
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



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



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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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