

From: Helene Ruyter <helene.ruyter@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:38 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays

LATE

Ban shark fishing in Hawaii

Sharks play an important role in keeping other marine life in a healthy balance and to regulate the ocean. The actions by not banning shark fishing may lead to the end for many more species. Sharks are already endangered and it is our fault. Sharks have existed on this planet for 450 million years, but may be extinct within decades. It is our job to do what we can to keep them here. By banning shark fishing (you can't call it fishing - it's murder) in Hawaii will reduce the export and import of shark fins in the U.S and the demand for shark fins world wide will also reduce. Please ban shark killings.

Sincerely,

a Norwegian who wishes to come to Hawaii and dive with the sharks

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Ashley Kirkwood <ashleykirkwood@hotmail.co.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:39 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Fwd: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays

Sent from my iPhone

Begin forwarded message:

From: Ashley Kirkwood <ashleykirkwood@hotmail.co.uk>
Date: 10 February 2016 22:36:02 GMT
To: "vlatestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov" <vlatestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov>
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays

I am writing this email from Scotland to urge you to ban shark fishing.

These animals are fascinating yet millions of these amazing creatures are killed annually by humans with 20 - 30% of some species being close to extinction. Sharks are important for keeping marine ecosystems healthy and as they are slow to grow and reproduce, it makes it very difficult for populations to bounce back from big losses.

Each and every creature on this earth has just as much right to be here as you or me. It's time humans stop thinking about their pockets or their stomachs and start thinking about the effect their actions are having to the world around us.

Thank you for taking the time to read my email and I beg you to ban shark and ray fishing.

Kind Regards

Ashley Kirkwood

Sent from my iPhone

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Georgia Simmonds <georgiacsimmonds@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:42 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays

I support the anti-shark fishing bill!

We need sharks for our oceans, and consequently our planet, to remain healthy. They are extremely overfished around the world. Hopefully, if Hawaii can ban shark fishing, the rest of the world will be encouraged to do the same. Save the Sharks, save the oceans.

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Greg <bigbluebuss@yahoo.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:43 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; sharks and rays

To whom it may concern,

I support the anti shark fishing bill, we and our oceans need sharks to sustain life. Protect the sharks.

Thank you.

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Chelsea McMillan <chelseamcmillan@mac.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:44 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642 - sharks & rays

Hi please support SB2642 - just look at the science behind why shark fishing is hurting the Eco-system. Please do the right thing!!!

Sent from my iPhone

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Orian Df <oriandf@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:44 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays

To whom it may concern,

I, Orian del Fierro, support the anti-shark fishing bill because sharks play an important role in the ocean's ecosystem and in order to sustain a healthy ocean sharks can not be endangered due to human interference such as fishing.

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Max D. Jung <mdj1g13@soton.ac.uk>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:44 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support sb2642; sharks and rays

Killing sharks does not help anyone but will harm us all.

Please don't stand by and be a part of what will be a grave mistake if the killing continues and sharks continue not to be protected.

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Greg Mayne <gmproperties@yahoo.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:45 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support sb2642; Sharks and rays

I support the anti shark fishing bill

Sent from my iPhone

From: adrien orceau <aorceau@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:46 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642; Sharks And Rays

We live in a world that you cannot deny not being in fear each time you walk in the street at night. We live in a world that smoking a cigarette in the street and throwing the bud on the sidewalk is completely alright. We live in a world that the bad seems good and that the goods seems just... Unconventional. Meaningless. Humans are considered animals, mammals to be exact. We have come a long way since our species started interacting with others. Throughout these millions of years, it is a fact that other species have habited it for much longer. We have destroyed our bond with our own species by killing our friends, brothers, our protectors, us in general. But we are destroying much more now. We live in a food web, that was created naturally for negative feedback, to keep the balance, but we humans have found a way to destroy these food webs by daily killing other species everyday. We humans feel superior, because we have more "senses" than animals, but just like any other relation... Why should we hurt those that allowed our existence today?

