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# HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION

REQUESTING THE DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES TO POST  
SIGNS INFORMING THE PUBLIC OF THE ILLEGALITY OF SHARK  
FEEDING AND TO AMEND ITS ADMINISTRATIVE RULES TO ENFORCE  
COMPLIANCE WITH SHARK FEEDING LAWS.

1           WHEREAS, sharks, called "mano" in the Hawaiian language,  
2 carry great cultural, historical, and spiritual significance for  
3 many native Hawaiians, native Hawaiian practitioners, and others  
4 who value the Hawaiian culture; and

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6           WHEREAS, sharks are revered and regarded by many native  
7 Hawaiians as their "'aumakua," a protective ancestral spirit;  
8 and

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10           WHEREAS, shark tours, the practice of charging customers to  
11 venture into the ocean to view sharks, routinely and  
12 continuously feed sharks and use attractants to attract and hold  
13 many sharks near their operational sites; and

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15           WHEREAS, a recent study concluded that illegal shark  
16 feeding by the tour operators has caused larger sharks,  
17 specifically the galapagos and tiger sharks, to displace the  
18 smaller sharks from the cage diving sites; and

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20           WHEREAS, ocean users near the shark feeding sites have  
21 reported increased sightings of, and interactions with sharks  
22 since illegal shark feeding began; and

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24           WHEREAS, lifeguards have reported increased shark sightings  
25 in the surf-line, a Coast Guard search and rescue crew reported  
26 very large sharks below an overturned boat, and boaters, along  
27 with Honolulu Fire Department crews, reported numerous shark  
28 sightings while conducting search and rescue operations; and

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1 WHEREAS, although prohibited by both state and federal law,  
2 commercial shark tour operators continue to feed sharks; and  
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4 WHEREAS, the illegal use of food and other attractants by  
5 commercial shark tour operators raises concerns over the health,  
6 safety, and welfare of ocean users, is disruptive to the ocean's  
7 ecology and natural environment, and disrespectful of native  
8 Hawaiian customs, beliefs, and practitioners; now, therefore,  
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10 BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the  
11 Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session  
12 of 2010, the Senate concurring, that the Legislature requests  
13 the Department of Land and Natural Resources to post signs  
14 informing the public of the illegality of shark feeding and to  
15 amend its administrative rules to enforce compliance with shark  
16 feeding laws; and  
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18 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature requests the  
19 owners and operators of commercial shark tours in the State to  
20 comply with state and federal law by immediately ceasing all  
21 shark feeding activities; and  
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23 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Department of Land and  
24 Natural Resources is requested to monitor commercial shark tour  
25 operations in the State to ensure compliance with state law; and  
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27 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
28 Concurrent Resolution be transmitted to the Chairperson of the  
29 Board of Land and Natural Resources, the Director of the Hawaii  
30 Visitors and Convention Bureau, who in turn is requested to send  
31 additional copies to the registered agents of Hawaii Shark  
32 Encounters Inc., North Shore Shark Adventures Inc., Hawaii Shark  
33 Discovery LLC, and Pacific Paradise Divers Inc.  
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OFFERED BY:

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