

gabbard2 - Donna

From: sally j. peterson <sisterbean@redshift.com>
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2015 12:18 PM
To: ENETestimony
Subject: Hawaii SB674

I am writing because I am extremely worried about the future of elephants because of the ivory trade. If poaching continues at the present rate elephants in the wild will most likely be extinct. That word should send chills down our collective spines. What are we doing to our planet and ourselves? Please, please pass this important bill that will make it illegal to deal with ivory in the state of Hawaii. It is such an easy move to make to get things heading in the right direction. Everything that can possibly be done needs to be done immediately if elephants stand a chance of being around for more than a decade.

Ivory is also an important source of revenue for terrorism. It has been proven by many sources. When the ban on ivory trade took place in the 80s poaching was successfully stopped. Let's do that again!

Thank you for your consideration of this critical issue.

Sally Peterson
Pacific Grove, California

LATE

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Milia Mae <miliamae@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2015 10:28 AM
To: ENETestimony
Subject: Please pass the bill - SB674

I would like to show my support for the state bill prohibiting the trade/sale of ivory in Hawaii! I was born in Hawaii and have many family members living here. We all support this bill and would like to see the elephants live!

We urge the state to pass the SB674 bill.

Thank you for your time.
~Millie Cowley

LATE

From: shar <elephants007@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2015 8:58 AM
To: ENETestimony
Subject: SB674 ASAP

I am writing you to ask that you support SB674.

As you and your staff may be aware, Hawaii, behind only New York and California, leads the country in the trade of illegal ivory. As you may also be aware, there is a growing crisis due to the poaching of elephants, rhinos, and other endangered species across the globe. According to the Humane Society of the United States, "Hawaii is the third largest retailer of ivory and ivory products in the nation (USA). Of more than 1,600 ivory items offered for sale in Hawaii, 89 percent were of unknown or likely illegal origin"

If current trends continue, it is estimated that elephants, will be extinct within the next 10 years. Many species of rhinos are sadly already gone. The specter of the loss of these and other remaining iconic species is unfathomable. This is why it is critical that Hawaii, being the leader of so many important issues that affect our lives and the world, takes the lead in this ecologically imperative issue.

Elephants are a keystone species, upon which entire ecosystems are dependent. Rhinos as well, are a critical part of the ecosystems in which they live. Regardless of their role in ecosystems, these species deserve to live free of the threat of extinction, and deserve our unbridled assistance in protecting them from further decline. Additionally, increasingly terrorist groups are involved in the illegal ivory trade, as well as the trade of other animal and non animal species. These groups continue to profit at the expense of threatened species and innocent people now seemingly in all corners of the world. Obviously, it will take tremendous human effort to stop these groups. One critical way to do so, is to stop the importation of ivory and other ill gotten animal parts into Hawaii.

I ask that Hawaii's Senate support this bill, SB674 as soon as possible if rules allow for this at this stage of proposed legislation. At the very least, I ask that Hawaii's Senate vigorously support AB96 in the event that it comes to a vote.

I thank you for the time you have taken reading this, and hope that I can count on the support of your fine legislators for this critically important legislation.

Best Regards,

Sharon Arnold

LATE

gabbard2 - Donna

From: moshmish@juno.com
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2015 6:43 AM
To: ENETestimony

I support and in favor of Hawaii Bill SB674 in prohibiting the sale and trade of ivory. Let us protect these ancient animals while there is still time to do so. Thank you. P Uzek

LATE

gabbard2 - Donna

From: JM LEE <jmlee23@hotmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2015 4:52 AM
To: ENETestimony
Subject: Ivory Ban

Dear Congressmen:

Please preserve the lives of the beautiful but threatened elephants. It is too huge a sacrifice that they should have to give their lives so that we might adorn ourselves. Please support the ivory ban of SB 674.

Aloha

LATE

gabbard2 - Donna

From: audreaz@gmail.com on behalf of Audre Azuolas <audre.azuolas@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2015 4:26 AM
To: ENETestimony
Subject: Testimony in support of SB674 (Ivory Ban)

Aloha,

I'm writing to express my strong support for SB674, the bill to ban ivory sales in Hawaii. Although I currently live in Washington DC, my parents live on the Big Island near Hilo, and I visit them as often as I can.

Hawaii is the most beautiful state in our nation. I love it more than words can describe. That's why it breaks my heart to learn that it's also one of the states that most perpetuates the ivory trade. Hawaii has the third largest ivory market in our nation. That means Hawaii, unfortunately, is directly contributing to the elephant poaching crisis that is driving our world's elephants to extinction.

I don't want to associate the beautiful state of Hawaii with something as appalling and immoral as the brutal, bloody ivory trade. The illegal ivory trade murders more than 100 intelligent, emotionally complex elephants a day. It funds horrific terrorist groups like al-Shabaab, who use the profits from ivory sales to buy weapons to kidnap and murder literally *thousands* of people.

It is hard to imagine that Hawaii could be a part of something like that. And yet, as long as Hawaii keeps selling ivory products, it does contribute to the ivory trade. According to the Humane Society, "of more than 1,600 ivory items offered for sale in Hawaii, 89 percent were of unknown or likely illegal origin."

Because it is so difficult to determine where a piece of ivory came from and how old it is, it is extremely easy for ivory traders to smuggle in ivory from a recently killed elephant and pretend that is a "legal" piece of ivory.