Thousands of sharks are killed everyday by society, while only 2 people per year die due to shark attacks. But why those attacks happen everyday? Simply because we allow it. Sharks have a predator extinct, just like us, but we abuse of our power and resources and destroy the food web the world has provided us. Killing sharks affects the whole planet, it increases the size in population of other species and other animals that consume sharks will eventually die. However, the shark's food will increase in size, for example fish. Fish will eat other fishes or plants, and the increase in population will make small fishes and plants disappear because of the overconsumption, therefore fish will die. If there are no plants in the water, the oxygen levels in the water will decrease, making other fish or sharks die. Still not convinced? If these animals die and break the food web, some countries that consume fish will not have access for food, therefore humans will die. If humans die, there is a decrease in population size. Decrease in population size means less money flowing, less money flow means economy will fall, if economy falls humans don't have money, if we don't have money we don't have food to eat, place to leave, if we don't have all of this what happens next? Humans die.

Some may say that sharks can be scary and terrifying. They are not dangerous, they are predators just like us. In many countries they have humans interacting with sharks and rays, and even used for tourism, without abusing the sharks: such as Thailand who have showed great relationships with sharks.

Sharks kill per year 2 humans. We kill per year more than 100.000 sharks. We kill our own species every year about 10 million people.

Why is it such catastrophe that we kill ourselves, but why don't sharks have the right to remain in their earth habitat? We already suffer enough from everyday pain and wars, why should we create a war against animals? Supporting these animals will allow us to live in peace, and if we cannot help humanity yet, let us help our friends in the ocean.

Thank you

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Kaylivia Soul <kaylivasoul@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 12:46 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support sb2642; sharks and rays

I support the anti-shark fishing bill because it is wrong to hurt and fish for these amazing creatures. It would be horrible if they one day went extinct.

Sent from my iPhone

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Nicolas Ibarguen <nibarguen@page1media.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:17 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays

Many may not understand it yet, but the fact is that we need sharks. The health of our oceans are in big part dependant of sharks, they act as the white cells of our oceans. They have been around for 400 million years, surviving four mass extinctions. Let's not allow our destructive nature to be the cause they are driven to extinction. We are already playing with fire as we are responsible for the sixth mass extinction, we don't understand the consequences of that, but there for sure be consequences. The faith of humanity is deeply connected to the faith of all the other species that we share the planet with. Also keeping sharks alive is much better for the economy. Economically, a shark alive is worth many times more than a death one. Let's do the wise thing. We have to be the generation that takes humanity to the next level.

Thank you,

Nicolas Ibarguen

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Mitchell Rider <mrider@bates.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:18 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays

To whom it may concern,

Shark fishing needs to be significantly reduced around the world to restore their constantly decreasing populations. An overall reduction in shark populations will lead to unstable food chains through trophic cascades, which will impact fisheries for smaller commercially important fish and other marine organisms. Please take this into account.

Sincerely,
Mitchell Rider

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Tess Ervin <tess.ervin14@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:18 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642; SHARKS AND RAYS

I support the anti-shark fishing bill because our oceans need our sharks to keep the ecosystem healthy. Without them the ocean will decline and we will have unhealthy fish leading quickly to a very unhealthy ecosystem. This bill needs to be passed so that this frivolous killing will stop.

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Fin <fin313@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:20 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642

Greetings from the frigid State of Michigan--

Yes, even here in the frozen Midwest we care about healthy oceans & preserving the world's dwindling shark population.

Please support this measure. More than any of us realize is at stake in our seas.

Thank you for reading this,
Jason Dilly, M.D., F.A.C.S.
Detroit, MI

--

--SUPPORT & ENFORCE bans on **SHARK FINNING...** <*)>>---(

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Ella Hansen <ellanature15@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:20 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays

The killing of these animals is wrong. The killing of any animals is wrong, it's murder. Sharks are endangered enough as it is, killing them off could cause the ecosystems food chain to become unbalanced, effecting a lot more organisms.

Sent from my iPhone

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Alexander Eaton <aeaton2@bates.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:20 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays

To whom it may concern,

Shark fishing needs to be significantly reduced around the world to restore their constantly decreasing populations. An overall reduction in shark populations will lead to unstable food chains through trophic cascades, which will impact fisheries for smaller commercially important fish and other marine organisms. Please take this into account.

