penalties for knowingly capturing, taking, possessing, abusing, entangling, or killing any shark within state marine waters; and provides certain exemptions. **The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) supports this measure, subject to the following comments and proposed amendment.**

The Department recognizes the important role sharks 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 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.

The Department has concerns about the following language beginning on page 3, line 13, which creates an exemption for special activity permits:

- (e) This section shall not apply to:
- (1) Special activity permits allowed under section 187A-6 or research permits authorized by law; provided that the permit issued does not allow a take that exceeds the potential biological

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

removal level; provided further that the department of land and natural resources may adopt rules to define "take" for purposes of this subsection and determine when a take exceeds the potential biological removal level;

It is unclear what "the potential biological removal level" means, and the Department lacks the resources and expertise to conduct stock assessments that may be necessary to make such a determination. The Department recommends amending this language to read:

- (e) This section shall not apply to:
- (1) Special activity permits allowed under section 187A-6 or research permits authorized by law; ~~[provided that the permit issued does not allow a take that exceeds the potential biological removal level; provided further that the department of land and natural resources may adopt rules to define "take" for purposes of this subsection and determine when a take exceeds the potential biological removal level;]~~

The Department already has an existing process to carefully review all Special Activity Permit and other research permit applications to ensure that any permitted activities do not result in unacceptable ecological or cultural impacts. References to "the potential biological removal level" are problematic and unnecessary.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this measure.



TO: Honorable Chair Yamane and House Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs Committee

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

RE: STRONG SUPPORT for HB2414; Relating to Shark Protection, with suggested amendments

For the Fishes respectfully urges your support of HB2414 which would prohibit the intentional/known capture or killing of sharks 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. The bill does NOT apply to those who, in the lawful course of fishing, may accidentally capture and subsequently release a shark.

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 positioning Hawaii to be a leader in shark and marine conservation. While current laws prohibit the possession or sale of shark fins or fin products there is no law preventing the 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.

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. Further, sharks are apex predators; when they are removed our entire marine ecosystem is negatively impacted.

Fortunately, there is no longer any directed shark fisheries (for their meat/fillets) and sharks 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 shark species.

Last session concerns were raised by a few shark researchers speaking independently of their affiliation with any academic institution. To address those concerns we are suggesting the below clarifications so that legitimate shark research may continue to occur:

- Amend preamble to clarify exemptions
- To avoid confusion with the term "take" in the federal Endangered Species Act (ESA), remove all references to "take"
- Clarify that the bill is NOT meant to inhibit legitimate shark related research, "if conducted under an Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC)." and reviewed by an institution's native Hawaiian Cultural Practitioners (per UH HIMB)
- Removed confusing reference to research permits and DLNR determining biological removal levels

Thank you for your consideration of these amendments and the opportunity to testify on this important marine conservation issue

See: <https://dlnr.hawaii.gov/sharks/hawaii-sharks/species-list/>

HAWAII 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

TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES COMMITTEE ON ENERGY & ENVIRONMENTAL
PROTECTION

Representative Ryan Yamane, Chair
Representative Chris Todd, Vice-Chair
For Hearing Feb.7, 2020 9:30 AM
Room 325 Hawaii State Capitol

RE: SUPPPORT HB2414

Dear Representative Yamane Chair, Representative Todd Vice-Chair, and Committee Members,

I am part of a third-generation family owned snorkel business in Kona Hawaii that began in 1971. We have 50 employees and entertain over 80,000 customers each year. We feel privileged to be in the marine tourism industry where we share the natural beauty of Hawaii every day. Sharks are part of an integral reef system, keeping a balance and a healthy marine environment that can help protect shoreline damage from storms, and providing a healthy coral infrastructure home for hundreds of marine life.

Although much remains to be learned about the importance of sharks to marine ecosystems, what we do know suggests that losing sharks could be bad for oceans and people. As they usually hunt old, weak or sick prey, they help to keep the prey population in good condition, healthy and strong, enabling these more naturally fit animals to reproduce and pass on their genes. The effects of removing sharks from ocean ecosystems, although complex and rather unpredictable, are very likely to be ecologically and economically damaging.

Heavy metals and other environmental toxins accumulate in plant and animal tissues through the well-documented process of bioaccumulation. Sharks are prone to bioaccumulation through diet as they incorporate metals very efficiently and eliminate them slowly. Eating shark meat, exposes you to these potentially dangerous toxins, in particular high levels of methyl mercury. While a certain amount of mercury in the environment is natural, growing worldwide pollution of our oceans is increasing the risk of high mercury levels in the fish we eat, particularly fish at the top of the food chain like sharks. Consuming sharks will increase the level of mercury you ingest which will in turn increase your risk of neurological disorders, autism, infertility, Coronary heart disease or even death. This bill helps to protect humans from catching, selling and eating shark meat.

Sharks regulate the behavior of prey species and prevent them from over-grazing vital habitats. Some shark researchers believe that the intimidation factor caused by sharks may actually have more of an impact on the ecosystem than what sharks actually eat. For example, scientists here in Hawaii found that tiger sharks had a positive impact on the health of sea grass beds. Turtles, which are the tiger sharks' prey, graze on sea grass. In the absence of tiger sharks, the turtles spent all of their time grazing on the best quality, most nutritious sea grass, and these habitats were soon destroyed. When tiger sharks are in the area, however, turtles graze over a broader area and do not over-graze one region.

