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Sent: Wednesday, March 28, 2012 9:27 AM
To: TIATestimony
Subject: SCR 162

COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS
Senator J. Kalani English, Chair
Senator Will Espero, Vice Chair

Wednesday, March 28, 2012
1:17 pm
Conference Room 224

SCR 162

URGING HAWAII'S CONGRESSIONAL DELEGATION TO REQUEST THAT THE DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF GLOBAL CHANGE OF THE UNITED STATES DEPARTMENT OF STATE PROPOSE TO THE CONFERENCE OF PARTIES FOR THE UNITED NATIONS FRAMEWORK CONVENTION ON CLIMATE CHANGE THAT THE UNITED STATES HOST THE 2015 UNITED NATIONS CLIMATE CHANGE CONFERENCE IN HONOLULU, HAWAII

My name is Shannon Wood, the president & co-founder of the *Windward Ahupua`a Alliance*, a 501c3 Hawai`i non-profit corporation, which was established in July, 2002. *WAA* works to educate & inform residents, visitors, businesses, policymakers at all three levels of government, and the media about the short and long-term impacts of climate change, global warming & rising sea levels around the world.

Specifically, we are working on both legislative and administrative policy changes which will actually address the impacts to be faced by everyone on the planet by people who are currently under the age of 45 or 50.

I've been professionally involved with these issues for nearly 15 years and have not only focused on public policy issues but also have taken a number of collegiate-level marine & climate science classes and service project trips to learn more about climate change impacts on the world.

In addition to my work here in Hawai`i, for the past three years I've been actively involved in a national advocacy group based in Washington, D.C. and at the *United Nations* in New York City focusing on **Pacific Ocean** issues.

I strongly support **SCR 162** - in fact, I first requested the *Hawai`i State Legislature* to submit a request in early January, 2008, but it was turned down for logistical reasons.

However, it is now time for Hawai`i to step up as a climate change policies leader - and holding the **2015 Conference** here would be a great way to do so.

Unfortunately, national public policies have changed in ways that will have a horrendous impact on us here in Hawai`i. Policymakers are expanding the use of fossil fuels and voters are electing more & more climate deniers. What was a given a few years ago to move forward with making a serious attack on climate change and rising sea levels is now considered a stupid, job-killing action by a bunch of left-wing enviros.

I do have one suggestion before passing the final draft - confirm high regions will be hosting future conferences. My understanding is that this year's meeting will be held in Rio de Janeiro and not in Asia.

Mahalo for the opportunity to testify on this resolution.