In other words, a large percentage of the ivory sold in Hawaii is directly coming from the illegal, bloody poaching happening in Africa. And because smugglers are unfortunately very good at what they do, some consumers in Hawaii may have no idea that the ivory they're buying is leaving blood on their hands.

The only way to protect these elephants, and to protect the people of Hawaii from unknowingly contributing to violent terrorism and the extinction of a beloved species, is to ban all ivory sales in Hawaii now, once and for all.

Hawaii has an opportunity to be on the right side of history with this landmark legislation. Please take a stand and do what's right for the people of Hawaii, the people of the world, and elephants.

I look forward to my next visit to my parents on the Big Island in a few months, and I really hope that when I'm there, I can celebrate that Hawaii has done the right thing and passed this bill.

Thank you for your time and attention to this vital issue!

Mahalo,
Audre Azuolas
Washington, DC

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Kris <kris94114@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2015 3:10 AM
To: ENETestimony
Subject: Please pass SB674

To whom this may concern:

I urge you to pass SB674. Your state has been qualified as the 3rd largest illegal ivory market in the USA. Elephant populations in Africa have reached a tipping point; there are now more elephants dying and being killed, than are being born; extinction looms within a generation and in localized regions within a decade. It is also well established that poaching and wildlife trafficking (literally) sponsors international terror and is plunging the African continent into geo political chaos.

Please help stop the pain and sorrow and disruption that exists merely for trinkets. Do the right thing and pass SB674.

Thank you.

Kris Eugene-Johnson
San Francisco, CA

Sent from my iPhone



gabbard2 - Donna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2015 1:24 AM
To: ENETestimony
Cc: dmaile@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB674 on Feb 17, 2015 15:00PM

SB674

Submitted on: 2/13/2015

Testimony for ENE/CPN on Feb 17, 2015 15:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
D. Maile	Individual	Oppose	No

Comments: Please, do not pass this bill in its current state. A wholesale, blanket approach to the issue is not appropriate. While recent findings suggest Hawai'i is at the forefront of illegal activity, in regards to the sale of ivory, the draconian measures proposed in this bill will do little to impact the unconscionable actions of individuals thousands of miles away. I also urge committee members to look carefully at the statistics and data cited in other testimonies. Consider their sources (or lack thereof) and what information is actually necessary to help make a decision on this proposed bill. A total ban on ivory and ivory products will do more to harm people who legally and responsibly use those products to create works of art, musical instruments, and personal adornments, to name a few categories. Because the bill essentially leaves all ivories open for restriction, it creates a situation where even legal ivory (such as hippopotamus or warhog, which can be imported with proper documentation) is subject to the ban, and potentially, to all-out seizure. This leads me to believe that there has not been enough serious research put into the issue by those who have raised it. It is completely appropriate to desire to show the rest of the world that Hawai'i is willing to take a stand against illegal activities. However, it would be a an incredulous disservice to render the possession and/or sale of legal ivory products a crime (both in terms of the law and in terms of what is acceptable to our society). I would support a nuanced, case-by-case assessment of what should be done to curb, and ultimately halt, the intentional killing of ivory-bearing mammals. But I cannot support SB 674 as it stands now. I stand in firm opposition to SB 674.

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.

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gabbard2 - Donna

From: andrea glass <andrea4341@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2015 7:06 PM
To: ENETestimony
Subject: passing a ban on ivory sales in Hawaii

To Whom It May Concern,

I have been a traveler to Hawaii for at least 15 times visiting all of the islands and appreciating the beauty and wonder of many areas there. Hawaii has been a great getaway for me.

At this time however, I am expressing my deep concern for the plight of elephants and the fact that these magnificent sentient beings will become extinct in less than ten years if we do not all join together and do something NOW. Hawaii has the third largest sale of ivory in the United States and we must take a STAND to stop it. My home state of California should be following suit in the not so distant future and I am now urging Hawaii to pass the law to ban all sales of ivory.

For me, Hawaii now has the opportunity to become even more of a jewel in peoples' eyes if this ban in the state legislature is passed--I will certainly extoll the praises of your most wondrous state even more than I already do...

Sincerely,
Andrea Glass
431 26th Street
San Francisco, CA 94131



gabbard2 - Donna

From: Patricia Gerrie <pgerrie@hotmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2015 6:47 PM
To: ENETestimony
Subject: Please don't buy ivory

Or kill Elephants for ivory. They are incredibly sensitive animals please don't support buying ivory

Pattie Gerrie pgerrie@hotmail.com pattiegerrie.com

Skincareforever.net.



gabbard2 - Donna

From: John Pasqua <killself5150@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2015 6:07 PM
To: ENETestimony
Subject: IVORY TRADE

HELP BAN THE IVORY TRADE NOW. JOHN PASQUA



gabbard2 - Donna

From: inger <inger3212000@yahoo.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2015 5:56 PM
To: ENETestimony
Subject: Stop selling Ivory NOW!!!



Stop the gruesome sale of Ivory NOW! Please get civilized and be a part of the solution, thx!