The ocean ecosystem is made up of very intricate food webs. For the most part, sharks are at the top of these webs and are considered by scientists to be keystone species, meaning that removing them may cause the whole structure to collapse. For this reason, the prospect of a food chain minus its apex predators may mean the end of the line for many more species. Scientific studies demonstrate that depletion of sharks results in the loss of commercially

important fish and shellfish species down the food chain, including key fisheries such as tuna and other important fish species that maintain the health of coral reefs.

We have seen a huge decline in the reefs here in Kona over the past decades and we all need to do our part to repair the damage and protect the reefs for our future generations. Protect the sharks so that they can protect our ocean environment.

Please pass this bill HB2414.

Sincerely,
Mendy Dant

Mendy Dant
Executive Vice President
Fair Wind Cruises
Kona Sunrise Charters
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Kailua Kona, Hi 96740
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**Conservation Council
for Hawai'i**

Hawai'i's voice for wildlife

Kō Hawai'i / leo no nā holoholona lōhiu



**Submitted to the House Committee on Water, Land and Hawaiian Affairs
Hearing: February 7, 2020, 9:30am
Conference Room 325
HB2414: Relating to Sharks**

The Conservation Council for Hawaii (CCH) supports HB2414 and the effort to protect our sharks. Sharks play an important role in balanced ecosystems and healthy oceans, it is imperative that we protect the species and their habitat both from the land and in the ocean. CCH is dedicated to protecting ecosystems for generations to come.

Thank you for the opportunity to support HB2414

**Telephone/Fax: 808.593.0255 | email: info@conservehi.org | web:
conservationcouncilhawaii.org**

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**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**



**HUMANE SOCIETY
INTERNATIONAL**

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

DATE: February 6, 2020

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

RE: SUPPORT FOR HB 2414; Relating to Shark 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 HB 2414, which would impose penalties for anyone who knowingly captures, takes or kills sharks 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 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, 14 states have adopted similar measures following Hawaii's footsteps. HB 2414 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.
- 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.
- One quarter of shark and ray species are threatened with extinction due to overfishing and other fishing threats.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

¹ IUCN Shark Specialist Group. Questions and Answers.

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

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

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. HB 2414 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 sharks, 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.
- Sharks share life history traits that make them particularly vulnerable to overexploitation and population collapse.⁷ These include slow growth; low fecundity; 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”.⁸

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important marine conservation issue. We urge swift passage of HB 2414.

Below is a list of species of sharks that may be found in Hawaii waters.

Hawaii Shark 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

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

⁸ 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).

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

HB-2414

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 2:26:44 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Randy Fernley	Coral Fish Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

Since I've been diving over the past 45 years, I have noticed a sharp decline in the shark population on Oahu. Realizing that sharks have a low reproductive rate, I would strongly support this bill.

HB-2414

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 5:09:20 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB-2414

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 7:59:58 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Benton Kealii Pang, Ph.D.	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As a native Hawaiian, I support HB2414 because it provides added protection of an important Aumakua (family god) and marine animal.

HB-2414

Submitted on: 2/4/2020 9:55:39 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Alexandra Kahn	Surfrider Oahu	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2414

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 9:02:42 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sylvia Dolena	Aloha Animal Advocates	Support	No

Comments:

Conscious Humans must stop messing with the ecosystem and provide protection against destruction by humans.

HB-2414

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 5:16:35 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jonnetta Peters	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Aloha,

I support HB2414 Relating to Shark Protection.

Culturally, the manā (shark) is my family 'aumakua or guardian. I belong to a long line of fishers from Kane'ohe, Waimanalo on O'ahu, Kalapana, Hawai'i Island, and Ke'anae, Maui Island. As an infant, I went fishing with my dad and was placed in the pākini (floating drum) while he dived. I learned at a very young age to appreciate the diverse sealife that our waters contain. On one of these excursions, my dad was swimming in waters infested with sharks. I was screaming for him to come up because I was afraid for him. He nonchalantly surfaced and told me to be quiet because I was scaring away our dinner. That he wasn't in danger and was being protected by the sharks. He taught me that day that we shouldn't harm animals because we are afraid of them, or because we want to over catch them. There always should be a balance. He explained, once we over harvest, we might lose them forever. This lesson is one that I always treasure. I'm still afraid of sharks, but I admire them as well.

They keep our waters intact by regulating and ensuring our marine life are in balance. Our reefs need the māno to ward off the threats due to climate change and pollution. They play a vital role to the health of our reefs, ocean, and ultimately, to us.

Please pass bill HB2414.

Mahalo nui,

Jonnetta Peters

HB-2414

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 5:34:38 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB-2414

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 5:51:07 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tim Dow	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

Please support this bill, and do the right thing in protecting our sharks from useless, senseless killing.

Aloha,

Tim Dow

Waikiki

HB-2414

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 5:58:24 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

I strongly support this bill for the basic protection for sharks that would protect them from being wastefully killed.

