

SCR144/SR80

LATE

TESTIMONY



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Neil Abercrombie
Governor

Mike McCartney
President and Chief Executive Officer

Testimony of
Mike McCartney
President and Chief Executive Officer
Hawai'i Tourism Authority
on
S.C.R. 144, S.D.1
Expressing Support for Hawaii to Host the 2016 World Conservation Congress
of the International Union for Conservation of Nature
Senate Committee on Water and Land
Monday, March 24, 2014
1:18 p.m.
Conference Room 225

The Hawai'i Tourism Authority (HTA) supports S.C.R. 144, S.D.1, which supports Hawaii's bid to host the 2016 World Conservation Congress of the International Union for Conservation of Nature.

HTA's board has adopted the Tourism Strategic Plan, which includes in its objectives "...growing the meetings market by focusing on carefully selected target customers, who are suitable prospects for off-shore meetings." Further, one of the goals of the Tourism Strategic Plan is to "...respect, enhance and perpetuate Hawaii's natural resources to ensure a high level of satisfaction for residents and visitors."

With the world's attention on the preservation and enhancement of natural resources, and Hawaii, often known as a center for endangered species, offers the ideal venue to host the World Conservation Congress.

The Congress will give us an opportunity to host an event where world leaders, scientists and other experts can meet and interact on issues relating to the conservation of biodiversity and sustainability.

Thank you for the opportunity to provide these comments.



**SR80/SCR144 Proposed SD1
EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR HAWAI'I TO HOST THE 2016 WORLD
CONSERVATION CONGRESS OF THE INTERNATIONAL UNION FOR
CONSERVATION OF NATURE.**

Senate Committee on Water and Land

March 24, 2014

1:18 p.m.

Room 225

The Administration of the Office of Hawaiian Affairs (OHA) **SUPPORTS** SR80/SCR144 Proposed SD1, which expresses support for Hawai'i to host the 2016 World Conservation Congress of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature (IUCN). Hosting the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress would allow Hawai'i to share our cultural heritage regarding conservation with leaders from around the world.

The IUCN is the world's oldest and largest global environmental organization international organization dedicated to the conserving biodiversity. It is composed of more than 1200 government and non-governmental organizations, with nearly 11,000 volunteer scientist in more than 160 countries. Held every four years, the IUCN World Conservation Congress is the world's largest and most important conservation event bringing together people from around around the world to discuss the world's most pressing conservation issues. The IUCN World Conservation Congress has never been held in the United States since its inception in 1948.

OHA supports Hawai'i hosting the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress because it presents a unique opportunity for Hawai'i to share how Native Hawaiians traditional and customary practices promote conservation. Hawai'i, despite its relative isolation, has a rich heritage of sustainability and self-sufficiency. Our ancestors understood the importance of living in harmony with the natural environment, and were able to support remarkable levels of people without depleting our islands' limited resources. Through an ahupua'a system of land management and with shared cultural practices of aloha (respect), laulima (cooperation) and mālama (stewardship), Native Hawaiians were able to maintain a desirable pono (balance) between the 'āina and the people it sustained.

Accordingly OHA supports SR80/SCR144 Proposed SD1. Mahalo for the opportunity to submit testimony on this important matter.



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SUPPORTING HR _____

EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR HAWAII TO HOST THE WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS

SENATE COMMITTEE ON WATER AND LAND

MARCH 24, 1:15 PM RM 308

The Big Island Invasive Species Committee is a partnership of private citizens and government agencies working to address invasive species issues on the island of Hawaii. Our mission is to prevent, detect, and control the spread of the highest risk invasive species threats to the Big Island environment, economy, and way of life.

BIISC SUPPORTS THIS MEASURE, AND OFFERS THE FOLLOWING COMMENTS:

Hosting the IUCN World Conservation Congress is estimated to bring \$50 million in revenue to the state. At the same time, it will provide the opportunity to showcase the leadership of and efforts made by countless individuals, organizations, and the state to prioritize and promote sustainability, watershed protection, invasive species management, cultural resources, and native biodiversity unique to Hawaii. Hosting the conference is a positive action supported by a diverse group of organizations connected by a commitment to preserving Hawaii's natural resources.

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
To: [WTLTestimony](#)
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Subject: Submitted testimony for SCR144 on Mar 24, 2014 13:18PM
Date: Monday, March 24, 2014 11:47:56 AM

SCR144

Submitted on: 3/24/2014

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

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

Comments: I support Resolution SCR144_SD1_Proposed. The WCC in Hawaii will showcase Hawaii's leadership in conservation and sustainability programs and position Hawaii as a premiere intl conference destination. Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony

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UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Water and Land
March 24, 2014 at 1:18 p.m.

by
David Lassner
Interim President
University of Hawai'i

SCR 144/SR 80 Proposed SD1 – EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR HAWAII 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:

The University of Hawai'i strongly supports the SCR 144/SR 80 Proposed SD1 expressing the Hawai'i State Legislature's support for Hawai'i's bid to host the 2016 World Conservation Congress (WCC) of the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN).

The University of Hawai'i has been actively working for several years to support the coalition working to bring WCC to Hawai'i alongside our partners in government and the private and non-profit sectors. This includes sending a delegation to the prior WCC in Korea in 2012, assisting with the preparation, submittal and support of the Hawai'i proposal to IUCN, and participating in the hosting of the visiting delegation from IUCN when they performed their site visit to Hawai'i this February.

Hosting WCC in Hawai'i will provide a wonderful opportunity for our UH students and faculty from throughout the State to share Hawai'i's conservation successes, challenges and opportunities with the global conservation community and to learn from others.

This would be the first time for the United States to host WCC, and will provide another substantial opportunity to showcase Hawai'i to leaders from throughout the country and the world.

We greatly appreciate and support the Senate's proposed SD1 of this measure.

Thank you for this opportunity to provide testimony.