PLEASE SUBMIT your testimony supporting Hawaii SB674 ASAP. Hawaii SB674 will prohibit the trade/sale of ivory in the Aloha state. Send your email/testimony to: ENETestimony@capitol.hawaii.gov to ensure your testimony is counted.

gabbard2 - Donna

From: sammarye <sammarye@gmail.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2015 5:42 PM
To: ENETestimony
Subject: Support for SB674

I support Hawaii SB674, which will prohibit the trade/sale of ivory in Hawaii.

Hawaii has been qualified as the 3rd largest illegal ivory market in the USA. Elephant populations in Africa have reached a tipping point; there are now more elephants dying and being killed, than are being born; extinction looms within a generation and in localized regions within a decade. It is also well established that poaching and wildlife trafficking (literally) sponsors international terror and is plunging the African continent into geo political chaos.



As a frequent visitor, I urge you to pass this piece of legislation. Statistics from WWF are biased and inaccurate. WWF supports safari hunting in Africa and caters to rich hunters. True conservation is not thrill killing endangered wildlife

For The Oceans,
Sammarye Lewis

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Don Dudan <ddudan@goairtight.com>
Sent: Thursday, February 12, 2015 4:10 PM
To: ENETestimony
Subject: Please Support HB2183

Dear Sirs,



Greetings! I hope this finds you well.

PLEASE SUPPORT HB2183! Ivory is (primarily) the outcome of poaching. The unmitigated and relentless poaching of African elephants. It is well established that poaching (also) sponsors terrorism. I am urging your committee to encourage enforcing an end to the trade and importation of ivory (whether raw or vanity) in and to the state of Hawaii.

It is with great pride and much aloha that I support this effort by the HSUS to end the ivory trade in the Aloha State, unfortunately a "top" ivory market in the USA, possibly next only to New York and perhaps ahead of San Francisco.

I write on behalf of all victims, human and animal alike, of the horrific poaching crisis in Africa. Poaching sponsors terrorism, kills 35,000+ elephants each year, 100 a day and an astounding 1 every fifteen minutes; The elephant, a keystone species and Earth's grandest terrestrial herbivore is slated for extinction in the wilds of Africa within 10 years. Amongst the human victims of poaching are the 1000+ rangers who were murdered in the line of duty in the past 10 years alone.

It is also well established that the killing of critically endangered wild animals and the sale of their body parts is funding terrorism - which includes the recent Westgate mall attack and the killing of innocent human victims in Nairobi, Kenya.

A compassionate, progressive and dynamic state, a state of by and for the people, I am confident the Aloha state will do the right thing by Earth's last elephants, the people of the continent of Africa, the people of the world and the people of Hawaii.

As global citizens, as the gateway to the east, the Aloha state and the USA must take on a strong and unequivocal leadership role to end the ivory trade immediately.

I thank you for your time and efforts and thank the HSUS for its initiative on this most critical issue.

Be well and Mahalo nui loa.

Warmly.

Don Dudan
Walnut Creek, CA
925-876-9683

gabbard2 - Donna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2015 1:20 PM
To: ENETestimony
Cc: ndavlantes@aol.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB674 on Feb 17, 2015 15:00PM

SB674

Submitted on: 2/13/2015

Testimony for ENE/CPN on Feb 17, 2015 15:00PM in Conference Room 225



Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Nancy Davlantes	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I currently help to sponsor two elephants orphaned in Kenya because their mothers were slaughtered for their ivory. Anything that can be done to diminish the demand and the value of ivory must be done. The so-called "culture" arguments can't hold sway. We banned shark-fins, despite the cultural argument--we must ban ivory sales because it is the right thing to do.

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gabbard2 - Donna

From: Chloe McGill <chloe_mcgill@yahoo.com>
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2015 7:34 PM
To: ENETestimony
Subject: BAN IVORY NOW!!!

Aloha,

Please do your part to save elephants from extinction. How can such a beautiful state support such an awful and devastating trade.

We must come together and Ban Ivory for good!!

I trust you will make the right decision.

Thanks and blessings,

Chloe

LATE

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Melissa Flower <melissa.flower@att.net>
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2015 7:32 PM
To: ENETestimony
Subject: Please ban all ivory

Dear Hawaii Legislators,

I am appalled to learn that your beautiful state allows ivory to be imported and sold. Please stop all importation and selling of ivory. Hawaii has the opportunity to take the lead on so many humane issues. Saving elephants from this heinous act of cruelty for profit is one giant step that will let the world know you want Hawaii to be a model of compassion in the marketplace.

Sincerely,

Melissa Flower
California

LATE

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Daniel Tham <danwt88@gmail.com>
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2015 5:51 PM
To: ENETestimony
Subject: I Support Hawaii SB674

Dear all,

Hawaii has been qualified as the 3rd largest illegal ivory market in the USA. Elephant populations in Africa have reached a tipping point; there are now more elephants dying and being killed, than are being born; extinction looms within a generation and in localized regions within a decade. It is also well established that poaching and wildlife trafficking (literally) sponsors international terror and is plunging the African continent into geo political chaos.

Please support Hawaii SB674 and stop this senseless wildlife trade.