Sincerely,
Alex Eaton

gabbard2 - Donna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:20 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Cc: dwilcairahi@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB2642 on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM

SB2642

Submitted on: 2/10/2016

Testimony for WLA/JDL on Feb 10, 2016 15:20PM in Conference Room 224

| Submitted By | Organization | Testifier Position | Present at Hearing |
|---------------------|---------------------|---------------------------|---------------------------|
| Debra Kay Wilson | Individual | Support | No |

Comments: PLEASE protect & preserve Hawaii's sealife, specifically our sharks & mantas, who play a significant role in the ocean's eco-system! And as stewards of this planet, we must place, uphold,& enforce laws & means to protect beautiful, living beings from human eradication! Thank You

Please note that testimony submitted less than 24 hours prior to the hearing, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

Do not reply to this email. This inbox is not monitored. For assistance please email webmaster@capitol.hawaii.gov

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Tatiana Marchant <tai.vcorf@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:21 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: support sb2642; sharks and rays

To whom it may concern:

Aside from the obvious distasteful fact that we continue in our mistaken arrogance to believe we have the right to kill these creatures, it's also environmentally damning to kill off predators that keep nature's ecosystem/food chain in balance.

Also, there are actually very few shark attacks shown by various statistics. Therefore the statements listed in the bill are very practical.

I really don't think this needs to be a long email. The reasons are basic and clear. So we'll let this hang on all our consciences

Thank you,
Tatiana M.

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Reese Gawronski <gawronskireese@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:23 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support sb2642; sharks and rays

Millions of sharks are killed a year and this mass fishing poses a direct threat to marine ecosystems all over the world. Reforms are needed in fishing laws in order to preserve the shark populations and protect the delicate environment of hawaii.

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Zerfoss, Matt <MZerfoss@picsweet.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:22 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: support SB2642; sharks and rays

Sharks and rays are too endangered to allow for their continued commercial or recreational fishing. I support the anti-shark fishing bill.

Matt Zerfoss
409 Shadow Ridge Drive
Jackson, TN 38305

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Amber Meek <amber.meek@hotmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:24 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; sharks and rays

I oppose shark fishing in Hawaii, and am in support of the anti-shark fishing bill!

Being a local, born and raised in hawaii, I grew up with the ocean, and grew up appreciating and respecting what is in it. Please, let us return to sustainability and nurture our ecosystem, not destroy it.

The oceans need sharks! They are a healthy part of our ecosystem! There is ENOUGH over fishing happening already! Let the oceans thrive, let the fish and ocean wildlife have the opportunity to reproduce and flourish again! Before there is nothing left :(

Thank you,
Amber

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Allysa Day <allysaday@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:25 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Sb2642

Sharks play a vital part to the ocean ecosystem and if we keep killing them, you are killing the ocean, and all the fish that are caught for food. So if you plan on eating fish in the next 30years you should probably stop killing sharks because they are "scary".

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Julia Kirincic <juliakirincic@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:27 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays

Shark fishing in Hawaii is extremely harmful to our oceans. Sharks are a main part of that ecosystem and are needed for a healthy ocean. Humans have such big egos and can be very selfish at times; which is causing our planet Earth to die faster than it ever should have. We have already lost a lot of our sharks as a result of shark fishing. If we continue to turn a blind eye to this issue we will have no sharks left to help keep our oceans healthy. Everything is connected and humans seem to have forgotten that over the past years. Causing harm to one earthling will have a domino affect and eventually harm another earthling and so on and so on. It is 100% unnecessary to kill sharks. We have plenty of grains and other plants to feed the whole planet. Earth provides humans with many resources that do not involve harming other creatures. Humans need to understand we must walk/swim together as earthlings on this planet. Killing an innocent living being for a greedy need is disgusting. We desperately need people to stop shark fishing as soon as possible.

Thanks,
Seafairyyy

Sent from my iPhone

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Janis Lozano <janislrade@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:28 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; sharks and rays

I support the anti-shark fishing bill. Please help do what's right. Ban shark and Ray fishing.
Thank you.

Janis Lozano

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Gigi Paris <jehane.paris@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:31 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642

I highly support the anti-shark finning bill since unfortunately not every living creature has a voice, I'd like to use mine to save these sharks from poachers.

Thank you,
Gigi Paris

Sent from my iPhone

gabbard2 - Donna

From: noname noname <grittykitty2000@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:32 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays

Hello, I'm writing in support of a petition to ban shark hunting in Hawaii. Although I don't live there, this planet belongs to us.. all of us! Including amazing animals like sharks! Keep Hawaii beautiful by protecting these gorgeous animals. Maybe Hawaii could set an example to the rest of the world..? How amazing would that be??

