

Tiger sharks like turtles

George Balazs (Letters, 1/13) is a very dedicated scientist with the National Marine Fisheries Service. However, his field of expertise is not sharks. Dr. Balazs studies turtles, which are the No. 1 food source for tiger sharks.

Turtles have increased tremendously over the years since they have been protected. If they are left uncontrolled, more and more sharks will continue to come to the near-shore waters to feed. You have got to find a balance, and a balance doesn't mean kill all the sharks.

Since turtles were a prime food source for native Hawaiians, maybe it's time to have a controlled season on turtles. This would be socially and culturally acceptable for the Hawaiian people and healthy for the environment as well.

Dr. Balazs would hate to see his turtles eaten by a shark, therefore I think his emotions and personal opinions should not qualify him as a "shark expert" as your headlines indicate.

BOB ENDRESON

President

Hawaii Fishermen's Foundation

Sharks are a necessity *THA*

No matter how many sharks are caught and killed, people will still have the same fear toward sharks if they are not educated.

The state spent \$48,000 at a cost of \$175 a shark killed in 1971. In the more recent shark

hunt, \$500 a day was spent. I say, let's take that money and use it to educate people.

Show videos, put pamphlets on airplanes that come to these beautiful islands. Tell people about the beauty and mystique and legends of the sharks.

Let people know that out of hundreds of species, only 10 percent attack humans, and even they prefer to eat fish, eels, and lobsters. Sharks are scavengers that eat dead, dying and sickly animals and are a necessity for maintaining the health of their environment.

The risk of a fatal car accident while touring the islands is greater than the chance of being attacked by sharks.

NATALIE D. WALLACE

Pearl City

Hawaiians hurt by division

As a senior at Kamehameha, I have been exposed to many different opinions concerning Hawaiians and Hawaiian values. Protect our land. Build for our people. Why is it that there are so many different, contradictory opinions?

Everyone is entitled to his own opinion, but if we want results, we need a foundation. Many organizations claim to be representing Hawaiians, yet a lot of us complain about these groups. Continuing like this will get us nowhere. The same thing happened to Mainland Native Americans and it took them years to get together because there were so many different tribes. We're Hawaiians: There's nothing separating us. Why can't we stand together?

If there is one thing that I've learned at Kamehameha, it's that you only get things when you work for them. Fellow Hawaiians, it's time we took control of our future. Let's start with good leaders, strong ideas and hope in the future.

KAHOKU SOON

Waikane