SCR144/SR80

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR HAWAII TO HOST THE 2016
WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL
UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

NEIL ABERCROMBIE GOVERNOR OF HAWAII





STATE OF HAWAII DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

POST OFFICE BOX 621 HONOLULU, HAWAII 96809

Testimony of WILLIAM J. AILA, JR. Chairperson

Before the House Committee on WATER AND LAND

Monday, March 24, 2014 1:18 AM

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

In consideration of SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 144 Proposed Senate Draft 1

SENATE RESOLUTION 80 Proposed Senate Draft 1 EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR HAWAII TO HOST THE 2016 WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE.

Senate Concurrent Resolution 144 Proposed Senate Draft 1/House Resolution 80 requests that the Senate of the Twenty-seventh Legislature of the State of Hawai'i, Regular Session of 2014, support Hawaii's bid to host the 2016 World Conservation Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature. The Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) is in strong support of these resolutions and provides the following comments.

- The Department has been directly involved in the bid to host the 2016 World Conservation Congress (WCC) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) since 2009.
- In 2010 the Department supported a similar resolution.
- In 2012 the Department sent a delegation to the WCC in Jeju, Korea to support Hawaii's bid.
- The Department worked with the Governor's office to host the IUCN WCC Site Selection Committee in February of this year.
- The Department requested legislative support in our 2015 administrative budget request to support the efforts of implementing the Congress.

The Department sees hosting the IUCN WCC 2016 as a unique and valuable opportunity to show the international community that Hawaii is a world leader in sustainability and environmental issues. The IUCN WCC 2016 is expected to bring together over 8000 delegates from 160 different countries. Out of 18 original bids, Hawaii and Turkey remain with the final selection expected in May, 2014.

WILLIAM J. AILA, JR.

CHAIRPERSON
BOARD OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT

WILLIAM M. TAM

AQUATIC RESOURCES
BOATING AND OCEAN RECREATION
BUREAU OF CONVEYANCES
COMMISSION ON WATER RESOURCE MANAGEMENT
CONSERVATION AND COASTAL LANDS
CONSERVATION AND RESOURCES ENPORCEMENT
ENGINEERING
FORESTRY AND WILDLIFE
HISTORIC PRESERVATION
KAHOOLAWE ISLAND RESERVE COMMISSION
LAND
STATE PARKS

Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Water and Land
March 24, 2014 at 1:18 PM
by
Donald Straney
Chancellor, University of Hawaii at Hilo

SCR 144/SR 80 PROPOSED SD1 – EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR HAWAI'I TO HOST THE 2016 WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR CONSERVATION OF NATURE

Chair Solomon, Vice Chair Galuteria, and Members of the Committee:

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in strong support for the proposed SCR 144/SR80 Proposed SD1 expressing the Hawai'i State Legislature's support for Hawai'i's bid to host the 2016 World Conservation Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

As one of the many key stakeholders in our community, University of Hawai'i at Hilo, in partnership with our Federal, State and County governments, and the entire University of Hawai'i System are strong advocates to preserve and protect our fragile environment.

UH Hilo's Master of Science in Tropical Conservation Biology and Environmental Science (TCBES) prepares our students by promoting research and scholarly activities that will enable participant to enter the scientific research community in the interdisciplinary field of conservation biology and environmental science. Our future leaders in the conservation field will benefit and realize the importance of their studies for future generations.

Hawai'i is an ideal show case for displaying our deep commitment to preserving our natural and cultural diversity rarely available anywhere else on the planet.

We appreciate the Senate's introduction of this measure that will provide Hawai'i the prestigious distinction of being the first to host this conference in the United States.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide testimony.



Testimony of George Szigeti
President & CEO
HAWAI'I LODGING & TOURISM ASSOCIATION
Committee on Water and Land
Hearing on March 24, 2014, 1:18 p.m.
SCR 144 SD1 Expressing Support for Hawai`i to Host the 2016 World Conservation Congress

Dear Chair Solomon, Vice Chair Galuteria and Members of the Committee. My name is George Szigeti and I am the President and CEO of the Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association.