Manā• are significantly important to me, to Hawaii, to the ecosystem, the economy, and are being wiped out around the world and even offshore Hawaii in longline fishery bycatch.

Thank you for supporting this bill and Hawaii's future and marine conservation.

HB-2414

Submitted on: 2/5/2020 6:06:53 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Buffy Nakachi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I support HB2414. We are stewards of Hawaii Nei. It is our responsibility to care for all the gifts in its lands and seas. Those who desecrate the animals and plants in Hawaii need to be held responsible for their atrocities. Sharks are one of the greatest creatures in Hawaii, and were considered sacred by the original people of Hawaii. Please pass into law House Bill 2414. Thank you.

HB-2414

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 8:51:05 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Dear Senators,

Shark populations worldwide have decreased by 90 percent in just the last 50 years and need protection. Many are faced with extinction in our lifetime. Sharks are incredibly important to the health of our Ocean's ecosystem and are extremely slow to reproduce. Also as apex predators, sharks have very high levels of mercury toxins in them and should not be consumed by humans.

There is no reason to fish and kill sharks, please help to make it illegal to purposely kill sharks

Mahalos

Juan Oliphant

Testimony Regarding HB 2414

My Name is Dr. Kim Holland. I am the founder and senior member of the Shark Research Group at the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology, University of Hawaii at Manoa. Over the past decades, our research group has contributed significantly to the conservation of Hawaii's sharks. I am presenting this testimony a private individual.

Whereas I do appreciate and endorse the changes in language suggested by DLNR regarding scientific research I must in good conscience oppose HB 2414. This is because the proposed legislation addresses a problem that does not exist – there is virtually no targeted fishing for sharks in Hawaii state waters. People are not 'knowingly fishing' for sharks. Therefore, this bill will have no impact on the health of shark populations in Hawaii state waters. Additionally, the regulations outlined in the bill are unenforceable because fishing methods used to catch sharks are identical to ways of catching other species of fish.

Further, HB 2414 could have several negative impacts. These include 1) Frivolous and/or malicious complaints concerning legitimate activities such as shark tourism, sport fishing, small scale commercial fishing and scientific research, 2) Adding additional workload to enforcement agencies who are already overstretched 3) Diminishing the impact of other more meaningful marine conservation regulations 4) Curtailing scientific research and educational activities by imposing unnecessary administrative hurdles that can change unpredictably. Regarding this last point – even though the proposed wording appears to allow scientific research where permits are "authorized by law" what this actually means is not defined – neither are terms such as "tormenting".

Broader and more substantive aspects of shark conservation (e.g., shark finning) are already covered by existing legislation.

In summary, although well intentioned the proposed regulations will have no meaningful impact and could have many unintended negative ramifications.

HB-2414

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 9:29:47 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

Please support the protection of sharks in Hawaii. Support HB2414

Globally sharks are facing severe population declines, and the global shark population has declined by 90% of that it used to be in recent decades. Certain species like the oceanic whitetip have been depleted by 99% of their former abundance. Sharks are often targeted for the growing list of shark products such as shark fin soup, shark meat sold under various names to mislead consumers, shark liver oil, cartilage supplements, pet food, fertilizer and more. They are also caught inadvertently as bycatch by commercial fisheries on a consistent basis.

Here in Hawaii, we are lucky to still have relatively stable populations of sharks, but they still face numerous challenges and threats. It is in the state's best interests to preserve these animals for future generations. Manā• (sharks) are widely respected as sacred 'aumakua, yet despite their cultural significance sharks have very little functional enforceable protection. The law should reflect the respect the native Hawaiian community has for these animals. There is a need for this bill as sharks are killed for wasteful reasons. While many incidents are not reported or common knowledge, those of us that work within the community are aware of several instances in which sharks were targeted or killed. Scalloped hammerheads (*Sphyrna lewini*) are a particular concern, as fishermen are known to use juvenile pups as bait for large fish species like ulua (*Caranx ignobilis*). An individual was cited this year for illegal lay net use in Kaneohe bay, a well known and important nursery ground for the species after he killed several baby hammerheads but the penalty was only for illegal net use, not because he killed the sharks. Scalloped hammerheads were also recently reclassified globally as critically endangered as of December 2019, but even though they are known to be so vulnerable very little protection is in place. There are several other instances where sharks were killed or left for dead after they were caught, but this is a clear example of why this type of legislation needs to be implemented.