Daniel

LATE

gabbard2 - Donna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2015 10:00 AM
To: ENETestimony
Cc: rmitchell@elephantprotection.org
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB674 on Feb 17, 2015 15:00PM



SB674

Submitted on: 2/16/2015

Testimony for ENE/CPN on Feb 17, 2015 15:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Mitchell	Elephant Protection Association	Oppose	No

Comments: The proposed ban is based on grossly exaggerated claims about the numbers of elephants poached and misinformation about the market for products incorporating ivory in the United States. Because it is based on bad science, it will be bad for elephants and innocent Hawaiians who own or collect ivory items. In 2014, two studies were published about elephant poaching. CITES released its report in July, and the National Academy of Science released theirs soon after. CITES made it clear that poaching peaked in 2011 with about 25,000 elephants, and the level has been decreasing since then. PNAS double-counted elephants by overestimating poachings due to increased ivory confiscations resulting from more law enforcement, but that report also confirmed the decline in the rate of poaching since 2011. The Humane Society investigation referred to in this bill deliberately confuses legal ivory that has been in this country or that has been legally traded since international bans on ivory went into place with ivory from poached elephants. USFWS confirmed as recently as 2012 that they did not believe there was a significant market for illegal ivory coming into the United States. To the extent some illegal ivory slips through customs, USFWS and Customs have been successful at interdicting it and keeping the trade to a minimum, especially compared to what is going on in Asia and specifically China where the real smuggling problems thrive. Instead of punishing innocent Americans by constructively seizing their legally obtained private property, resources should be directed to increasing law enforcement in Africa, China, and at ports where illegal ivory is smuggled. Banning ivory from mammoths, a species that has been extinct for 10,000 years, perfectly highlights how poorly thought out and overly politicized this issue has become.

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gabbard2 - Donna

From: patricia joanides <pjoanides@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 15, 2015 8:25 PM
To: ENETestimony
Cc: Patricia Joanides
Subject: Support Hawaii SB674 in your state legislature...



Attention Hawaii State Officials,

Please **support Hawaii SB674** to prohibit the trade and sale of Ivory in Hawaii, the Aloha state. It is the right thing to do so generations to come will have the African Elephant on the planet. Otherwise, if the Ivory trade and sale continues the African Elephant will be extinct in the wild in 10 years or less.

Elephants are being slaughtered at the rate of 96 Elephants per DAY in Africa to support the sale and trade of Ivory. Please **do not support this slaughter** and extinction of land largest and most intelligent land animal.

From a frequent visitor of the Aloha state.

PLEASE SUPPORT SB674 IN YOUR STATE LEGISLATURE!

thank you,
patricia joanides
po box 46
woodacre, ca 94973

*If we have no peace it is because we have forgotten
that we belong to each other. ~ Mother Teresa*

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Angel Reed <angelhaydn@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 15, 2015 7:23 PM
To: ENETestimony
Subject: Please support HB837

Dear Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Water and Land Committee members,

Elephants and rhinos, remarkable and highly intelligent animals, are being cruelly slaughtered in the most inhumane ways, with poachers often hacking off their tusks or horns while they are still alive. The agony these helpless creatures endure, and – especially for elephants – the anguish for their surviving family members, is unimaginable. Elephants have close family bonds and rely on the elders of their group to lead and teach them; when these are killed, the herd is left devastated and shattered, and if babies lose their mother they often will not survive either.

All the countries involved in the chain of supply and demand of elephant ivory and rhino horn must take the strongest measures to bring the slaughter to an end – time is running out to save these species. Please support HB837 to ban ivory and rhino horns and protect these animals.

Thank you for your attention to this matter,
Angel Reed

LATE

Sent from my iPhone

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Sarinea Meserkhani <smeserkhani@gmail.com>
Sent: Sunday, February 15, 2015 4:08 PM
To: ENETestimony
Subject: In support of Hawaii SB674

Hawaii has been qualified as the 3rd largest illegal ivory market in the USA. Elephant populations in Africa have reached a tipping point; there are now more elephants dying and being killed, than are being born; extinction looms within a generation and in localized regions within a decade. It is also well established that poaching and wildlife trafficking (literally) sponsors international terror and is plunging the African continent into geopolitical chaos.

I support Hawaii SB674!

Thank you,
Sarinea Meserkhani





February 14, 2015

Flaws and inaccuracies in Maxwell Cooper's antique testimony

I would like to point out the flaws and inaccuracies in Maxwell Cooper's testimony as HRA Legislative Liaison opposing SB674. All three paragraphs of this testimony misconstrue and distort the available evidence and place personal greed ahead of any ethical values.

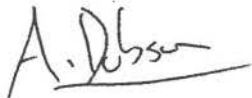
First it is widely acknowledged in the peer-reviewed scientific literature that African elephant populations have been massively overexploited over the last decade. This has spread as a wave of poaching from West Africa, through Central Africa to East Africa (countries all designated lawless from Cooper's very distant perspective). The poaching gangs are intimately associated with Terrorist groups and much of the profit from illegal trade of ivory goes to support Terrorism in West and East Africa. The data on WWF website suggesting elephant populations are healthy in Southern Africa has not been peer-reviewed and ignores recent reports of increased poaching in Southern Africa. Furthermore, WWF has long been discredited as a conservation organization because of its support for wildlife hunting in Africa and its opposition to a ban on the ivory trade.

