

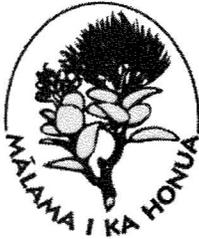
har3-Megan

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2010 12:36 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: robertharris@mac.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 3/15/2010 10:00:00 AM
Attachments: SB 2169 (SD2, HD1) - Shark Fins.pdf

Testimony for WLO 3/15/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: Robert D. Harris
Organization: Sierra Club, Hawai`i Chapter
Address: P.O. Box 2577 Honolulu, HI
Phone: 8085386616
E-mail: robertharris@mac.com
Submitted on: 3/14/2010

Comments:



Sierra Club Hawai'i Chapter

PO Box 2577, Honolulu, HI 96803

808.538.6616 hawaii.chapter@sierraclub.org

HOUSE COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, & OCEAN RESOURCES

March 15, 2010, 10:00 A.M.

(Testimony is 1 page long)

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF SB 2169 (SD2, HD1) WITH A PROPOSED AMENDMENT

Aloha Chair Ito and members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Chapter of the Sierra Club **supports** SB 2169 (SD2, HD1), which solves one of the primary obstacles to eliminating shark finning by prohibiting the possession of shark fins without the actual shark body. In order to further the intent of this bill, we do suggest a proposed amendment that tries to limit a potential loophole (see page 2).

Shark finning is the practice of hacking off the shark's fins and throwing its still living body back into the sea. The sharks either starve to death, are eaten alive by other fish, or drown (if they are not in constant movement their gills cannot extract oxygen from the water). Shark fins are being "harvested" in ever greater numbers to feed the growing demand for shark fin soup.



Not only is the finning of sharks barbaric, but their indiscriminate slaughter at an unsustainable rate is pushing many species to the brink of extinction. Since the 1970s the populations of several species have been decimated by over 95%. Due to the clandestine nature of finning, records are rarely kept of the numbers of sharks and species caught.

Although shark finning has been banned -- both nationally and here in Hawai'i -- the lack of enforcement has greatly limited the impact of these laws. This bill takes the next step and simply stops the indiscriminate act of harvesting only the shark fins.

Please give sharks a break and pass out SB 2169. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify.

Proposed Amendment:

As noted by the prior Committee, there are concerns that the exceptions drafted are too broad (the Committee Report requested this Committee “examine concerns that the exceptions added by your Committee should be narrowed to remove potential loopholes and strengthen the law”).

To this end, we suggest amending page 3, line 6 to state:

“distribute any shark or part of a shark unless the person can conclusively establish:”

And page 3, lines 9 - 12 to state:

“The shark was harvested in waters where shark fishing is legally permitted.”

har3-Megan

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2010 11:09 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: geo.audubon@yahoo.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 3/15/2010 10:00:00 AM
Attachments: SB2169,SD2,HD1_Shark Finning_WLO_3.15.10.doc

Testimony for WLO 3/15/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: Yes
Submitted by: George Massengale
Organization: Hawaii Audubon Society
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: geo.audubon@yahoo.com
Submitted on: 3/14/2010

Comments:



For the Protection of Hawaii's Native Wildlife
HAWAII AUDUBON SOCIETY

850 Richards Street, Suite 505, Honolulu, HI 96813-4709
Phone/Fax: (808) 528-1432; hiaudsoc@pixi.com
www.hawaiiudubon.com

March 13, 2010

TO: Committee on Water, Land, & Ocean Resources
Representative Ken Ito, Chair
Representative Sharon Har, Vice Chair

HEARING: Monday, March 15, 2010; 10:00 A.M., Conference Rm. 325

Re: SB2169, SD2, HD1 – Relating to Shark Fins

TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT

Chair Ito, Vice Chair Har, and members of the Committee on Land, Water, & Ocean Resources. On behalf of the Hawai'i Audubon Society, I offer this testimony in support of SB2169, SD2, HD1 which would prohibit the harvest, possession, sale, or distribution of shark or shark parts unless landed whole and harvested under a commercial marine license or noncommercial permit.

For the past 71 years, the Hawai'i Audubon Society's mission has been the protection of Hawai'i's native birds, wildlife and habitats, and our ocean resources; and the restoration of endemic ecosystems. The Society has an established and active partnership with the Pacific Fisheries Coalition, and together we have advocated for various measures that protect our oceans and coastal waters from the Big Island of Hawai'i to Kure in the Northwestern Hawaiian Islands.