Thank you for reading ♥☐

Hania Kapelanska

Sent from my iPhone

gabbard2 - Donna

From: gregory.r.wells@wmich.edu on behalf of Gregory Wells <gregory.r.wells@wmich.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:35 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642; SHARKS AND RAYS

To whom it may concern,

My name is Gregory Wells, a student at Western Michigan University, and I support the anti-shark fishing bill. I support this bill because sharks are essentially the “keepers” of the ocean. They are usually the top predators of the ocean. They play a pivotal role in maintaining the balance of marine ecosystems.

By not passing this bill you will effectively decline and destroy the tourism business and the economy of Hawaii.

If you remove one piece of the puzzle (sharks), or decline the population of these creatures you allow other organisms to take over that could become overpopulated and could interfere and destroy other wildlife that are native to your home. Think of sharks as a gene that prevents cancer, when you remove that gene, you allow other cells to grow rapidly and uncontrollably and that could ultimately lead to death, in this case death of an ecosystem, death of the livelihood of Hawaii. Hawaii is a place many tourist go to to see the wildlife like sharks and rays, there have been examples in the world where populations of people that once hunt and killed species of sharks and rays have stopped and instead use the unlimited resource of tourism to show travelers the animals that are native to their ecosystems.

These creature have dwindled in number and about 90% of shark species have been hunted and kill off.

By passing this bill you will play a role in saving these species and maintaining the health of the oceans, you will be part responsible for either exterminating or saving an ancient and unique species on our Blue Planet, Earth.

I hope this helps you make the correct decision, and if the correct decision is made you will help set precedent all across the world, and influence other nations and states to follow suit!

Thank you for reading.

Sincerely,
An ocean-loving, ocean minded, college student.

Gregory Wells
140 S. Kendall Ave.
Apt A
Kalamazoo, MI 49006

gabbard2 - Donna

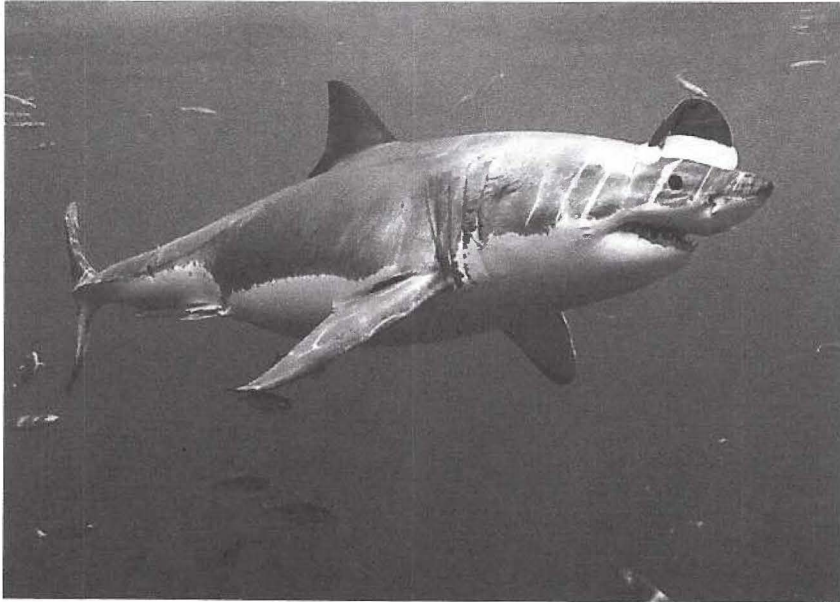
From: mejiawilliam28@yahoo.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:36 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642;Sharks and Rays

I support this Anti-shark fishing bill for many reasons. The most important reason should be obvious for anyone who cares about sharks and these oceans we coincide with. Sharks are declining on a massive scale they have been in these oceans for millions of years and thanks to overfishing we might lose them. How can we stand idly by while we watch these magnificent creatures vanish from our ocean. We are the only chance these fish have, once they are completely gone there is nothing we can do to bring them back. So please consider this as an urgent plea to protect not only the sharks but also our oceans, in which millions of other animals reside in. Once we let one animal fall prey to ourselves, there is no telling what damage we might be inflicting upon ourselves. Thank you for taking this into consideration

*Sincerely,
William M*

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Katherine Bouchard <kbouchar@bates.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:37 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: support sb2642; sharks and rays



please protect this species. it's beautiful.