The bill SB674 will not "makes criminals of anyone with antique gun grips or sight beads, musical instruments, etc, etc ". That would only occur if they attempted to sell these items. Although Hawai'i has had a relatively short history, it is pathetic and disingenuous to suggest articles are antiques if produced as recently as 1989 – the year when the first international ban on ivory was introduced. It is too easy for illicit articles to mimic those produced as antiques a mere 26 years ago, so exceptions should only be considered for antiques at least 100 years old. Furthermore, as the International ban on trade in Ivory was put into place in 1989, there has been no "lawfully harvested" ivory since this time. Arguing that banning the sale of older articles decorated with ivory "takes value from private property without compensation", conspicuously misses the point that something much more valuable was taken from the elephants that originally supplied the ivory. Whoever purchased,

or purchases, elephant products was, and is, complicit in supporting slavery, terrorism, and the illegal trade in wildlife that is intimately entwined with the drug trade.

If Hawai'i is to maintain its reputation as a tropical haven for tourists, it should pass this bill and minimize the risk that souvenirs from its vibrant local jewellery, musical instrument, and native crafts be perceived as stained by the blood of less isolated tropical paradises. Calling for a trade in antique ivory in Hawai'i could also lead to loss of "fair-trade" status for many other truly sustainable products produced in Hawai'i: coffee, pineapples, etc. The only way to prevent extinction of Africa's elephants is to place an international ban on the sale of all elephant and ivory products. To argue against this places personal greed and avarice significantly ahead of ethics and international diplomacy – something that can only undermine Hawai'i's reputation as a sunny and welcoming tropical paradise.

Sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read "A. Dobson". The signature is fluid and cursive, with a long horizontal stroke extending from the end.

Professor Andrew Dobson

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Maureen O'Kicki <okickimrose@gmail.com>
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2015 8:29 AM
To: ENETestimony
Subject: Support HB837 to Protect Elephants and Rhinos

As a California resident and frequent traveler to Hawaii, I urge you to support Hawaii SB674.

People around the country (and the world for that matter) have become repugnant to the slaughter of elephants just so their teeth can be turned into trinkets.

The Nobel Prize-winning economist, Alvin Roth, believes that repugnance is a good thing from an economic perspective, "A good economic model isn't just one where people can buy or sell anything they want; it's about increasing welfare." Americans have overwhelmingly decided that the welfare of elephants - a keystone species and fellow sentient being - matters more than the frustrated wants of would-be ivory traders.

I urge you to impose a constraint on the immoral ivory trade and support Hawaii SB674.

Sincerely,

Maureen O'Kicki
Stanford, CA 94305

LITE

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Laura Franklin <lfranklin88@verizon.net>
Sent: Saturday, February 14, 2015 7:29 AM
To: ENETestimony
Subject: Ban ivory trade!

When the sales stop the killing will too. Please support the protection of endangered elephants by passing legislation that bans all ivory from sales, import, trade!
Thank you!

Laura
201.306.6789

LATE

gabbard2 - Donna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Friday, February 13, 2015 7:41 PM
To: ENETestimony
Cc: babyjean@hotmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB674 on Feb 17, 2015 15:00PM

SB674

Submitted on: 2/13/2015

Testimony for ENE/CPN on Feb 17, 2015 15:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ronnie Perry	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly SUPPORT this bill. The elephant and the Rhino are being driven to extinction by poaching for ivory and rhino horn. We cannot let the elephant and rhino go extinct. WE MUST SAVE THEM! Please support this bill. No amount of money can bring back an extinct species. This is a crisis and it needs bold action. Please pass this bill! Mahalo, Ronnie Perry

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LATE

gabbard2 - Donna

From: Miriam F. Leiseroff <kamenzo36@gmail.com>
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2015 2:01 PM
To: ENETestimony
Subject: Hawaii SB674



I am a strong supporter of Bill SB674. Hawaii is the third largest retailer of ivory and ivory products in the US. Bill SB674 will prohibit the trade and sale of ivory in Hawaii. Thousands of elephants are killed by poachers who sell their tusks to the ivory trade. This needs to be stopped. Bill SB674 is a step in the right direction !!!

Thank you,
Miriam F. Leiseroff
San Jose, California

gabbard2 - Donna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2015 3:07 PM
To: ENETestimony
Cc: warther@roadrunner.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB674 on Feb 17, 2015 15:00PM

SB674

Submitted on: 2/16/2015

Testimony for ENE/CPN on Feb 17, 2015 15:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
David Warther	Individual	Comments Only	No