HB-2414

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 9:34:46 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kaikea Nakachi	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

This bill will be a long overdue restoration of protection to a culturally and ecologically important species. Past shark culling efforts combined with heavy fishing pressure have reduced overall apex-predator biomass in the Main Hawaiian Islands (MHI) relative to that in the protected Northwestern Hawaiian Islands (NWHI; Friedlander and Demartini 2002). The impact of the loss of apex predators from the nearshore habitats in the MHI can cascade through the ecosystem and lead to detrimental changes in fish assemblage structure, nutrient dynamics, and coral reef resilience (Sandin et al. 2008; Barley et al. 2017). Ensuring healthy populations of apex predators is important to maintain the ecological integrity of nearshore habitats in the MHI, particularly following human-induced trophic shifts of fish assemblages and the recent unprecedented bleaching of coral in Hawai'i (Friedlander and Demartini 2002; Couch et al. 2017). Furthermore, sharks have tremendous value in traditional Hawaiian cultural practices. Sharks were among the most universally worshipped organisms as *'aumakua*, or ancestral family deities (Emerson 1892), and Tiger Sharks were likely one of the more prevalent species of potential *'aumakua* sharks (Beckwith 1917). The cultural importance of sharks to Native Hawaiians is highlighted by the existence of *kahu manā*, or shark keepers, who were responsible for the care of patron sharks and in turn were granted protection and fruitful fishing by them. The *kahu manā* ensured that the names, roles, stories, territories, and physical appearances of these patron sharks were well known to Hawaiian people (Emerson 1892; Beckwith 1917). We cannot allow further desecration of such an important species in Hawaiian waters.

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HB-2414

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 10:04:47 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB-2414

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 12:09:46 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB-2414

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 12:11:31 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
patty hermann	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2414

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 12:11:58 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 9:30:00 AM

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

Comments:

HB-2414

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 12:35:43 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Jessie Tappeiner	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

As you know, Sharks are the Apex predator of the ocean and without them, the ecosystem would be immensely compromised. At the rate things are going, 100 Million sharks are killed yearly, breaking down to 10,000+ sharks being killed around the world every hour. It's take sharks about 26-33 years to be sexually mature. If you look at the most basic fact right there, I wanna propose a question, How do you simply expect sharks to not go extinct in the future with those numbers, the killings will continue to rise and the shark population will decrease tragically. We have the power to turn this around right now by protecting sharks in Hawaii, It will be a huge step in the right direction to saving sharks and our oceans. We Need you help. I support HB2414 in protection of sharks. Mahalo nui loa!

HB-2414

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 12:46:19 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Roxane Stewart	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2414

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 1:02:16 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Tanya Aynessazian	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

I strongly support this bill to protect sharks and rays and the health of our ocean ecosystem.

Last year a bill was introduced that would prevent the purposeful killing of sharks and rays in Hawaiian waters. Over 10,000 people signed sending a strong message of support, but the bill was not passed based on the decision of one committee chair not to schedule a hearing for the bill. Today, I signed a petition on change.org to protect sharks and rays in Hawaii that had nearly 25,000 signatures on it.

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.

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

Sharks and rays not only play important ecological roles but are also valued figures in Hawaiian culture and are important economically to ocean recreation industries and to tourism in Hawaii. Sharks or manā are regarded in high honor as Hawaiian 'aumakua or family guardians and ancestors.

HB-2414

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 2:44:16 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 9:30:00 AM

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Julie Stowell	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

todd2 - Jacob

From: Laura Pagano <laurapagano2001@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 1:28 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: I support HB2414

As a young person who has been lucky enough to have seen sharks up close in real life I can't imagine future generations and my children not being able to experience the beauty that is sharks. Help preserve the ocean and let future generations see marine life like we have

todd2 - Jacob

From: Simone Matucci <mantadiver84@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 1:07 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: I Support HB2414

Aloha, my name is Simone Matucci and I am a Hawaii resident living in the Kona district of the Big Island. I am writing you to show my SUPPORT for HB2414, in favor of increasing shark protection by preventing the intentional wasteful killing of sharks here in Hawaii.

Sharks are both ecologically (as apex predators keeping the entire balance of the marine ecosystem intact) and economically (through ecotourism) vital to not only Hawaii, but to the world. Without sharks the oceans will collapse - and everyone and everything depends on the ocean for life.

Please show your support for sharks by supporting HB2414. Let's allow Hawaii to be the role model for the rest of the world to follow.

Mahalo for your time and consideration,
Simone Matucci
Big Island, Hawaii

todd2 - Jacob

From: Kimberly Hermann <kimberswim1@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 12:01 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2414
Attachments: HB2414 SUPPORT.docx

Aloha, please find attached my testimony of SUPPORT for HB2414 for shark protection.

Mahalo for your time & consideration in the matter,
Kimberly Matucci
Big Island, Hawaii

To the Attention of the Hawaii State Legislature:

Aloha, my name is Kimberly Matucci and I am a current resident of the Kona district of the Big Island of Hawaii. I am a marine biologist specializing in sharks and have worked in the dive industry as well for the past 12 years. **I am writing you today in SUPPORT of HB2414 that would prohibit intentional wasteful killing of sharks in Hawaii.** I urge you to please SUPPORT this profoundly impactful bill today.

I am deeply concerned with the worldwide status of sharks in our time. Shark populations around the world have plummeted to a miniscule fraction of what they used to be, causing other species to also exhibit a severe decline or even disappear entirely. The decimation of these apex predators is not only catastrophic for sharks but for the entire ocean ecosystem. The vital role that sharks hold in the ocean is arguably of the greatest importance of all ocean species in regard to health and equilibrium. Sharks maintain the balance of the ocean by keeping the food chain in check (ensuring that no one particular trophic level booms uncontrollably), eliminating the sick and weak from the gene pool and forcing grazing fishes to span out and not over-graze one particular area. Without sharks, the oceans will inevitably collapse. Sharks also play a monumental role in ecotourism being worth far more alive than dead (both ecologically and economically). People travel from all over the world in hopes of diving with sharks here in Hawaiian waters. Sharks also hold a significant value in Hawaiian culture that dates back centuries.

