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# SENATE RESOLUTION

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR HAWAI'I TO HOST THE 2016 WORLD  
CONSERVATION CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR  
CONSERVATION OF NATURE.

1           WHEREAS, the International Union for Conservation of Nature  
2 (IUCN) was founded in 1948 and is the world's oldest and largest  
3 global environmental network; and  
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5           WHEREAS, the IUCN is a democratic membership union composed  
6 of more than one thousand two hundred government and non-  
7 governmental organizations and almost eleven thousand volunteer  
8 scientists in more than one hundred sixty countries; and  
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10          WHEREAS, the IUCN World Conservation Congress convenes  
11 every four years and was last held in 2012 in Jeju, South Korea;  
12 and  
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14          WHEREAS, the IUCN World Conservation Congress is held for  
15 almost two weeks and attracts approximately eight thousand  
16 delegates from one hundred sixty countries; and  
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18          WHEREAS, the IUCN World Conservation Congress has never  
19 been held in the United States; and  
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21          WHEREAS, the IUCN World Conservation Congress is a two-part  
22 international event, composed of:  
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24           (1) The World Conservation Forum, a five-day event open to  
25 all registrants to discuss major sustainable  
26 development issues, propose solutions, and facilitate  
27 the sharing of information and experiences; and  
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29           (2) The Members' Assembly, a five-day deliberative session  
30 on policy open to official delegates of member  
31 organizations; and  
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33          WHEREAS, attendees and active participants include world  
34 leaders, leaders in policy and conservation, scientists,  
35 academics, experts in alternative energy, indigenous peoples,



1 the business community, prominent world citizens, and Nobel  
2 laureates; and  
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4 WHEREAS, Hawai'i possess an extraordinary assemblage of more  
5 than twenty eight thousand native plants and animals, ninety  
6 percent of which are endemic, making the Hawaiian Islands one of  
7 the world's most ecologically diverse locations; and  
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9 WHEREAS, these unique biocultural resources are protected  
10 by an expansive system of national parks and monuments, natural  
11 areas, wildlife sanctuaries, forest reserves, and marine  
12 protected areas, including two World Heritage Sites  
13 (Papahānaumokuākea Marine National Monument and Hawai'i Volcanoes  
14 National Park); and  
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16 WHEREAS, Hawai'i is a global leader in sustainability and  
17 biocultural conservation; and  
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19 WHEREAS, Hawai'i has demonstrated its commitment to key  
20 environmental initiatives, such as the Rain Follows the Forest  
21 initiative, which seeks to double the amount of protected  
22 watersheds in the State over the next ten years; and  
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24 WHEREAS, Hawai'i has made significant strides and  
25 commitments in following traditional Hawaiian natural resource  
26 management practices through Aloha 'Aina, the ahupua'a based  
27 system, and the aha moku system; and  
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29 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i Green Growth Initiative, which is a  
30 collaboration of leaders from government agencies, businesses,  
31 academia, and civil society to achieve targets in energy, food,  
32 and ecosystem security for a sustainable, resilient, and  
33 prosperous future in the Hawaiian Islands, has also been  
34 established; and  
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36 WHEREAS, Hawai'i actively participates with the IUCN  
37 through the leadership of Hawai'i's seven member organizations --  
38 the Hawai'i Conservation Alliance, Bernice Pauahi Bishop Museum,  
39 National Tropical Botanical Garden, Polynesian Voyaging Society,  
40 Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Harold L. Lyon Arboretum, and  
41 Kamehameha Schools -- and many associated national member  
42 organizations, such as the Nature Conservancy; and  
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1 WHEREAS, the IUCN World Conservation Congress is an  
2 opportunity for regional, national, and international  
3 transformational change for the State of Hawai'i; and  
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5 WHEREAS, with increased attention to ocean resources and  
6 island systems from world governments, non-governmental  
7 organizations, researchers, and the public, Hawai'i as an island  
8 state offers an outstanding opportunity and site for the next  
9 IUCN World Conservation Congress; and  
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11 WHEREAS, the Hawai'i IUCN 2016 World Conservation Congress  
12 Committee has been working for six years to bring the 2016 IUCN  
13 World Conservation Congress to Hawai'i and sent a delegation of  
14 forty experts to the 2012 IUCN World Conservation Congress in  
15 South Korea to demonstrate the commitment of Hawai'i to host the  
16 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress; and  
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18 WHEREAS, if the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress were  
19 held in Hawai'i, Hawai'i would have a priceless opportunity to  
20 display its natural and cultural diversity to the world; and  
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22 WHEREAS, Honolulu is a world-renowned visitor destination  
23 and has the capability and facilities required to stage an IUCN  
24 World Conservation Congress; and  
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26 WHEREAS, tourism is Hawai'i's largest employer, revenue  
27 producer, and growth sector, and hosting international  
28 conferences is critical to the economic well-being of the State;  
29 and  
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31 WHEREAS, the United States Department of State, on behalf  
32 of the United States, has expressed its support for Hawai'i to  
33 host the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress; and  
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35 WHEREAS, the site inspection by the IUCN evaluation team on  
36 February 9-16, 2014, was a tremendous success and demonstrated  
37 Hawai'i's capability, capacity, and commitment to hosting the  
38 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress; and  
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40 WHEREAS, Hawai'i remains one of two finalists in the  
41 competition to host the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress,  
42 with the other being Istanbul, Turkey, which has also committed  
43 resources to support its bid; and



1  
2 WHEREAS, a final decision will be made in May 2014 on  
3 whether Hawai'i will host the IUCN World Conservation Congress in  
4 2016; now, therefore,  
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6 BE IT RESOLVED by the Senate of the Twenty-seventh  
7 Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2014,  
8 that this body supports Hawai'i's bid to host the 2016 World  
9 Conservation Congress of the International Union For  
10 Conservation of Nature; and  
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12 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this  
13 Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States,  
14 United States Secretary of State, United States Secretary of the  
15 Interior, United States Secretary of Commerce, United States  
16 Secretary of Agriculture, each member of Hawaii's congressional  
17 delegation, Governor, Chairperson of the Board of Land and  
18 Natural Resources, President and Chief Executive Officer of the  
19 Hawaii Tourism Authority, Chairperson of the Board of Directors  
20 of the Hawaii Visitors and Convention Bureau, Chair of the Board  
21 of Trustees of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Mayor of the City  
22 and County of Honolulu, Mayor of Kauai County, Mayor of Maui  
23 County, and Mayor of Hawaii County.  
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