



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
House Committee on Energy and Environmental Protection  
Monday, June 22, 2020 at 9:30 a.m.

By  
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### SB 2717 SD1 – RELATING TO SHARK PROTECTION

Chair Lowen, Vice Chair Wildberger, and members of the committee:

The University of Hawai'i and the Hawai'i Institute of Marine Biology respectfully submit the following comments on SB 2717 SD1.

While there is currently no indication that shark populations are declining or at risk in Hawai'i, we recognize the ecological and cultural importance of sharks in Hawai'i and support the intent of this measure to help protect sharks within state waters. At the same time, scientific research is a critical tool for understanding the behaviors and ecology of sharks, as well as any potential anthropogenic threats that could impact their survival. Research on any vertebrate, including sharks, is overseen at the university by the Institutional Animal Care and Use Committee (IACUC). This committee "is composed of volunteers that consist of veterinarians, biological and non-biological scientists, and local community representatives. The members are appointed to the committee by the system-wide program Designated Institutional Official on the behalf of the Office of the Chancellor [sic]". Collection of all regulated aquatic animals conducted by HIMB is also overseen by the Division of Aquatic Resources special activity permitting process. HIMB also regularly consults with a group of cultural advisors regarding our research practices.

For these reasons, and those already stated by DLNR in their testimony dated March 17, we suggest the following amended language to the bill:

- (e) This section shall not apply to:
  - (1) Special activity permits allowed under section 187A-6 or research permits authorized by law; ~~provided that the or to research conducted is overseen by an a state approved institutional animal care and use committee[ and has been reviewed by the academic institution's designated native Hawaiian cultural practitioners;]~~