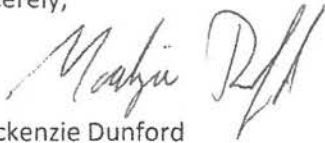
Comments: The wildlife bill under consideration is attractive to emotionally minded individuals and it is the work of Hawaii's government to remove the emotional from the logical and, in this case, reject this misguided piece of legislation. The US government has been stalled in their work to adopt a national ban on the sale and use of antique and pre-act elephant ivory because the will of the people is in decided opposition to it. There is a popular House and also a Senate bill at the national level that will stop the government agencies from restricting the sale, trade and use of old ivory because it is simply a ludicrous idea. Simply put, the sale and use of old ivory in this nation has no effect on wildlife in Africa. The US government, the UN , ETIS (Elephant trade Info System) and the WWF have recent studies showing the US has a negligible amount of illegal ivory being brought into it and that what is being brought in is being brought in by grandma at the airport from her vacation. Since the idea of making our family heirlooms illegal to sell is unpopular at the national level, the environmental groups have moved their efforts to the statehouses in the hope of convincing what they view as easier prey to their unpopular ideas. While NY and NJ adopted this law, many states have opted to not even give it their consideration. Virginia's Natural Resource Committee voted 12 to 0 to kick the legislation out completely. Residents of NY and NJ cannot sell items with any form of ivory in them and this includes ivory from the ancient mammoth that has been extinct for 10,000 years. I recently spoke with a lady in NY who moved to this nation from Hungary in the 1960's. She is a noted concert pianist and her husband rebuilds exceptional vintage pianos. He can no longer rebuild his instruments with antique ivory keyboards. Having lived under Hungarian communism her remark about this law is that "People have no idea what freedoms they are losing. This looks like a small thing but it affects many people. We are losing our freedom one bit at a time. I have seen this before." The Bill set before you is one that is a cookie cutter version developed by environmental groups and trooped around state to state. Their main tactic has been to enjoin the zoos in each state to develop a legislative push to pass a state ban in their state. Lastly - do you desire to destroy the value of the items your constituents own ? Most people have a family item made of ivory in their homes. By making it illegal to buy and sell these items you will have robbed them of the value of their property. If one owns an antique ivory statue it will have a value of zero dollars once it is illegal to sell. Passing this Bill will have effectively stolen their statue's value. There are many such things with ivory in them, especially in Hawaii.

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ALOHA,

I fully support the protection of elephants; however I strongly oppose this bill because it seeks to ban all trade in every type of ivory. I carve primarily fossil walrus tusk ivory and support other ivory carvers and a number of scrimshaw artists. I sell these items on Kauai, Maui, Oahu and the Big Island. If this bill passes it will be devastating to my lifestyle and many others that I care about. Quilting and Scrimshaw are the uniquely American art form. Scrimshaw was developed in the Pacific Northwest by the whalers and Lahaina was a huge whaling town. Scrimshaw is too important to American history. I educate and promote legal ivory products in an effort to keep this art form alive. I am 36 years old and support a wife and two children ages 2 and 6.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to read 'Mackenzie Dunford', with a stylized flourish at the end.

Mackenzie Dunford

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Monday, February 16, 2015 7:34 PM
To: ENETestimony
Cc: scrimartist@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB674 on Feb 17, 2015 15:00PM

LATE

SB674

Submitted on: 2/16/2015

Testimony for ENE/CPN on Feb 17, 2015 15:00PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Ray	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I supportfighting against such a law that is so vague in it's details. After reading the bill online it seems to boil down to someone wanting (with good intentions) to protect elephants from poaching which I do support, however it is so vague that it appears to have been written with lack of real knowledge by those with such good intentions. It encompasses ALL ivories with the excuse of how difficult it may be to identify the various materials from a variety of animals. Personally I have been involved full time as a scrimshaw artist since 1971 and have lived here on Maui since 1972 so I am very aware of the retail side of business pertaining to all the ivories they mentioned in their bill. Whale ivory: Whale teeth and whale products have been protected since 1972 with the passing of the Marine Mammals Protection Act as well as the Endangered Species Act of the same year. Following this Federal law people were protected with grandfather clauses to own or re-sell their collections or to retail them (if registered with the Federal government) but to never import or export from America as well as other laws limiting sales directly to customers and not across state lines. Those who currently sell these items are well aware of the laws and honor them. The Federal government also required those wishing to retail whale's teeth or their products to be registered with the government though this created a myriad of problems as it is not practical to place numbers on small items such as earrings or other trinkets. Walrus ivory: This is a peculiar material as the general public has never taken well to purchasing full tusks when they are fresh (white) material for some reason. Small items do sell somewhat but not as well as other material. I spoke with a trader years ago following the above named protection laws and he told me that he was aware of how well the law was working in his home state of Alaska and that he personally knew that an area previously designed by natural law to provide a home for some 5,000 animals the protection had driven the population to 50,000 which means the smaller and younger animals have to compete with the larger tusked animals for their food source and thereby suffer from the overcrowding. This trader I spoke with is a licensed trader in Alaska and only dealt with the native population to purchase their ivory which are used to make native crafts. Walrus teeth: Yes, some are retailed and some are cut up for small products but overall not a large part of the retail business in Hawaii. Walrus ivory, fossilized: This is the most popular material presently used in the retail business as it is obviously colored in a myriad of patterns due to being buried under the ground from 200 to 2,000 years ago by the native Eskimos themselves in old campsites. The popular reference to this material is called "Fossilized Walrus Ivory" when in truth it is not fossilized but is "mineralized" and not considered an ivory product by the Canadian government in Ottawa as no animals are threatened in any way. Elephant ivory: Again this material is under strict laws and not a popular material for scrimshaw though some examples are available for purchase but since it does not follow the history of scrimshaw it is not highly sought after. The majority of elephant