The Audubon Society fully concurs with the hundreds of individuals and organizations that have offered prior testimony that shark finning is wasteful and causes the destruction of 100 to 200 million sharks per year.

As predators, sharks have evolved to play an important role in controlling the population of prey, especially those in the upper echelons of the food chain. Their disappearance in various locations has resulted in the collapse of entire marine food webs. The overfishing of sharks, cascades into a sudden uprising of the species they prey on; causing an abundance of skates, rays and smaller sharks, which then steadily devastate populations of animals further down the food chain, like shellfish. In Tasmania, the demise of sharks led to the collapse of the spiny lobster industry. In our own Chesapeake Bay, excessive shark hunting led to a decline in the population of scallops and clams resulting in clam chowder being removed from the menu in restaurants across the East Coast for a period of time.

We believe that the current measure now addresses many of the legal concerns that were articulated during previous hearings. We would urge the committee to pass this bill for further consideration by the Judiciary Committee.

Sincerely,

George Massengale, JD
Legislative Analyst

har3-Megan

From: Marjorie Ziegler [mz@conservehi.org]
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 6:05 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Subject: SB 2169 SD 1 HD 1 shark fins testimony attached for Monday am.
Attachments: SB 2169 SD 2 HD 1.pdf

Mahalo.



Conservation Council for Hawai'i

Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Water, Land and Ocean Resources

SB 2169 SD 2 HD 1 Relating to Shark Fins
Hearing: Monday, March 15, 2010 10 am Room 325

In support of SB 2169 SD 2 HD 1

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports SB 2169 SD 2 HD 1, which prohibits the harvest, possession, sale, trade, transfer, or distribution of a shark or parts of a shark unless the shark is: (A) landed whole; (B) harvested under a commercial marine license or a noncommercial permit for bona fide research, propagation, or resource conservation; and (C) harvested in federal waters, on the high seas, or in state waters where shark fishing is permitted; (2) specifies that information to be provided in connection with a noncommercial permit, includes among other things, the vessel registration number, location where the shark was caught, and a description of the shark; (3) reinstates the penalty of forfeiture; and (4) prohibits under the Hawaii Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act, the possession, sale, delivery for sale, holding for sale, or offering for sale of any shark fin or part of any shark fin.

The practice of removing fins from live sharks and throwing the sharks back into the water is wasteful and unnecessary. We have heard only 10% of the shark fins that come into the state are actually sold or consumed here, and that 90% are transported elsewhere. Therefore, this bill should not cause economic hardship on anyone here in Hawai'i.

We should not allow shark finning or the sale or distribution of shark fins in our state. Nor should we wait until the federal government prohibits such fins from entering our state, or from being imported to America. Instead, we should send a strong message that we will not encourage or reward this practice in Hawai'i. Our understanding is that, although shark finning is banned in the Atlantic (including the Gulf of Mexico and Caribbean Sea), shark fins currently enter Hawai'i ports (unattached to the carcasses) because of a loophole in the federal law and a federal court interpretation in the 9th Circuit that allows the fins to be transferred from a shark-fishing boat to a boat that does not contain fishing gear. Shark fins are also imported to Hawai'i and this country via non-fishing boats, such as container ships and the like.

Please pass SB 2169 SD 2 HD 1. Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler



Hawai'i's Voice for Wildlife – *Ko Leo Hawai'i no na holoholona lohiu*

Telephone/Fax 808.593.0255 • email: info@conservehi.org • web: www.conservehi.org
P.O. Box 2923 • Honolulu, HI 96802 • Office: 250 Ward Ave., Suite 212 • Honolulu, HI 96814
President: Maura O'Connor * Treasurer: Kim Ramos * Secretary: Douglas Lamerson
Directors: Madelyn D'Enbeau * Maka'ala Ka'aumoana * Hannah Springer
Executive Director: Marjorie Ziegler

har3-Megan

From: Luke Tipple [luke@luketipple.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 13, 2010 9:30 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Subject: *****SPAM***** WLO House committee Hearing Monday, March 15, 2010 10 am
Attachments: bottom.letterhead.gif

It is narrow minded to continue to ignore the perils facing sharks in our oceans. Weather it is for cultural reasons or not the sale of shark products not directly related to meat is not sustainable and we should employ all measures possible to end this practice. the practice of shark finning needs to end, period. Much as the 70's and 80's were a period of whale conservation, forward thinking governments must pay attention to the dire status of many shark species and make the sale of these products illegal.