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association (HLTA) is a statewide association of hotels, condominiums, timeshare companies, management firms, suppliers, and other related firms that benefit from and strengthen Hawai'i's visitor industry. Our membership includes over 150 lodging properties, representing over 48,000 rooms, and approximately 470 other Allied members. The lodging industry alone employs over 38,000 workers across the state of Hawai'i. As part of the broader visitor industry – which employees 1/6 of all workers and 1/5 of those in the private sector, and generated \$14.5 billion in visitor spending in 2013 – we represent one of Hawai'i's largest industries and a critical sector of the economy.

On behalf of HLTA, permit me to offer these comments regarding SCR 144 SD1 Expressing Support for Hawai`i to Host the 2016 World Conservation Congress.

The Hawai'i Lodging & Tourism Association <u>supports</u> this effort because hosting the 2016 World Conservation Congress provides Hawai'i the opportunity to solidify our position as a premier international meetings destination. If Hawai'i is selected, this will be the first time this prestigious conference will be held in the United States. Additionally, this conference would provide our state the opportunity to show that we stand at the forefront of sustainability and conservation.

Thank you for this opportunity to comment.

 To:
 WTLTestimony

 Cc:
 mfox@tnc.org

Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR144 on Mar 24, 2014 13:18PM

Date: Sunday, March 23, 2014 4:54:25 PM

SCR144

Submitted on: 3/23/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 24, 2014 13:18PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Mark Fox	The Nature Conservancy	Support	Yes

Comments: The Nature Conservancy SCR 144 Proposed SD1 and Hawai'i's bid to host the 2016 World Conservation Congress. In the 60-year history of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature, the World Conservation Congress has never been hosted by the United States. As a world leader in natural resource protection, we believe it is time for the U.S. to take its turn hosting the world's largest and most important conservation event. In the Hawaiian islands, with an amazing diversity of native habitat and species types, the synthesis of modern knowledge and traditional wisdom come together for the development and implementation of resource management regimes that are models for island ecosystems around the globe. The successful Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) leaders meeting clearly demonstrated that Honolulu has the necessary infrastructure, transportation and security capacity to be a successful venue for the 2016 World Conservation Congress. Hawai'i is a showcase of America's diversity in nature, culture, conservation and sustainability. We believe it will be an excellent site for world leaders from government and the private sectors to seek solutions to our planet's environment and development issues.

Please note that testimony submitted <u>less than 24 hours prior to the hearing</u>, improperly identified, or directed to the incorrect office, may not be posted online or distributed to the committee prior to the convening of the public hearing.

March 22, 2014

Malama Solomon
Chair, Committee on Water and Land
Senator Brickwood Galuteria
Vice-Chair, Committee on Water and Land
Hearing on Senate Bill SCR 144 SD1 Proposed – Expressing Support for Hawai'i to
Host the 2016 World Conservation Congress
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

Dear Senators Solomon and Galuteria,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer supporting testimony for Bill 144 proposed SD1.

As the largest and most inclusive conservation forum, the Congress represents an unequalled opportunity to bring more attention to Hawai'i as a center for cutting-edge environmental research, cultural studies, and innovation to the foremost experts in the area. Hosting the Congress would also help to further solidify Hawai'i's position as a premiere international meetings destination as it brings together delegates from over 160 countries.

The Senator 2016 World Conservation Congress is a great example of how Hawaii's meetings industry can help to showcase key areas of our State's leadership, while providing an economic impact of over \$45 million in visitor spending and tax generation from the 8,000 delegates who will be attending the conference.

The committee's endorsement of Hawai'i's hosting of the 2016 Congress will send a powerful message to the members of the Board of Councillors of the IUCN as they prepare to make their final selection.