Sharks are being killed at such a rapid rate worldwide that tragically if we do not intervene immediately and drastically, there will be no coming back for shark species -- and no coming back for the ocean as well. Here in Hawaii, sharks are being killed either through bycatch or for wasteful purposes. You have the chance to end this, here and now, and to help save sharks from their demise. Lets let Hawaii act as a role model for the rest of the world to look up to.

I urge you to please SUPPORT HB2414, prohibiting the intentional wasteful killing of sharks in Hawaii. I thank you for your time and consideration.

Mahalo & kind regards,
Kimberly Matucci

Contact details are as follows:

808-640-7409

73-3712 Kaimalolo Place, Kailua Kona, 96740 Hawaii

todd2 - Jacob

From: Giulia Cecchi <giulia_cecchi07@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 11:25 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: Support of HB 2414

I strongly support HB 2414.

There is no other animal as important as sharks. The ocean is what makes our planet work, and sharks regulate the health of our oceans. So don't we rely and are somehow connected to sharks?

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

But apart their biological and vital importance, they are majestic animals, and need to be protected, rather than killed.

Ecotourism activities with sharks are sustaining the local economy of many places around the world. A place where I was working last year, Exmouth, in Western Australia, is a great example: the whale sharks swim eco tours are contributing, if not completely sustaining, the industry of the town of Exmouth.

I am a shark conservationist, so I speak from the heart.

But it is science to prove their importance.

And it is love to prove their promotion.

We can't afford anymore to accept killing those animals as an economic advantage.

Sharks population will massively be affected from it, and so the ocean, and so us.

I support HB 2414, and the long term protection of one of the most important and beautiful creatures of our planet.

Thank you for taking the time to consider my words.

Kind Regards,

Giulia Cecchi
from Italy

todd2 - Jacob

From: james lambert <james_lambert@live.co.uk>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 11:00 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: I Support HB2414

Sharks are imperative and vital to the overall health of the oceans. Hawaii has a rich abundance of them within its shores and can provide a wealth of eco tourism to the islands if they are protected rather than demonized.

Please help!!!!

todd2 - Jacob

From: Brooke Cleveland <spritebc@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 9:59 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: Support HB 2414

Aloha!

Please protect sharks. I believe they are integral to our ocean ecosystems. They are being fished out rapidly, misunderstood, and generally victims of prejudice. Sharks need all the help we can give them. I support HB 2414.

Thanks for your time.

Brooke Cleveland

Get [Outlook for iOS](#)

todd2 - Jacob

From: Sunshine Eckstrom <silvercanyonequine@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 9:57 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: I support HB2414

Please support HB2414 to help protect sharks and in turn our ocean ecosystems.

Thank you,

Sunshine Eckstrom, DVM
Silver Canyon Equine

todd2 - Jacob

From: b.thompson1222@gmail.com
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 9:23 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: Support for hb2414

I strongly support SB2717. Sharks have tremendous value, in the form of both ecological and economic importance. They are more valuable alive both to the states economy and environment. Sharks are top level predators that regulate prey abundance, behavior, and help maintain healthy ecosystems. Locations around the world where sharks have been removed are correlated with degradation of local reefs, reduced ecosystem diversity and function. Sharks also represent significant economic value as as sustainable non-extractive resource in the form of ecotourism. Some programs have even been scientifically proven to positively impact conservation behavior for participants after experiencing and learning about these animals firsthand. Despite population declines of 90-99% for some species in other parts of the world, Hawaii's isolation and traditional respect for sharks (Manō) as sacred 'aumakua in Hawaiian culture has resulted in relatively stable populations of sharks remaining in Hawaiian waters. However, studies suggest these populations are depleted in comparison to areas like the Northwest Hawaiian islands where sharks and other large fish species are largely abundant. Sources also suggest these depleted populations are in decline. Purposefully killing sharks or not releasing them when they are caught by mistake is a relatively common occurrence, and this bill would take the first step towards providing basic much needed protections for these vulnerable yet important predators.

Blake Thompson

todd2 - Jacob

From: Taylor Walston <taylorwalston@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 9:34 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: SUPPORT OF HB 2414

Sharks and rays need to be protected. The health of our oceans and eco systems depends on it! We need your help.
Please pass HB 2414

Taylor Walston
4243869299

Sent from my iPhone

todd2 - Jacob

From: Kayleigh Grant <kayleighngrant@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 9:21 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: I support HB2414

Aloha to whom it may concern,

I am writing in today as an independent Marine biologist urging you to pass HB2414 for shark and ray protection. 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). Hawaii is often looked at as a leader in environmental and conservation issues and I believe we should show our aumakua the same regard. 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) so it's very hard for them to repopulate when they are decimated. Hawaii is still recovering from the large scale culling or killing of tiger sharks between 1959-1976. 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.