RE: WLO House committee Hearing Monday, March 15, 2010 10 am
ATTN: Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
Rep, Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Measure: SB2169, SD1, HD1 IN SUPPORT

Cheers,

Luke Tipple
Production Consultant
Director of the Shark Free Marina Initiative

www.luketipple.com
www.sharkfreemarinas.com
www.sharkdivers.com

USA - (619) 565 0208



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har3-Megan

From: Inga Gibson [igibson@humanesociety.org]
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2010 10:08 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Subject: WLO Testimony 3-15-10. 10am, Rm 325, SB2169 SUPPORT
Attachments: image001.gif; WLO Testimony 3-15-10, 10am, Rm 325, SB 2169; SUPPORT.doc

Thank you for your attention to the attached testimony for the WLO hearing at 10am, Rm 325, Monday, March 15, in support of SB 2169; relating to shark fins.

Mahalo, Inga

Inga Gibson

Hawaii State Director, Western Regional Office

igibson@humanesociety.org

t 808-922-9910 f 808-922-9911

The Humane Society of the United States

P.O. Box 89131, Honolulu, HI 96830

humanesociety.org

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**THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES**

TO: Honorable Chair Ito, Vice-Chair Har

COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND AND OCEAN RESOURCES

DATE: Monday, March 15, 2010, 10:00am Rm 325

RE: Testimony in SUPPORT of SB 2169 SD 2 HD 1; Relating to Shark Fins

Submitted by: Inga Gibson, Hawaii State Director, The Humane Society of the United States,
P.O. Box 89131, Honolulu, HI 96830, igibson@hsus.org, 808-922-9910

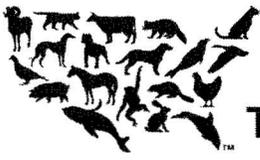
Dear Chair Ito, Vice-Chair Har and Committee Members,

On behalf of our more than 49,315 members and supporters in Hawaii, The Humane Society of the United States (HSUS) thanks you for your past support on House measures (HB 1775) related to shark-finning, and respectfully urges your support of SB 2169; prohibiting the sale and distribution of shark fins.

Each year, tens of millions of sharks are caught, have their fins sliced off, and are then thrown back into the ocean-- dead or dying, to supply the high demand for shark fin soup. From 1991 to 1996 alone, as the price of fins doubled, the shark catch reported at Hawaii's docks jumped 22-fold: from an estimated 200,000 pounds to 4.5 million pounds. Experts note that shark-finning is a major contributing factor to the global decline of shark species, including the Blue Shark, which, according to the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, is near threatened globally due to demand for their fins. In addition, this week the Parties to the UN Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species (CITES) will meet to decide whether to protect three hammerhead species who are harvested for their fins throughout the Pacific, and whose populations are now in serious decline.

Hawaii has been a leader in establishing strong legislation and enforcement mechanisms to prevent sharks from being finned, however, loopholes remain. For example, in 2002 the U.S. Coast Guard confiscated more than 32 tons of shark fins from the King Diamond II, a vessel operating out of Hawaii. The vessel fought this seizure in court and won its case due to an unintended loophole in the law that applies only to "fishing" vessels and not all vessels. This exposure of a serious weakness in the regulations prompted a reassessment of the existing Federal law, which relied upon an imprecise weight ratio of fins to carcasses in order to detect violations of the law.

In response to this, the National Marine Fisheries Service implemented regulations that require federal shark fisheries in the Atlantic Ocean and Gulf of Mexico to land sharks with their fins still naturally attached. Atlantic states followed suit. Congress is now in the process of considering the Shark Conservation Act (H.R. 81/S. 850), which has been passed by the House of Representatives and the Senate Commerce Committee, and which also stipulates that all sharks should be landed with their fins naturally attached.



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

Unfortunately, even with Hawaii's current "fins- attached" law and the future passage of the federal Shark Conservation Act, loopholes and enforcement challenges remain. The best way to ensure the necessary protection of sharks, and ultimately, the health and future of our ocean is to prohibit the sale and distribution of shark fins and products containing fins, and only allow for the take of certain species of sharks which are not harvested for their fins.