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Michael Pappalardo <michael@incomeinnovations.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:38 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; sharks and Rays

Please support sharks and Rays and stop allowing the killing, if we lose them, we will lose our ocean!

--

Regards,
Michael Pappalardo
0488 22 22 55

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Melissa Velasquez <melissasvelasquez93@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:40 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642; SHARKS AND RAYS

I support the Anti-Fishing Bill because sharks maintain the health of the ocean and are a vital part of oceanic health.

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Mairead McConnell <mairadmccconnell1124@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:40 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays

While sharks are often portrayed as vicious creatures in popular culture, they are nothing more than animals...if we can protect whales from fishing, why can't we protect sharks and rays?

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Cassy <cassymcbride9@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:40 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642; SHARKS AND RAYS

To Whom It May Concern AKA The Entire Planet:

I whole heartedly support anti-shark fishing anywhere! I am a Colorado resident but even in a land locked state I see the value in the protection of such a unique animal. Sharks are unlike any other fish even! We need to preserve these ancient amazing predators even if only to uphold the ecosystem. Sharks are key in the entire planets ecosystem--loss of these animals would put even land systems out of balance. I'm sure all these this will be pointed out to you soon. I will soon be completing a marine biology Masters degree and cannot wait to use it to break shark misconceptions! Do the right thing for our planet as a whole with your decision today. Do you want your great-grandchildren to know about sharks as you do today or should they be forced to just read about them like the DoDo, Woolly Mammoth or even dinosaurs, and never truly know that they were real and an exceptional part of our planet? It's up to you. It's up to us all. Make a difference today!

Thank you for your supportive decision in anti-shark fishing,

Cassy McBride

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Chen <chen1221121@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:40 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support sb2642; sharks and rays

I think we as a human are part of the nature, I strongly support the idea of releasing animals and being free. Therefore I hope the bill will be pass!

Thank you for your time and wish you have a nice day!

Best,
Jiayi Chen

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Marra Burroughs <marra.burroughs@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:40 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642; SHARKS AND RAYS

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Noreen Hendershot <noreen.hendershot@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:42 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642 Sharks & Rays

To whom it may concern:

Please stop the fishing of sharks and rays in Hawaii; this is cruelty to the waters and the world.

To kill these beautiful creatures that are an integral part of our ecosystem is a sin; please save the sharks and rays!!!

I support this bill 100%!!!

Noreen Hendershot

Alberta, Canada

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Jennifer D Kim <jdk396@nyu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:42 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; sharks and rays

Animals of the sea are sentient beings! No more fishing!

Jennifer D. Kim
Bachelor of Science 2016
New York University: College of Arts and Science

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Eli Mallouhi <mallouhieli@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:43 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays

Sharks and rays deserve the right to live long lives and not be fished and killed by humans! Thank you!

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Mirella Miville <mirella@nyu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:44 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642; SHARKS AND RAYS

Sharks are really magnificent creatures that have gotten a bad rep due to their vicious representation in the media and entertainment industry. They're really important to our oceans and it shouldn't be legal for people to fish for them.

- Mirella

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Peter Bowley <pb1719@nyu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:44 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642; SHARKS AND RAYS

Hi,

I'm a student at NYU, and I have been strongly against shark/ray fishing for many years now. I believe that these animals deserve the same treatment as all others. I admire their complexity, beauty, and positive effect on the ecosystem. These animals need our help.

Sincerely,

Peter Bowley

gabbard2 - Donna

From: natalie van hooser <tunawolf2007@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:41 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays

Please ban shark fishing to protect the species greatly at risk. Thank you

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Hannah Hummel <badxhannah@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:45 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support sb2642 sharks and sting rays

I support this ban on shark and sting ray fishing because I realize the importance of bio diversity and how over fishing of species damages eco systems.