--

Mahalo and Aloha,

Kayleigh Grant
(215)2085432
KayleighNGrant@gmail.com
Farawayseas.com
OneOceanDiving.com

todd2 - Jacob

From: Bennett, Amanda <amanda.bennett@ecolab.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 9:16 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: I support HB2414

To Whom It May Concern,

I support HB2414 because sharks are the heartbeat of our ecosystem. Without them, our oceans would not have a chance to be healthy which would affect every other living, breathing thing on this earth. Humans have done enough damage to this ecosystem already, be apart of the change in conserving what we can while we still have a chance.

Sincerely,
Amanda Bennett

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todd2 - Jacob

From: Emilie Allum <eallum15@apu.edu>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 9:12 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: I Support HB2414

Save the sharks!

todd2 - Jacob

From: Kyla Godfrey <kylamgodfrey@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 9:06 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: I SUPPORT HB2414

I Strongly support HB2414. Sharks are not only a fascinating species to all of mankind they are a vital piece in the function of the marine ecosystems around the world. Sharks are not only necessary to the continued balance of that ecosystem, they are also necessary to teach the world how to coexist even when we are frightened. As the acting immune system of the ocean i feel it is necessary to protect sharks at all costs to maintain the delicate balance of the largest ecosystem on the entire planet.

-Kyla Godfrey
Resident of Oahu, Hawaii

todd2 - Jacob

From: Jana Westermann-Blawert <JanaWB@gmx.de>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 9:05 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: Support of HB 2414

I strongly support HB 2414. Sharks and rays are a vital component of healthy marine ecosystems that have experienced rapid declines throughout the last decades. As apex predators sharks are at the top of the food chain, therefore maintaining balance of the ecosystem by regulating abundance of marine life in lower trophic levels and acting as the immune system of our oceans by picking off the weak, sick and overpopulated keeping fish stocks healthy.

Thank you,
Jana Westermann-Blawert!

--

Diese Nachricht wurde von meinem Android Mobiltelefon mit GMX Mail gesendet.

todd2 - Jacob

From: erin adams <erintadams47@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 9:04 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: I support HB2414

I support HB2414

todd2 - Jacob

From: Andriana Fragola <andriana.fragola@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 8:59 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: I support HB2414

Aloha,

Sharks are incredible important animals for our oceans ecosystem, and are deeply important in Hawaiian culture. They are facing a mass extinction world wide and there is not a huge population left to save. Please help pass this bill to protect them.

Mahalo,

todd2 - Jacob

From: Iwana Vasileva <cell_c@abv.bg>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 8:49 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: I Support HB2414

I Support HB2414



LATE

HB2414
RELATING TO SHARK PROTECTION
Ke Kōmike Hale o ka Wai, ka 'Āina, a me ke Kuleana Hawai'i

Pepeluali 7, 2020

9:30 a.m.

Lumi 325

The Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** HB2414, which would prohibit the killing, capturing, or otherwise harming of any shark 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 species may hold special cultural significance for Native Hawaiians. For example, sharks are recognized as kinolau for Kū and Kanaloa, and certain individuals and species can be regarded as 'aumakua by some families. Sharks 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 sharks in state waters.**

OHA notes that sharks 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.

Accordingly, OHA urges the Committee to **PASS** HB2414. Mahalo nui for the opportunity to testify on this measure.

HB-2414

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 7:35:31 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kealoha Pisciotta	Mauna Kea Anaina Hou and Kai Palaoa	Support	No

Comments:

We strongly support protecting our Ocean Ohana such as Sharks and Rays. I also support Native Hawaiian Cultural and Traditional Practices such as the use of Sharks skins for the making of customary and traditional Hula drums and implementations.

Aloha and Mahalo for your consideration,

Kealoha Pisciotta

President, Mauna Kea Anaina Hou and Founder Of Kai Palaoa (a marine protection organization).

LATE

Aloha-

After passing through all readings with overwhelming support, there was no reason for Hawaii's 2019 shark protection bills not to pass. However instead of forwarding HB808 to the Governor's office it was squashed by House Chair Ryan Yamane who claimed, "Shark experts at UH said they aren't a targeted species." After over 10 years of local, domestic & international fisheries experience, I would like to clarify several misrepresentations.

Ironically UH's Dr. Kim Holland & the fish auction's Cynthia Takenaka had a non-transparent meeting with Rep. Yamane just before the bill being pulled. It was confirmed by UH that Dr. Holland is not allowed to represent UH nor any sub-organization such as HIMB, the Hawaii Institute of Marine Biology. (email confirmations available if needed)

In looking at Dr. Holland's email testimony, he does use his UH email address during University hours. His testimonies are full of unsubstantiated statements such as "sharks aren't targeted" which Rep. Ryan Yamane seemed to recite.

Other than responsible by-catch fishery interactions with sharks, Holland seems to be confused with the interpretation of harassing sharks. His studies are based on hooking, dragging, lassoing, cutting, drilling, flipping, etc sharks just to tag & track them. This describes harassing sharks even though the protection proposals allow for research permits. Shark taggers claim their research is conservation based, yet no human nor any sharks have yet to be saved. In fact shark killings have been documented as a result of these tagging methods.