The HSUS and Humane Society International worked with the Department of Land and Natural Resources; Division of Aquatic Resources and other stakeholder organizations to introduce amendments (reflected in HD 1) to ensure balanced and effective enforcement and to provide the most protection for sharks. These amendments include allowing for the harvest of mako and thresher species, which are the primary by-catch of commercial fisheries and are harvested for their meat, rather than their fins, and a non-commercial permitting process for the take of sharks for bona fide research, propagation or conservation purposes. The proposed also retains our state's existing "fins-attached" policy that requires sharks be landed whole. At the recommendation of the Department of Land and Natural Resources, retail enforcement falls to the Hawaii Department of Health.

Across the world, Hawaii is renowned for its precious marine life--passage of this legislation would rightfully make Hawaii the nation's leader in shark and ocean protection (please see below Star-Bulletin Editorial, 3.11.10)

Thank you for the opportunity to comment on this most important measure. We urge your support of SB 2169.



THE HUMANE SOCIETY
OF THE UNITED STATES

www.starbulletin.com > Editorials >

EDITORIAL

Impose shark fin ban

POSTED: 01:30 a.m. HST, Mar 11, 2010

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The 175 countries that have signed on to an environmental treaty will be asked this month to ban the continuing slaughter of certain shark species — but economic opposition is not likely to be overcome. Hawaii legislators must take it upon themselves to prohibit restaurants from serving soup containing shark fins, the main ingredient behind the slaughter.

The Pew Environmental Group will call for the worldwide ban at the Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species of Wild Fauna and Flora, or CITES, to be held in Qatar March 13-25. The Obama administration has decided to support protection of the endangered Atlantic bluefin tuna.

Greater efforts are needed to protect species of hammerhead, oceanic whitetip and blue sharks, whose fins can sell for \$300 per pound. The fins are the central ingredient in soups sold as a Chinese delicacy on special occasions and by some Hawaii restaurants for as much as \$45 a bowl. A recent study estimates that 73 million sharks per year are killed for their fins; their bodies are commonly discarded alive back to the sea.

"It's the Wild West out there," Susan Liebermann, director of the Pew group, told the Atlantic magazine. "The attitude is, 'Help yourselves.' Unfortunately there are not enough sharks out there for everyone to help themselves."

Lieberman says the removal of sharks also could lead to an explosion of smaller predatory fish and their prey, crashing the entire ecosystem.

The U.S. House last year approved a bill that would prohibit the removal of shark fins at sea and close loopholes in the current finning law that allows fins removed in the ocean to be left in the ocean to drown, starve to death or be eaten by other fish. A Senate version of the bill is pending.

These delays should prompt the Hawaii Legislature to do what it can to discourage the heinous activity at sea. A bill introduced by Sen. Clayton Hee would outlaw possession of shark fins entirely, fining violators up to \$15,000.

The 2000 Legislature enacted a prohibition against knowingly harvesting shark fins from the state's territorial waters, limiting the harvesting of fins to sharks landed in whole. Hawaii's longline fleet catch about 60,000 sharks a year, according to Linda Paul of the Hawaii Audubon Society. The 2000 law essentially requires that all parts of a shark should be harvested.

Restricting what can happen in the ocean is one avenue against shark finning in its most inhumane, and wasteful, form of harvest. Just as important is what happens at the consumer end, which Hawaii legislators can control: A ban on possession of shark fins would effectively take them off the menu and help maintain balance in the ocean's ecosystem.

har3-Megan

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2010 3:02 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: aabaer@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 3/15/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 3/15/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 325
Testifier position:
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Andrea Baer
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: aabaer@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/14/2010

Comments:

Please ban shark finning. The practice is brutal and inhuman, as well as upsetting to the ocean's delicate ecosystem, which is why other countries of the world have banned it.

har3-Megan

From: Carole Crist [chorse@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2010 4:44 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Subject: WLO House committee Hearing Monday, March 15, 2010 10 am

RE: WLO House committee Hearing Monday, March 15, 2010 10 am
ATTN: Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
Rep, Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Measure: SB2169, SD1, HD1 IN SUPPORT

Dear Chairman Ito and Committee members,

Please continue to support an enforceable ban on the practice of Shark fining in Hawaiian waters. The practice of Shark fining is barbaric and has no place in civilized society. Shark fins are not food. I humbly plead for your support of this measure and ask you to think of the global impact this can have on shark populations and the health of the ocean environment. It is vital that the shark is protected and does not become extinct. It is vital that Hawaii is a leader in ocean conservation.