Mahalo nui loa,

Priscilla Texeira

President

To: WTLTestimony
Cc: richmond@hawaii.edu

Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR144 on Mar 24, 2014 13:18PM

Date: Sunday, March 23, 2014 2:09:41 PM

SCR144

Submitted on: 3/23/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 24, 2014 13:18PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Robert Richmond	Kewalo Marine Lab	Support	No

Comments: I ask for your support of this measure, which will not only bring an important international conservation meeting to Hawaii, but also raise Hawaii's international stature in the resource conservation and sustainability arena. Hawaii has already been awarded the next International Coral Reef Symposium for June, 2016, and having the World Conservation Congress in the same year in Hawaii will certainly raise Hawaii's profile as a key location for other such meetings, events and activities that highlight our strengths. This will be great for both our environment and economy. Respectfully Submitted, Robert H. Richmond, Ph.D. Director, Kewalo Marine Laboratory Convener, 13th International Coral Reef Symposium, June 19-24, 2016

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To: WTLTestimony

Cc: <u>admin@honuaconsulting.com</u>

Subject: *Submitted testimony for SCR144 on Mar 24, 2014 13:18PM*

Date: Sunday, March 23, 2014 3:16:37 PM

SCR144

Submitted on: 3/23/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 24, 2014 13:18PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Dr. Trisha Kehaulani Watson	Honua Consulting	Support	No

Comments:

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NATIONAL TROPICAL BOTANICAL GARDEN

Saving Plants • Saving People

National Headquarters 3530 Papalina Road, Kalāheo, Hawai'i 96741 USA (808) 332-7324 · Fax (808) 332-9765 · www.ntbg.org



Sunday, March 23, 2014

Senator Malama Solomon, Chair, Committee on Water and Land Senator Brickwood Galuteria, Vice-Chair, Committee on Water and Land

Hearing on Senate Bill SCR 144 SD1 Proposed – Expressing Support for Hawai'i to Host the 2016 World Conservation Congress

State Capitol, Conference Room 225

<u>Subject: Testimony in strong SUPPORT of SCR 144 SD1 Proposed – Expressing Support for Hawai'i to Host the 2016 World Conservation Congress</u>

Dear Senators Solomon and Galuteria and Committee members,

As the Director and CEO of the National Tropical Botanical Garden I have personally and professionally been working for the past six years to bring the IUCN WCC to Hawaii in 2016 because this is an unprecedented opportunity for Hawai'i to host a global meeting of this magnitude and put the biocultural conservation work that we conduct here on the world stage. I urge you to support this resolution!

I would like to note in my testimony that eight exemplary organizations in Hawai'i are IUCN members and have been working hard to bring the WCC to Hawai'i. They are: Bishop Museum, Hawai'i Conservation Alliance, Kamehameha Schools, National Tropical Botanical Garden, Office of Hawaiian Affairs, Polynesian Voyaging Society, Lyon Arboretum, and The Nature Conservancy.

If Hawai'i is selected, this will be the first time this prestigious conference will be held in the United States. Thanks to the efforts of Governor Abercrombie and our national NGO support base, we have secured the support of the US Dept of Sate which was based in no small part on the exemplary job Hawaii did in hosting APEC and the role Hawai'i is playing in becoming a global model of sustainability.

The National Tropical Botanical Garden is celebrating our 50th year in 2014 and as a leader in conservation of our native plants and as a steward of some of the most sacred cultural sites in Hawai'i we full support this resolution and the recognition and opportunities that hosting the 2016 WCC will bring to our pae 'āina. Not only will hosting the WCC be good for our critical biocultural conservation work, but it also represents an unequalled opportunity to demonstrate that Hawai'i is a premiere international meetings destination — which we believe will pay back big dividends by helping the State's economy and ensuring we have adequate funds to commit to conserving our unique natural and cultural resources.

Mahalo for your strong support of SCR 144 SD1 Proposed.

Chipper Wichman, Director and CEO

Vippu(D)Du



The Senate Committee on Water and Land March 24, 2014 1:18 p.m., Conference Room 225 State Capitol

Testimony in Support of SCR 144 SD1

Aloha Chair Solomon, Vice Chair Galuteria, and Members of the Committee,

The Coordinating Group on Alien Pest Species (CGAPS) supports SCR 144 SD1, which expresses support for Hawai'i's bid to host the IUCN World Conservation Congress in 2016.

I think that hosting the WCC would help us solidify our commitment to protecting the natural environment as the keystone of our economy and culture. As part of the Hawai'i delegation to the 2012 WCC in Jeju, it was clear that multiple sectors worked together to make sure that the tourism infrastructure and natural environment sites were ready and able to host the event, and that their culture shared center stage.