To clarify sharks are targeted in Hawaii, one can google "Hawaii shark fishing charter" or "Waikiki midnight Shark Hunt" and the following pop up:

-<https://www.sportfishkauai.com/shark-fishing/> (picture of endangered Thresher Shark)

-<http://kewaloharbor.com/companies/sashimi-ii-sport-fishing/> (call 955-FISH to book)

Dr. Holland is not representing UH/HIMB but the commercial fisheries which targets sharks.

I hope legislation can be diligent this time around. Shark protections laws need to be implemented and are only the tip of the iceberg in an effort to cleanup and sustain Hawaii's fishery and ecosystem.

Mahalo

Paul Friese

Hawaii, USA

Bali Sharks (World Record) Rescue Center

Marine Rescue & Restoration Management



SHARK HUNT



Take a walk on the wild side

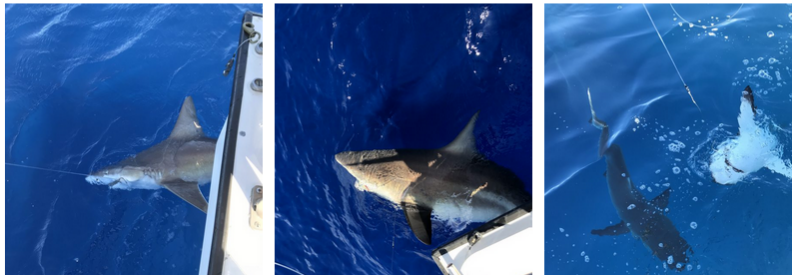
Lahela Sportfishing offers **(PRIVATE CHARTER ONLY)** deep sea fishing on Kauai for Shark's. Your trip will depart from Nawiliwili small boat harbor in search of assorted species of sharks (Tiger, Hammerhead, Gray Reef, Sandbar, and others - 5-7 foot average size). All fishing is done off the Kauai east shore.

Sharks are usually very aggressive when hooked and combined with their jumping skills, the Pacific Mako shark makes for an exciting challenge. Hawaii gray reef sharks average 5-7 feet long but a large Tiger shark can reach 12 feet long. Some of the largest Tiger sharks are found in Hawaiian waters.

They are deep ocean swimmers and hunters but are commonly found inshore. A shark's diet includes school fish, tuna, mackerel, reef fish and dolphins.

Sharks are not picky eaters when hungry, eating almost anything in their path. Their teeth are fierce and resemble curved knives, aiding to the "meanness" of their appearance. They are fighters and dangerous. Lahela's skilled and experienced crew will do their very best to assure an adrenaline pumped successful shark hunt!

All sharks are released on this conservation minded trip which is designed to allow anglers the thrill of interaction with these large apex predators of the sea without contributing to their demise.



Home » Oahu Fishing » **Midnight Shark Hunt**



Sightseeing Fishing Gear

Sashimi Midnight Shark Hunt

Shark Fishing - Night Shark Hunt off Waikiki

Catch and release sharks on this 3 hour night shark hunt. Anglers will leave Kewalo Basin and hunt, raise, angle, and release assorted species of sharks including Tiger, Hammerhead, Gray Reef, Sandbar, and others. All sharks are released on this conservation minded trip which is designed to allow anglers the thrill of interaction with these large apex predators of the sea without contributing to their demise.

The trip runs on the Sashimi II, which also offers a daytime or evening bottom fishing trip.

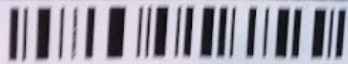
The hunt is **\$125.00 per person** plus tax. The trip usually runs with a minimum of 4 people and a max of about 12. You can sign up for a trip with less than 4 people, the boat just needs to get more people in order to run the trip (we will do our best to get enough to run the trip). Large groups can be accommodated as a private trip, please call or email for information. Trip check in is at 10:00pm with the boat returning at about 1:00am (note, trip times are approximate) All fishing is done off Oahu's South shore. Be sure to bring your camera as this is a great photo opportunity. The price includes pick-up and drop-off at Waikiki hotels, all the necessary gear. The boat provides juice and water. Anglers are welcome to bring their own food and beverages (alcohol is OK) if desired.



SDR II
SEA DRAGON II

12/21/16 5:20
REC ID 49321

CART # R1001



MAKO

227

PIECES



FISH ID 0362**2557**

CHIEF OF FISHERY AGENCY

Shark death

1 message

LEIGHTON TAYLOR <megamouthone@gmail.com>

Fri, Apr 26, 2019 at 10:09 AM

To: ~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX@gmail.com~~

Cc: Paul Friese <pfhawaii@gmail.com>

~~XXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXXX~~ could you pls pass this to ~~XXXXXX~~ I don't seem to have his email. Thanks.Hi ~~XXXXXX~~

This worthy bill to help sharks is almost past the Leg. (URL at end of msge gives full text of it).

