



The Nature Conservancy  
Hawai'i Program  
923 Nu'uuanu Avenue  
Honolulu, HI 96817

tel (808) 537-4508  
fax (808) 545-2019  
www.nature.org/hawaii

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting H.C.R. 216 Expressing Support for Hawai'i to Pursue the Bid to Host the  
2016 International Union for Conservation of Nature World Conservation Congress  
House Committee on Finance  
April 7, 2010, 2:30PM, Room 308

---

*The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of Hawaii's native plants, animals, and ecosystems. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands for native species in Hawai'i. Today, we actively manage more than 32,000 acres in 11 nature preserves on Maui, Hawai'i, Moloka'i, Lāna'i, and Kaua'i. We also work closely with government agencies, private parties and communities on cooperative land and marine management projects.*

---

The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i supports H.C.R. 216.

The International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) [www.iucn.org](http://www.iucn.org) is the world's oldest and largest global environmental network, with more than 1,000 government and non-profit member organizations, and almost 11,000 volunteer scientists in more than 160 countries. IUCN brings together governments, non-profits, scientists, companies, and community organizations to help the world make better conservation and sustainable development decisions.

The IUCN World Conservation Congress is the largest and most important international conservation event. Held every four years, the Congress aims to improve how we manage our natural environment for human, social and economic development. Nearly 7,000 world leaders from all the public and private sectors come together to discuss, debate and decide solutions for the world's most pressing environment and development issues. This body deals with how to protect the world's most important species and habitats in the face of such things as climate change, poverty, war, social and economic change.

In more than 60 years, there has never been a World Conservation Congress held in the United States.

Attendance at the WCC includes leaders in policy and conservation, heads of nations and indigenous groups, prominent world citizens, Nobel laureates and scientists, as well as leaders in communications and alternative energy. It is the kind of event that can leave a lasting impression on attendees and legacy in the State of Hawai'i; particularly as a follow up to the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation meeting in Hawai'i in 2011.

Hawai'i is at the leading edge of addressing both the threats and the solutions to environmental protection and sustainable management of our natural resources. Hosting the World Conservation Congress in 2016 will give the islands an opportunity to showcase the knowledge and contributions of many sectors of our community in biodiversity conservation and sustainable development, as well as feature the critical role that biodiversity and conservation plays in the economic viability of Hawai'i, the Pacific region, and the world.

BOARD OF TRUSTEES

S. Haunani Apoliona Christopher J. Benjamin Zador W. Brown, Jr. Anne Carter Samuel A. Cooke Peter H. Ehrman Kenton T. Eldridge  
Thomas Gottlieb Peter Ho Stanley Hong Donald G. Horner J. Douglas Ing Mark L. Johnson Dr. Kenneth Kaneshiro Bert A. Kobayashi, Jr.  
Faye Watanabe Kurren Eiichiro Kuwana Duncan MacNaughton Bonnie P. McCloskey Bill D. Mills Wayne Minami Michael T. Pfeffer  
H. Monty Richards Jean E. Rolles Scott Rolles Crystal Rose Nathan E. Smith Eric Yeaman



**NATIONAL TROPICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN**  
Chartered by Congress to Create a National Resource in Conservation, Research, and Education

**Committee: House Committee on Finance**  
**Hearing Date: Wednesday, April 7, 2010**  
**Hearing Time: at 2:30 PM**  
**Conference Room: 308**  
**Measure: HCR 216**

TESTIMONY OF CHIPPER WICHMAN  
ON BEHALF OF THE NATIONAL TROPICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

**SUBJECT: TESTIMONY IN SUPPORT OF HCR-216**

Dear Chairman Marcus R. Oshiro and members of the Finance Committee,

As the Chief Executive Officer and Director of the National Tropical Botanical Garden ("NTBG"), a 501(c)(3) publicly supported charitable organization chartered by the US Congress to protect our nation's tropical plant diversity, I want to express my full support for HCR-216. I have been personally involved in meetings with our congressional delegation in Washington DC and with top people in the Department of State related to bringing the IUCN's World Conservation Congress to Hawaii in 2016. While we have many hurdles to overcome on this important journey none are insurmountable. This resolution is a critical step in the process as it clearly expresses a desire by our State Legislature to see this prestigious event hosted here in the State of Hawaii. This statement of support is an important message we can take with us when we go back to DC this summer for continued meetings with the State Department and members of Congress.