Your support of SCR 144 SD1 is greatly appreciated. Mahalo for your consideration. Aloha, Christy Martin

To: <u>WTLTestimony</u>

Cc: <u>audnewman@gmail.com</u>

Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR144 on Mar 24, 2014 13:18PM

Date: Sunday, March 23, 2014 1:30:45 PM

SCR144

Submitted on: 3/23/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 24, 2014 13:18PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Audrey Newman	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support Hawaii's outstanding work to host the World Conservation Congress in 2016 (WCC 2016) and ask the Senate to join the impressive coalition of leaders and organizations committed to bringing this prestigious event to our islands. As Senior Advisor to Hawai`i Green Growth and the Global Island Partnership, I am deeply impressed with Hawaii's potential to be a global leader in island sustainability and to learn and share with others around the world. WCC 2016 is a powerful platform to realize this potential at home, nationally and internationally. The World Conservation Congress is often a "game-changer" in the international community, vetting issues and opportunities that ultimately affect global policy and relationships. With your support, HI can engage in the global community as a proud representative of the US and our unique island way of life. Mahalo for the opportunity to testify, Audrey Newman

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Senator Malama Solomon
Chair, Committee on Water and Land
Senator Brickwood Galuteria
Vice-Chair, Committee on Water and Land
Hearing on Senate Bill SCR 144 SD1 Proposed – Expressing Support for Hawai'i to
Host the 2016 World Conservation Congress
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

Dear Senators Solomon and Galuteria,

Thank you for the opportunity to offer supporting testimony for Bill 144 proposed SD1. Over the past five years, as the former director of international markets at the Hawaii Convention Center, I have had the honor of working together with the top conservation, environmental and cultural leaders and organizations in Hawaii, as well as national organizations to build the rationale for the 2016 World Conservation Congress to be held in Hawai`i.

As the host for the largest and most inclusive conservation forum, we will have an unequalled opportunity to position Hawai'i as a center for cutting-edge environmental research, cultural studies, and innovation to the foremost experts in the area. It would also help to further solidify Hawai'i's position as a premiere international meetings destination. There is potential for Hawai'i's engagement at the highest international and national levels, as well as in the local communities.

In addition, the relationships established in the course of working on the bid for the Congress have resulted in additional bookings of environmental conferences in Hawai'i such as the 2016 International Coral Reef Symposium and the 2015 annual meeting of the Association of Tropical Botanical Conservation, and should continue to yield prospects for additional meetings in the future.

The 2016 World Conservation Congress is a great example of how Hawaii's meetings industry can provide a platform to showcase key areas of our State's leadership.

Thank you for your consideration.

Independent Meeting Professional

To: <u>WTLTestimony</u>
Cc: <u>kykanesh@hawaii.edu</u>

Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR144 on Mar 24, 2014 13:18PM

Date: Sunday, March 23, 2014 9:29:00 PM

SCR144

Submitted on: 3/23/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 24, 2014 13:18PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing	
Ken Kaneshiro	Individual	Support	No	

Comments: Being able to host the 2016 World Conservation Congress is extremely important and will put Hawaii on the world stage in the fields of conservation biology, resilience and sustainability.

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To: WTLTestimony
Cc: changkwaix@aol.com

Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR144 on Mar 24, 2014 13:18PM

Date: Sunday, March 23, 2014 1:10:19 PM

SCR144

Submitted on: 3/23/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 24, 2014 13:18PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Kevin Chang	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Aloha honorable members of the Senate Water and Land Committee: I am testifying in support of SCR 144 SD 1 to support Hawai'i's hosting of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's World Conservation Congress. In particular I believe it will be good for us to show and be inspired to improve on how Hawai'i's community has made and will make significant strides and commitments in traditional Hawaiian natural resource management practices through Aloha 'Aina bolstered by the best in contemporary practical conservation science practices of today. Aloha nui Kevin

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SENT VIA EMAIL

March 23, 2014

Senator Malama Solomon
Chair, Committee on Water and Land
Senator Brickwood Galuteria
Vice Chair, Committee on Water and Land
Conference Room 225, State Capitol
415 South Beretania Street, Honolulu, Hawaii

REF: Senate Concurrent Resolution SCR 144 SD1 Expressing support for Hawaii to host the 2016 World Conservation Congress

Aloha Chair Solomon and Vice Chair Galuteria!