ivory products are from China and as we know China is not the best at following laws protecting elephants. Also the grandfather laws allowed individuals to own or sell their collections but to not import such materials as is the law with whale products. Narwhal ivory: At present there are only a very few offering this material for their products as it is not particularly distinguishable from other ivories when reduced to small pieces. Currently I know of only one retailer who sells Narwhal items and these are restricted to Hawaiian Fishhooks only as it is a very expensive material to be chopping into small pieces. In addition if one goes on line to buy Narwhal tusks they are virtually unavailable as I write these words and new inventory is not possible without breaking the import laws. Mammoth and Mastodon ivories: I read that to distinguish these materials from modern elephants is very difficult and they are correct. The only way to identify which animal provided these are to measure the angle of the criss-cross patterns in cross sections and only a scientist could do this with accuracy. However, when fresh elephant is placed next to these extinct animal's ivories it is obvious as the older ivories are of a light brown color and rarely available in large pieces though sometimes as full tusks found in the frozen areas of Alaska and Siberia as well. Most used for scrimshaw are cut from the outside of the tusks showing the "bark" of the outside areas used to frame the scrimshaw work. These materials are used by a few individuals to craft the popular Hawaiian fishhook necklaces but is not a dependable material to work with as it often has many hairline cracks which are only visible after all the work is done and the final polish is applied. I personally do not use this material but have scrimshawed many on the outside areas with the bark showing. This is not white material it is brown and quite obvious and easily distinguished from modern elephant ivory. The intention of these potential new laws is respectable but the approach is weak. To outlaw all ivories is confusing at the least and will be extremely difficult to enforce. In addition these lawmakers are disregarding two very important issues. First Hawai'i has a long history from the days of whaling in the Pacific when the whale ships would arrive here for foodstuffs as well as water and showed their scrimshaw creations to the those interested in seeing such unusual items. In addition the native Hawaiians themselves would salvage whale's teeth from carcasses found on the beach and use the teeth to make Lei Niho Palau's for the royalty. While I am one individual living in Hawai'i making scrimshaw and Hawaiian fishhooks I know I generate a decent income for myself and my retailers and they mark everything up so high they contribute a lot of money to the state in taxes which would disappear if this law were passed as written. I have managed to make a living with my hands and a variety of ivories for the last 44 years and if this law is passed will be forced to retire and probably forced to move out of the state as well as social security will never sustain me and my wife and this is the only work I have performed so am not qualified to find replacement work which would be necessary to meet the expenses of living here any longer. I am now 66 and fortunately for me have no health issues and planned to contribute to the collections of those who appreciate scrimshaw for as long as I can as I love this work and cannot imagine ever retiring especially here in this expensive state. I do not know if this tirade of mine can aid you in any way but hopefully something within will be of help to you or others confronted with this challenge. Hawaii stands to lose a lot of income should this become law. Sincerely; Ray Peters

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gabbard2 - Donna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 1:45 PM
To: ENETestimony
Cc: yamachika@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB674 on Feb 19, 2015 15:20PM

SB674

Submitted on: 2/18/2015

Testimony for ENE/CPN on Feb 19, 2015 15:20PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
jodi yamachika	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I am a concerned citizen who is not only appalled that Hawaii is reported to be the third highest market of the ivory trade but also that we have not yet tightened our laws punishing those who partake in such an abominable way of making money. I support SB674 and the ending of a system that trades body parts for profit.

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LATE

gabbard2 - Donna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 8:44 PM
To: ENETestimony
Cc: kamalu.dupreez@gmail.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB674 on Feb 19, 2015 15:20PM

LATE

SB674

Submitted on: 2/18/2015

Testimony for ENE/CPN on Feb 19, 2015 15:20PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kamalu du Preez	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: I am testifying in STRONG OPPOSITION TO SB 674. The language in the bill is poorly worded and inherently flawed. This bill makes criminals of any persons with antique gun grips, knife handles, sight beads, musical instruments, scrimshaw, hatpins, jewelry bearing small amounts of "ivory" from any source harvested long ago and offered for sale or transfer other than inheritance.

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gabbard2 - Donna

From: Sandra Amici <calsearcher@yahoo.com>
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 8:19 PM
To: ENETestimony
Subject: Ban Ivory Trade in Hawaii

Dear Lawmakers,

Please stop the Ivory Trade in Hawaii or I will never travel there again.

Thank you,

Sandra Amici
Mission Viejo, CA

LATE

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 8:18 PM
To: ENETestimony
Cc: lincolnmichele@yahoo.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB674 on Feb 19, 2015 15:20PM

LATE

SB674

Submitted on: 2/18/2015

Testimony for ENE/CPN on Feb 19, 2015 15:20PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michele Lincoln	Individual	Comments Only	No