Most Sincerely,
Carole Crist
92-1447 Palahia St
Kapolei, HI 96707

har3-Megan

From: Keith Swindle [kaspdx@juno.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2010 12:23 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Subject: SB 2169 SD 2 HD 1 Relating to Shark Fins

Aloha,

I support SB 2169 SD 2 HD 1, which, among other things, makes it unlawful for any person in the state to harvest, possess, sell, trade, transfer, or distribute a shark or parts of a shark unless the shark is: (A) landed whole or (B) harvested under a commercial marine license or a noncommercial permit for bona fide research, propagation, or resource conservation. I support the lawful sale of shark fin soup in Hawaii restaurants so long as the shark fins have been lawfully acquired.

The current practice of Shark finning is wasteful, and has significant negative affects on marine ecosystems, it is disrespectful to some families, and it should stop. Shark finning involves catching a shark, slicing off its fins, and discarding the shark (often still alive) at sea for subsequent distribution and sale. Most of the shark fins currently landed in Hawai'i are shipped to the mainland or elsewhere. This bill will not affect the economy here.

Sincerely,

Keith Swindle
4446 Wahinekoa Place
Honolulu, HI 96821

har3-Megan

From: Arlene [abvetlab@yahoo.com]
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2010 9:44 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Subject: SB 2169 SD 2 HD1

Dear Sir,

I would like to submit testimony in support of SB 2169 SD2 HD1. It is one of the saddest and most wasteful fishing practices to collect the dorsal fin from a live shark, leave the shark to die and waste the rest of that shark. Allowing restaurants to serve shark fin soup supports the continuation of this practice. If shark fin soup is allowed it should only be allowed from sharks that have been legally caught and the entire shark as practical is utilized for food.

I saw a photograph of a shark at the bottom of the ocean with no dorsal fin. It was still alive but could not live very long. It is one of the saddest pictures I have seen that show how terrible this practice is.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify.

Sincerely,

Arlene Buchholz
Sent from my iPhone

har3-Megan

From: Kalaefarm@cs.com
Sent: Saturday, March 13, 2010 1:33 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Subject: Support for Shark finning ban

WLO House committee Hearing Monday, March 15, 2010 10 am

RE: WLO House committee Hearing Monday, March 15, 2010 10 am
ATTN: Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
Rep, Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Measure: SB2169, SD1, HD1 IN SUPPORT

Hawaii has a chance to be a world leader in shark conservation. Sharks are being eliminated from our oceans at a rate of well over a million a year, Primarily for their fins to make "shark fin soup." Our Oceans need the sharks for a healthy ecosystem.

Please end the barbaric practice of finning sharks. Do not allow shark fin products to be marketed in our state. Thank you for your work on protecting this magnificent animal.

Patricia Morine
81 Ahuwale PL.
Makawao, Hi 96768

har3-Megan

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 13, 2010 11:13 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: makaala@hawaiian.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 3/15/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 3/15/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Makaala Kaaumoana
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: makaala@hawaiian.net
Submitted on: 3/13/2010

Comments:

Shark finning is not pono and does not meet our kuleana to protect the balance of our resources. Nothing about shark finning benefits the people or place of Hawaii nei.

har3-Megan

From: Doug Perrine [perrine@hawaii.rr.com]
Sent: Saturday, March 13, 2010 11:10 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Subject: WLO House committee Hearing Monday, March 15, 2010 10 am

RE: WLO House committee Hearing Monday, March 15, 2010 10 am
ATTN: Rep. Ken Ito, Chair
Rep, Sharon E. Har, Vice Chair

Measure: SB2169, SD1, HD1 IN SUPPORT

Please pass this bill to stop Hawaii from being a center of commerce for the gangster-controlled trade in illegally taken fins of species in jeopardy. We gain nothing from allowing our islands to be used for this trade that reaps obscene profits from the destruction of the ocean ecosystem for high status dishes devoid of nutritional value. It is an affront to Hawaiian culture and to the ethos of caring for the planet and making wise use of our resources.

mahalo,
Doug Perrine

Doug Perrine
76-223 Haa St.
Kailua-Kona HI 96740 U.S.A.
+1 (808) 329-4523

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if your e-mail doesn't go through, try my travel account:
douglasperrine@yahoo.com

har3-Megan

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 13, 2010 9:05 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: d_raney@hawaiiantel.net
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 3/15/2010 10:00:00 AM
Attachments: Testimony re SB 2169 SD2 HD1.doc