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Ina <inazweg@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:45 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support:SB2642 sharks and rays

Hello from Germany,
Please ban shark fishing. There are not enough sharks left, they shouldn't be killed. They are wonders of nature and should be adored and protected.
Best,
Ina

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Alex Mullin <adm470@nyu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:45 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays

Sharks and Ray should not be hunted, but should be left to live out their natural lives in their natural habitats, like all (sentient) beings

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Matthew Douglas <mcdouglas09@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:45 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays

Hello,

I am a STRONG supporter of protecting and saving sharks and rays at any cost!! They are one of the most important creatures of the sea and critical to its survival.

Please do all in your power to help save these animals and ban any kind of fishing that will harm them. I hope to come to Hawaii soon and swim with them myself, and will love to bring my kids one day too. I truly hope they will still be there!

Thank you for your consideration.

Matt

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Mikaela E Pyatt <mep509@nyu.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:46 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays

I support this bill because it's the right thing to do.

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Jessica Groover <jessica_groover@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:47 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642 Sharks and Rays

As a year round diver, I couldn't be more happy to swim with sharks and all animals of the sea.

I support this anti-shark fishing bill because there is a dramatic decline of the shark population. There is also a high rate for shark's fins on top other predators targeting the species.

Sharks help balance our ecosystem and this bill needs to pass.

gabbard2 - Donna

From: phishbatek@aol.com
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:47 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642; SHARKS AND RAYS

Please help stop the disgusting killing of sharks and rays. They thrived well before humans were on this planet, and they are essential to the eco system. Thank You

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Dani <daniela.a1120@gmail.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:48 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: SUPPORT SB2642; SHARLS AND RAYS

please stop shark fishing. as a devoted vegan, i love animals and will do whatever i can to help the animals. please stop this crazy fishing way. thank you!

Sent from my iPhone

gabbard2 - Donna

From: randall m <erebuswolf@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:49 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays

I support the anti-shark fishing bill. I, like a growing number of people, always try to use my tourist dollars to support governments and communities where ethics and conservation are a priority. Given the incredible importance of sharks for maintaining a balanced and healthy ecosystem in our oceans, and given the fact that millions of sharks are slaughtered each year, every effort must be made to keep their populations going.

Thank you.

Randy McCowan

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Paul White <paulwhite@live.com.au>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:54 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays

Aloha,

My name is Paul and I am a Scuba Diving Instructor from Australia with an interest in Marine Biology and Conservation. I support the bill to ban shark and ray fishing in Hawai'i on the grounds of sustainability and economic viability. There is as has been proven on a number of other trials around the world a greater financial benefit both now and into the future to keeping Sharks alive. Not only do they provide an attraction to tourists in the form of diving, snorkelling and eco interactions but even more importantly by doing what they do naturally cleaning the reefs and maintaining an important balance in the marine environment. You only have to look as far as the reintroduction of wolves in Yellowstone National Park to an environment that had had it's apex predators removed by human interference to see what an important role they play in protecting the environment and maintaining a healthy ecosystem (Google "how wolves change rivers"). I will not go into all the details here as I'm sure many of my friends and colleagues from Hawai'i will give you more than enough information on the scientific reasons why supporting a ban will be the best way forward not to mention the long spiritual history of the Hawaiian people and their relationship with 'Aumakua . I will however say that I was lucky enough to visit Hawai'i in August last year and spend 2 days in the water with Sharks while I was there and will be organising a trip back to spend even more time with these amazing animals whilst bringing a number of other people along specifically for this purpose both now and into the future whilst I am also investigating opportunities to study Marine biology at the University. I would hate to see these future opportunities being taken away from anyone for reasons of poor management to appease a small minority of people who are unable to see the bigger picture through a cloud of greed, misunderstanding and disrespect.

Mahalo,

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From: Ryan Davis <rsdavis3@g.coastal.edu>
Sent: Wednesday, February 10, 2016 1:55 PM
To: WLA Testimony
Subject: Support SB2642; Sharks and Rays

I support the anti-shark fishing bill because sharks need our help and our protection. Sharks are a valuable organism in any oceanic ecosystem because they are the apex predator. They keep the balance and this is key especially in tropical waters. Sharks keep the populations of coral eating fish such as Scaridae down to prevent them from eating too much of a reef. Sharks are essential to the ocean. It isn't right for them to be fished out of the oceans to extinction and society needs to realize that it's wrong.

Mahalo,

Ryan Davis

VP of the Coastal Elasmobranch Society