At the last minute, people who should know better (e.g. Carl Maier (sp?) and Kim Holland, both of HIMB, are telling Ige and a lead legislator to kill it. I think that's a bad idea

I can only figure that they (esp Maier) are worried about getting research permits to catch and tag. The bill specifically permits such research take. I think the fact that Maier occasionally kills sharks causes him to be very concerned.

You have told me of an incident on the Seacher in the NWHI when Carl had to stop his research agenda because of a shark death.

Is that incident documented anywhere? Can you or others relate it in detail to provide to the opposing legislator? I understand you may not want your name associated with it, so it could be attributed to "people present at the time".

My lead on this is Shark Conservationist, friend and neighbor, Paul Friese. Paul is an environmental activist and has long had a shark rescue and education program in Bali.

I am copying him on this message and he may address you separately.

Thanks for any help you can give,

Leighton

• [link @ https://www.civilbeat.org/projects/the-shark-chasers/](https://www.civilbeat.org/projects/the-shark-chasers/) •

A BILL FOR AN ACT

RELATED TO SHARK AND RAY PROTECTION.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF HAWAII:

SECTION 1. The legislature finds that 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.

[link @ https://www.civilbeat.org/projects/the-shark-chasers/](https://www.civilbeat.org/projects/the-shark-chasers/)

HB-2414

Submitted on: 2/6/2020 7:19:38 PM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 9:30:00 AM

LATE

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

Comments:

HB-2414

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 2:11:45 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Eva Bendesky	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2414

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 2:25:29 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 9:30:00 AM

LATE

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sydney Bendesky	Individual	Support	No

Comments:

HB-2414

Submitted on: 2/7/2020 4:17:56 AM

Testimony for WLH on 2/7/2020 9:30:00 AM



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

Comments:

LATE Email Testimony in support of HB2414

LATE

Lili Mathias
Grace McNally
Jamie Potter
Chelsea Miller
Reese Lowe
Sarah Borell
Andre Borell
Hunter Dew
Oksana Savchenko
Lucie Villette
Charlotte Goudouneix
Jennifer Michaels
Lachlan Paine

todd2 - Jacob

From: Lili M. <ailish.mathias@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 7:22 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF HB2414



IN SUPPORT of HB2414

todd2 - Jacob

From: Grace McNally <contortiongirl103@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:45 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF HB2414

LATE

todd2 - Jacob

From: Jamie Potter <jpotter2710@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 4:24 AM
To: wlhtestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov; WLHtestimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT of HB2414



I'm in support of HB2414!

Support the reef ecosystem by placing a fine on fishing for sharks deliberately or otherwise.

Jamie Potter
+1 (345) 547-0492 (CI)
+44 7542 194 193 (UK)
60 Arley Hill, Bristol BS6 5PP

todd2 - Jacob

From: Chelsea Miller <crockadile@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 7, 2020 12:26 AM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF HB2414



Save the sharks !

todd2 - Jacob

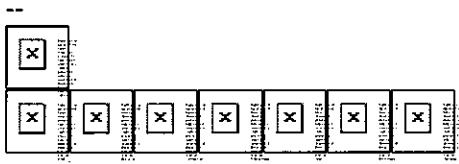
From: Reese Lowe <reese@thehypeproject.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 11:03 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of HB2414



I write this email in support of house bill 2414

Regards

Reese Lowe



todd2 - Jacob

From: Sarah Borell <sarah.a.borell@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 11:03 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In support of HB2414

LATE

I write this email in support of HB2414

Regards

Sarah Borell

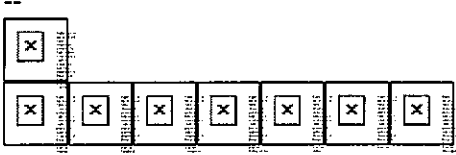
todd2 - Jacob

From: Andre Borell <andre@thehypeproject.com.au>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 11:02 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: In Support of HB2414



I write this email to support House Bill 2414.

Thank you,
Andre



todd2 - Jacob

From: Hunter Dew <hunterdew97@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 10:22 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: HB2414



In support of HB2414

todd2 - Jacob

From: Oksana Savchenko <oxana.s@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 10:14 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT OF HB2414



IN SUPPORT OF HB2414

Kind Regards,

Oksana

todd2 - Jacob

From: VILLETTE Lucie <lucie.villette38@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 9:41 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: I support HB2414



I support HB2414

todd2 - Jacob

From: charlotte.goudouneix@latecoere.aero
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 9:25 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: IN SUPPORT of HB2414



todd2 - Jacob

From: michaels.jennifer66 <michaels.jennifer66@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 7:10 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: I Support HB2414



To whom it may concern,

I would like to submit my testimony in support of HB2414. Sharks are an important part of our ocean ecosystem, and it is our job to preserve our environment and speak for those who have no voice. Please suppose HB2414.

Thank you,
Jennifer Michael's

Sent from my Sprint Samsung Galaxy S10e.

todd2 - Jacob

From: lachlan paine <lachlanpaine22@outlook.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 6, 2020 5:56 PM
To: WLHtestimony
Subject: "I Support HB2414"



Mahalo nui loa!
Get [Outlook for iOS](#)