Testimony for WLO 3/15/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 325
Testifier position:
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Dave Raney
Organization: Individual
Address: 1621 Mikahala Way Honolulu, HI
Phone: 808-734-4986
E-mail: d_raney@hawaiiantel.net
Submitted on: 3/13/2010

Comments:

Testimony submitted to House Committee on Water, Land, and Ocean Resources in support of SB 2169 SD2 HD1 Relating to Shark Fins

Aloha Kakou:

Please support passage of SB 2169. Hawaii needs to do its part in curbing the barbaric practice of shark finning and helping shark populations recover from their currently highly depleted status.

Mahalo.

Dave Raney

har3-Megan

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, March 13, 2010 6:36 AM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: emailbrookey@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 3/15/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 3/15/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Brooke Porter
Organization: Individual
Address: 864 Makaala Drive Wailuku, HI
Phone: 8082146421
E-mail: emailbrookey@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/13/2010

Comments:

I am in full support SB 2169 SD 2 HD 1, and applaud the State legislature for working to conserve sharks and end the cruel and unnecessary practice of finning. Sharks are vital to our near-shore and pelagic ecosystems, yet are being harvested at an unsustainable rate.

The sale of shark fin in Hawaii is in many cases detrimental to the economy, working in the tourism industry, I often hear comments from visitors regarding shark fin soup on menus -- they are appalled and express disappointment in the State of Hawaii. Hawaii is perceived as being a leader in environmentalism, SB2169 will make that perception a reality.

I urge you to please pass SB2169.

har3-Megan

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 9:40 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: aaron.hebshi@gmail.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 3/15/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 3/15/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: Aaron Hebshi
Organization: Individual
Address: 1045A Kalikimaka St Honolulu, HI 96817
Phone: (808) 294-3052
E-mail: aaron.hebshi@gmail.com
Submitted on: 3/12/2010

Comments:

Thank you for taking my testimony. I am a marine biologist by training, currently working for the Navy in Hawaii as their Region Biologist. Although I am not submitting testimony on behalf of the Navy, I would like to relay that in my professional capacity, we work diligently to protect our marine resources, including the sharks that use Pearl Harbor as a nursery. It pains me to know that our hard work can be undermined by commercial interests who see these magnificent animals as mere dollars through the act of shark finning. Integral components of marine ecosystems as top predators and scavengers, sharks as a whole have been drastically overfished globally due to their slow growth, late maturity, and low reproductive rates. Measures such as SB2169 are incredibly beneficial in protecting sharks, and in portraying to the public the importance of shark conservation. Thank you for support of this bill.

Aaron Hebshi, PhD
Alewa Heights

har3-Megan

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, March 12, 2010 6:31 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Cc: erinann815@aol.com
Subject: Testimony for SB2169 on 3/15/2010 10:00:00 AM

Testimony for WLO 3/15/2010 10:00:00 AM SB2169

Conference room: 325
Testifier position: support
Testifier will be present: No
Submitted by: erin rutherford
Organization: Individual
Address:
Phone:
E-mail: erinann815@aol.com
Submitted on: 3/12/2010

Comments:
the marine ecosystem needs our sharks! lets protect them!

har3-Megan

From: timrock@doubleblue.com
Sent: Sunday, March 14, 2010 12:49 PM
To: WLOtestimony
Subject: WLO House committee Hearing Monday, March 15, 2010 10 am

Sirs and Madams,

Please support this bill:

SB2169 SD2 HD1

<http://www.capitol.hawaii.gov/session2010/bills/SB2169 HD1 .htm>

Currently, the Territory of Guam is the only US state or territory to successfully prosecute anyone for the sale and possession of shark fins. This is a sad state of affairs considering how threatened the world's shark population is right now.

Be leaders, be progressive, think globally.

Pass and actively support this bill. Give our seas a fighting chance at regaining ecological balance.

Thank you.

Tim Rock, Guam

--

Tim Rock

P.O. Box 24666 GMF

Barrigada, Guam 96921 USA

671-734-6825

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QUOTE II: "Before I speak, I have something important to say." - Julius Marx (aka Groucho)

and

"But I don't want comfort. I want God. I want poetry. I want real danger. I want freedom. I want goodness. I want sin." - Aldous Huxley