

Dear Mr. Reiley

My name is Brenda Reichel, I have been Graduate Gemologist (GIA), jeweler and appraiser for over 32 years in Hawaii. I have also appraised and lectured on the mainland, and Europe speaking on Hawaiian artifacts made of a variety of different species of ivory. I have been the gemology instructor for the Honolulu Museum of Art School for many years. I am against SB 913 as written which furthers the hardship of small business, native artisans here in Hawaii and the rest of the United States. I agree that elephants and endangered species need to be protected at the border by Fish and Wildlife, U.S. Customs, TSA, U.S. Postal Service, to stop the illegal selling of Asian or African Elephant Ivory. Education is the most important aspect of saving elephants and endangered species. Elephant poachers need to be stopped in the country of origin. The federal government and its agencies need to do their job of enforcing our borders and stop illegal transportation of elephant ivory. China needs to take responsibility for their participation in the illegal trade of ivory and rhino horn.

Thousands of people benefit from Prehistoric Woolly Mammoth Ivory, Mastodon Ivory, and Fossil Walrus Ivory. There are many people in the jewelry, antique, and estate industry and artisans that work with carve and or collect legally acquired ivory. I resent the characterization that any one that has any type of ivory is in some way automatically a criminal, just by possessing ivory in a retail, wholesale, estate sale, or auction.

Prehistoric Woolly mammoth ivory is found by chance by Aboriginal the subsistence hunter, gatherer inhabitants of remote Alaskan and Russian regions. It is also a by-product of mining operations dotted throughout Alaska and Northern Canada, again found by chance.

Fossil Walrus Ivory is found on the Ste. Lawrence Island in the Bering Sea off the coast of Seward Peninsula in Alaska, by chance.

Prehistoric Woolly Mammoth ivory is found only by chance in the soil. Jobs are scarce to thousands of remote villages were this material comes from. The money the finder garners is used for necessities that his family needs to survive in remote Alaskan, Canadian and Russian villages. Prehistoric Woolly Mammoth Ivory tusks are easily identifiable by math. They have distinct, uniquely characteristic crosshatching patterns known as Schreger lines. They intersect at an angle of 90 degrees or less. The same crosshatching pattern exists in Elephant ivory, however the pattern is different in that the intersecting lines cross at 115 degrees or greater.

Walrus ivory has it's own distinct pattern and is entirely different from either the mammoth or elephant ivories. You can tell the difference. It is easy to distinguish. You do not need to be a scientist to tell the various types of ivory apart and its substitutes; bone, reconstructed bone, deer horn, cow horn, elk antler, moose antler, hornbill ivory, buffalo horn, fake shaw, bakelite, and plastic. There is also vegetable ivory.

The small businesses that use these materials are artists of America, scrimshanders, sculptors, jewelers, gunsmith, knife makers and musical instrument craftsmen.

Oregon, Washington, Hawaii and Alaska have a long history with China, Japan, whale trading going back to 1770s. The Bishop Museum, Iolani Palace, and the Honolulu Museum of Art have collections which include variety of types ivory. Ming's Jewelry, Sultan Company, Shirokiya, other businesses, and collectors buy and sell legally acquired ivory products. Lahaina as a whaling town has had retail stores

with types of ivory. Whale, woolly mammoth, mastodon, boar's tusk, hippo, sharks teeth, walrus. There is no reason to make it illegal to sell antique, vintage organic dentine varieties of all ivory. Rhino horn is comprised of compacted strands of keratin, (hair). Yes the rhino needs to be protected too from poachers.

Collectors of Ming's Jewelry would not be able to sell any of their collection to someone wanting piece of paradise. There are collectors all around the world that seek out jewelry from Hawaii with our exotic flowers and Hawaiian motifs carved in ivory and other organic materials. Historically Hawaiians have carved and used various types of ivory of the years dating to pre-contact.

Antique ivory (over 100 years old) and ivory covered by the previous ban should not be illegal under the proposed Bill or by Executive order. The organic ivory material must be documented correctly and in compliance with Convention on International Trade in Endangered Species. Even if you want to donate your ivory to a museum or education entity you still have to have it appraised for donation purposes, you would receive a benefit on your taxes in the year you make the donation.

You are doing more harm than good by making any and all ivory illegal to possess, barter, trade, or sell. The proposed Bills will do nothing to save one elephant or rhinoceros.

Sincerely

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