I can not over emphasize the many benefits to our state that would accrue from bringing the WCC here in 2016 – not the least of which is it will put Hawaii on the world stage for conservation issues related to the preservation of our indigenous host culture and unique native biodiversity. The economic benefits of hosting a congress are also significant and the Hawaii Tourism Authority believes this could be a key event in re-branding Hawaii as a world-class meeting destination.

In conclusion, NTBG requests your strong support for HCR 216.

Mahalo,

Chipper Wichman  
CEO and Director

The natural biological diversity of Hawai'i is the most threatened of any place on Earth. Ninety percent of our native plants occur nowhere else. The Hawaiian culture, like that of many places in the Pacific, is intimately tied to our natural heritage. Thus, any threat to natural heritage is also a threat to our cultural heritage, and vice versa.

The International Union for the Conservation of Nature is one of the only international conservation organizations that explicitly promote the conservation of both nature and culture. The IUCN World Conservation Congress meets every 4 years. In 2016, the theme will be Oceania. With the richness of our state's biological diversity, cultural diversity, and respect for both, we are presented with a unique opportunity to place Hawai'i firmly in the international conservation arena.

The IUCN global network represents over 100 member states and other government entities. Its quadrennial congresses are attended by high-level government officials, policy analysts, scientists, NGOs, Nobel laureates, business leaders, and cultural organizations. The opportunity for transformational change in understanding of the environmental and cultural facing peoples around the world, most notably in Oceania, is once in a lifetime.

Recent congresses have attracted approximately 8000 attendees, many of whom spend 5-10 days in the host city. The 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress is a "natural" for Hawai'i and provides an opportunity to showcase the work being done by Hawaiian organizations, researchers and students at our universities (including the world-renowned work of the Lyon Arboretum), staff of governmental agencies, scholars at the East West Center, and other non-governmental organizations. The preservation and restoration of our natural heritage, culture, and language is a story that needs to be shared with the rest of the world.

I strongly urge full support for this resolution.

Respectfully submitted,

Christopher P. Dunn, PhD  
 Director  
 Harold L. Lyon Arboretum  
 University of Hawai'i at Mānoa

## FINTestimony

---

**From:** mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov  
**Sent:** Tuesday, April 06, 2010 9:52 PM  
**To:** FINTestimony  
**Cc:** watson@honuaconsulting.com  
**Subject:** Testimony for HCR216 on 4/7/2010 2:30:00 PM

Testimony for FIN 4/7/2010 2:30:00 PM HCR216

Conference room: 308  
Testifier position: support  
Testifier will be present: No  
Submitted by: Trisha Kehaulani Watson  
Organization: Individual  
Address: PO Box 61395 Honolulu, HI 96839  
Phone: 8083921617  
E-mail: [watson@honuaconsulting.com](mailto:watson@honuaconsulting.com)  
Submitted on: 4/6/2010

**Comments:**

Dear Chair Oshiro and Vice Chair Lee,

I am writing in very strong support for HCR216.

A successful bid to bring the IUCN World Congress to Hawai'i would be an extraordinary economic, environmental, and cultural opportunity for the State of Hawai'i. We are seeking no appropriations from the legislature in this resolution, as work is currently being done primarily by a volunteer exploratory committee. We are seeking only support from the legislature in the form of this resolution at this time as this effort moves forward. We believe this resolution would help other bodies appreciate our state's commitment to environmental leadership, cultural integrity, and economic development, and it would highlight our desire and capacity to host large, international conferences of global importance in Hawai'i.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this important resolution.