



CLAYTON HEE - Hawaii State Senator

Senator Hee has served in the Hawaii State Senate from 1984 until 2014, in the State House of Representatives in 1983 and 1984, and the Office of Hawaiian Affairs from 1990 to 2002. During his time in the legislature he strongly supported the protection of prime ag land and animal welfare.

In 2010 Senator Hee successfully led the legislature to establish protection for sharks in the State of Hawaii by passing a law that banned the sale and trade of shark fin products. This law has become the international model that has been emulated by many other States and countries. Senator Hee also assisted similar efforts in Guam, CNMI, Federated States of Micronesia and the Marshall Islands.



VICKY CAYETANO - Former First Lady of Hawaii/ Animal Advocate

Mrs. Cayetano is President and Chief Executive Officer of United Laundry Services, Inc. and Managing Director of United Laundry Kona, LCC. She is married to Benjamin Cayetano, former Governor of the State of Hawaii. In 2000, the Girl Scouts of Hawaii recognized Vicky Cayetano as Woman of the Year. She received the Boy Scouts of Hawaii Distinguished Citizen of the Year in 2002, and was nominated for the Ernst and Young "Entrepreneur of the Year" in 1997.

In 2011, the YWCA recognized Vicky Cayetano as one of their recipients for the Leadership Award. Vicky Cayetano was instrumental in the ban of shark fin soup in Hawaii. It was due to her initiative that Senator Hee drafted a bill to ban the sale of shark fins.



SHAWN HEINRICHS - Blue Sphere Media

Shawn is an Emmy Award winning cinematographer, photographer, scuba diver, and marine conservationist. As independent filmmaker and founder of Blue Sphere Media he has acquired considerable first-hand knowledge of the oceans most important marine areas.

As an investigative conservation journalist, Shawn has gone undercover to expose stories in some of the most remote and challenging locations about the endangered species trade.

His engagement has contributed to the protection of sharks and mantas and the establishment of marine protected areas in Raja Ampat, across the Pacific, Southeast Asia and the Caribbean.



INGA GIBSON - Hawaii State Director, The Humane Society of the United States

Inga joined The HSUS almost 10 years ago, overseeing animal protection initiatives in Washington state, Oregon and Idaho before opening the Honolulu office of The HSUS in 2009. Her experience ranges from humane investigations and shelter management to coordinating humane education and policy reform campaigns. Her many successful efforts include work on Hawaii's landmark law prohibiting the sale or possession of shark fins.



PETER KNIGHTS - Executive Director, WildAid

Peter Knights was formerly a program director working on illegal wildlife trade with Global Survival Network and a senior investigator for the Environmental Investigation Agency.

In 1996 while working across Asia, he created the Active Conservation Awareness Program, the first international program aimed at reducing demand for endangered species products. He received an Associate Laureate of the Rolex Award for Enterprise for this work. He was featured on CNN's Planet in Peril, where he discussed shark finning with Lisa Ling. Peter Knights and his WildAid team were key supporters of the California Shark fin ban and several other campaigns in the Pacific islands.



JIMMY HALL

Jimmy was an accomplished waterman, athlete and adventure traveller. Jimmy had a passion for anything active and exciting. He sailed his 30' boat across the Pacific, hiked active volcanoes, surfed, kite-surfed, dived, skydived, and BASE-jumped. He was also an accomplished writer and photographer. His stories and images were published in magazines around the world. Jimmy was a dedicated supporter of shark conservation and a personality in the world of shark diving. In 2002 he started Hawaii Shark Encounters with Stefanie Brendl in Hawaii.

In May 2007 he died during a fatal BASE-jumping accident while on an expedition to Baffin Island. Shark Allies, a non-profit organization for the conservation of sharks was founded in his memory.