Hawai'i is recognized as a leader of conservation, with rich bio-cultural diversity throughout our islands. There are many examples of how we as a people are able to demonstrate to the world our collective indigenous wisdom and commitment for protecting our most precious natural resources. To name a few:

Mālama Hawai'i, established by two inspirational founders, the late Kenneth Francis Kamu'okalani Brown and Myron B. "Pinkie" Thompson, who formed a coalition of organizations and individuals committed to the vision that Hawai'i, our special island home, is a place where the land and sea are cared for, and communities are healthy and safe for all people.

Mālama Honua - established by the Polynesian Voyaging Society – to take care of our Island Earth. On this mission, headed by Nainoa Thompson, Master Navigator, the crew will embark on the Hōkūle'a in May, 2014 setting sail on the World Wide Voyage for three years to share aloha, exchange thoughts and ideas, experiences, making new friends along the voyage and learning what it means to Mālama.

The Centennial Initiative of our National Park Service is being celebrated in 2016, which includes the 100th year of Hawaii Volcanoes National Park a World Heritage Site. There are so many more examples, of which some are listed in this resolution.

The Steering Committee has been working diligently for several years to attract the 2016 World Conservation Congress to Hawaii and I ask you respectfully, to pass Senate Resolution 144 SD1 for Hawaii, the United States and for our friends and colleagues around the world, this is the "Olympics of Conservation".

Mahalo

'O wau nō me ka ha'a ha'a,

Mark McGuffie Managing Director Enterprise Honolulu





To: <u>WTLTestimony</u>
Cc: <u>hamnett@hawaii.edu</u>

Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR144 on Mar 24, 2014 13:18PM

Date: Sunday, March 23, 2014 2:18:03 PM

SCR144

Submitted on: 3/23/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 24, 2014 13:18PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Michael Hamnett	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I strongly support SCR144SD1 proposed. Bringing the World Conservation Congress to Hawaii is a once in a lifetime opportunity to show case many of the great environmental initiatives in Hawaii. It will also be a tremendous chance for us to learn what other people are doing around the world. Michael Hamnett Co-Chair Hawaii Energy Policy Forum Principal Investigator, Hawaii Coral Reef Initiative Research Program, Member Hawaii Green Growth Initiative working group

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Senator Malama Solomon
Chair, Committee on Water and Land
Senator Brickwood Galuteria
Vice-Chair, Committee on Water and Land
Hearing on Senate Bill SCR 144 SD1 Proposed – Expressing Support for Hawai`i to
Host the 2016 World Conservation Congress
State Capitol, Conference Room 225

Dear Senators Solomon and Galuteria,

The State of Hawai`i is presently in competition to host the 2016 World Conservation Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature. If Hawai`i is selected, this will be the first time this prestigious conference will be held in the United States.

As with APEC, the World Conservation Congress represents a major conference where Hawaii can share the in place knowledge on how we have manage conservation. In addition, the diverse cultures of Hawaii along with the native Hawaiian community have demonstrated for generations the need to care and how to care for the place we live.

As the executive director for the Hawaii 2016 World Conservation Congress Alliance, we support Bill 144 proposed SD1 as the Congress represents an unequalled opportunity to further solidify Hawai`i's position as a premiere international meetings destination, and also as a leader in conservation and sustainability.

As a key stakeholder in Hawaii's community and partner with the State of Hawai`i in protecting our fragile environment, your endorsement of Hawaii's bid for the 2016 World Conservation Congress is greatly appreciated.

Mahalo for your commitment and support.

Randall Tanaka Executive Director Hawaii 2016 World Conservation Congress Alliance.

To: WTLTestimony
Cc: syuen@hawaii.edu

Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR144 on Mar 24, 2014 13:18PM

Date: Sunday, March 23, 2014 8:36:59 PM

SCR144

Submitted on: 3/23/2014

Testimony for WTL on Mar 24, 2014 13:18PM in Conference Room 225

Submitted By	Organization	Testifier Position	Present at Hearing
Sylvia Yuen	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Please support this resolution.

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