



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Testimony Presented Before the
House Committee on Judiciary and Hawaiian Affairs
Wednesday, February 24, 2021 at 2:00 p.m.

By

Judy Lemus, PhD
Interim Director
Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology
School of Ocean and Earth Science
and Technology
University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

HB 553 HD1 – RELATING TO THE PROTECTION OF SHARKS

Chair Nakashima, Vice Chair Matayoshi, and members of the Committee:

The Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology recognizes the ecological and cultural importance of sharks in Hawai'i and supports the intent of this measure to help protect sharks within state waters. This measure acknowledges the importance of scientific research in understanding the behaviors and ecology of sharks, as well as potential anthropogenic threats that could impact their survival. The measure also provides a reasonable pathway for UH-sponsored research on sharks to continue in Hawai'i, the results of which will help to inform science-based management and conservation decisions.

HIMB respectfully submits its support of HB 553 HD1.