Comments: Aloha, Feb. 17, 2015 Thank you for taking the time to evaluate this very important issue. I am writing in hopes that you will table or defeat HB837 and SB674 and SB141 and HB1012 regarding the Ivory Ban. It will greatly affect the livelihood of many Americans in an economy that is still recovering from the recession. It will be devastating for many of us that are residents of Hawaii. There is a lot of misinformation on the types of ivory and how they are obtained. There are many types of ivory including fossil ivory of mammoth and walrus that help to sustain the Native Americans in Alaska. The historical and cultural significance in Hawaii is great. Lahaina was the whaling capitol of the Pacific during the 1800's. The art form of scrimshaw came from the American whalers making it a distinctive American Art. John F. Kennedy was an avid collector of scrimshaw that included contemporary and antique ivory. He is responsible for reviving the art of scrimshaw in the 1960's. In 1972 whales and walrus were protected internationally under C.I.T.E.S. The whale and walrus population is not at risk. The Hawaiians did not hunt whale but whale ivory is very much part of the culture. When a sperm whale would beach itself the Ali'i (Royalty) would use the ivory to make fishhooks and jewelry including the palaoa. The United States is not a primary consumer of elephant ivory and never has been. China and other Asian Countries are the biggest offenders. It would make a greater impact for the United States to ban any and all trade with China and the offending Countries until they stop the elephant ivory trade. If the United States is not willing to punish China for its involvement with the ivory trade why do they feel it is necessary to restrict free trade on tax paying Americans? We do not have elephants in North America. Those of us in the business can educate the inspectors at the international borders to identify the different types of ivory. Elephant ivory has a grain that is 90° or more and mammoth is 90° or less and the color is also an indicator. Walrus ivory is marbled looking in the center with plain ivory around it. Sperm whale is a creamy yellow on the inside and white on the edge, like a hard-boiled egg. Ivory comes in many forms and can be identified. There are many laws currently in effect that protect the endangered and threatened species in the United States. They are effective. If more of an enforcement agency and stricter penalties is necessary then consider that as an alternative to the loss of hundreds of jobs and thousands of tax payer dollars. I implore you to table or defeat the Ivory Ban Bills, HB837 and SB674. Please get more information on the issue. The negative ramifications will be far reaching affecting many people that depend on you to protect them. Thank you for your consideration, Michele Lincoln :) Aloha Feb. 18, 2015 Thank you so much for delaying the vote on Bills HB837 and SB674 regarding the Ivory Ban. I appreciate that you are investigating the truth and gathering the facts before making a decision that will negatively affect so many people. I work in a shop in Lahaina selling ivory products. I have throughout the years educated many people on how to determine the differences in ivory and

the various laws. In most cases it is quite easy for anybody to evaluate the type of ivory. In my previous letter I gave a written description for determining the different types of ivory. It would be easy to make ivory information guides, with pictures, to educate anyone. Prior to protecting the African elephant in 1989 we made sure the importers we purchased from were legitimate. A portion of the sale of the ivory went into protection measures for the elephants in Africa. Since the ban of 1989 it has only progressed to these desperate measures because of well-meaning people not understanding the situation in Africa. I am not sure where the "facts" regarding the illegal ivory trade are coming from but if illegal ivory is being imported then the offending parties should pay substantial fines. The money generated from the fines could be paid to African citizens to protect the elephants from poachers. There will always be black markets so make it lucrative to protect the elephants and rhinos. It always comes down to money so pay a living wage to African game-wardens to protect the elephants. It would be more beneficial to come up with ideas to actually protect the elephants and rhinos then by putting American citizens that sell legal ivory out of business. Something could be done on the International level with C.I.T.E.S. that would prove to be the most impactful. It must be a global effort to be effective not just state to state legislation. It will cause businesses to close in the states that ban ivory and move those tax dollars to states that still allow the sale of ivory or cause higher unemployment. It will not protect elephants! Asian cultures are the largest contributor to the elephant ivory trade. They need to be held accountable for their actions. Threatening to stop any and all trade with these countries could make the biggest impact. The United States is contributing to the ivory trade by giving the financial resources to these Asian Countries through all the products we import that they manufacture. I can only speak to what the store does that I work at so will give you an example of the widespread affect this ban will have. We are only one of many honest ivory dealers that provide jobs to Americans and generate tax dollars. We sell pre-act sperm whale teeth that meet Federal requirements and the scrimshaw is by local artists. We also sell antique whale teeth that were done by American whalers in the 1800's. The fossil walrus ivory and mammoth ivory is dug up in the Alaskan tundra during the summer, by Natives only. They sell the ivory which provides income for their families. Most of the fossil ivory we use is manufactured by people in Massachusetts, California, Washington, and Hawaii that make products like money clips, knives, jewelry, display pieces and much more. We then commission local artists to do the artwork on these items. You can see how many United States citizens it will affect by banning fossilized ivory. It will be devastating for many families. Any elephant ivory we sell is either antiques or ivory that the owner has had since his wholesale days in the 1970's or items from purchases in the 1980's prior to the ban. We sell ivory from our private collections as much of our elephant ivory inventory is long gone. You can see how our very small operation affects so many jobs and provides a living wage to many American citizens that in turn pay taxes. We do need to protect elephants but not at the expense of people. If penalties need to be made harsher for illegal ivory then impose that restriction. Introduce Federal legislation that uses the funds from fines of illegal ivory to protect the elephants. Send a message to the Countries that are really affecting the illegal ivory trade by threatening to restrict the trade with them, until they do something about it. Can a resolution be found that protects elephants and American citizens? I believe we are innovative enough and in good conscience could come up with a solution that can. Thank you for defeating the bills SB674 and HB837 that would ban ivory sales in Hawaii. I look forward to Federal legislation or International laws that will genuinely protect the elephants and rhinos in a manner that is not devastating to United States citizens. Thank you, Michele Lincoln :) lincolnmichele@yahoo.com

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gabbard2 - Donna

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Wednesday, February 18, 2015 6:10 PM
To: ENETestimony
Cc: robertw@snorkelbob.com
Subject: Submitted testimony for SB674 on Feb 19, 2015 15:20PM

LATE

SB674

Submitted on: 2/18/2015

Testimony for ENE/CPN on Feb 19, 2015 15:20PM in Conference Room 225

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

Comments: I support SB674 as a responsible citizen of Hawaii and the world, in which any form of trafficking in wildlife or animal parts is a bad deal for everybody. Let nature heal.

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