

**HB 2037**

**HD1**

DAVID Y. IGE  
GOVERNOR OF  
HAWAII



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LAND  
STATE PARKS

STATE OF HAWAII  
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES

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Testimony of  
SUZANNE D. CASE  
Chairperson

Before the Senate Committees on  
WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE  
and  
TOURISM AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Wednesday, March 23, 2016  
2:45 PM

State Capitol, Conference Room 224

In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2037, HOUSE DRAFT 1  
RELATING TO THE WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS

House Bill 2037, House Draft 1 proposes to appropriate moneys to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to host the 2016 International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress (Congress) meeting at the Hawaii Convention Center on September 1-10, 2016. **The Department strongly supports this measure and provides the following comments.**

This meeting offers a unique opportunity to highlight Hawaii's environmental and natural resources as a showcase for the United States to share with the world, as this is the first time that the IUCN Congress is convening in the United States. The meeting will enhance natural resource conservation in Hawaii and the continental United States, the Asia-Pacific Region, and internationally. Hosting the conference will support Hawaii's economy, environment, and quality of life, and will generate economic benefits, such as visitor spending, tax revenues, potential federal and international grant funding, and research opportunities.

The meeting will also showcase and support Hawaii's goals for sustainable development outlined in the Aloha+ Challenge, sustainable ecotourism, conservation leadership, and in positioning Hawaii as a destination for high-level and global meetings. Educational opportunities for Hawaii residents and students will include leadership development at the East-West Center, conservation leadership certification at the University of Hawaii at Manoa, K-14 Youth Leadership Initiatives, and access to IUCN's scientific credibility, extensive networking and exposure to high-level political, economic, and social decision-making regarding conservation.

IUCN, the world's oldest and largest global environmental network, holds a conference every four years and encourages member organizations to improve their management of the natural and cultural environment for ecologic, social and economic well-being. The World Conservation Congress consists of more than 1,200 member organizations including over 200 Governments, 900+ Non-Government Organizations (NGOs), and 85 Member Organizations in the United States. More than 8,000 delegates from over 160 countries are expected to attend this meeting in Hawaii.

Thank you for your consideration of this testimony.



**Department of Land and Natural Resources  
Aha Moku Advisory Committee  
State of Hawaii  
Post Office Box 621  
Honolulu, Hawaii 96809**

**Testimony of  
Leslie Kuloloio, Chair**

**Before the Senate Committees on  
WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE  
TOURISM AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS**

**Wednesday, March 23, 2016  
2:45 P.M.  
Conference Room 224**

**In consideration of  
HOUSE BILL 2037 HD 1  
RELATING TO THE WORLD CONSERVATION CONGRESS**

House Bill 2037 HD 1 appropriates moneys to the DLNR to host the International Union for Conservation of Nature World Conservation Congress (IUCN) meeting at the Hawaii Convention Center on September 1-10, 2016. **Aha Moku supports this measure.**

The IUCN, an international environmental network, holds a conference every four years to bring attention to the organizational management of the natural and cultural environment as well as the protection of earth's fragile and different ecosystems in different countries. For the first time in history, the IUCN is conveying its Congress in the United States, in Hawaii. Its mandate is to impact, inspire and push for environmental policies that can benefit mankind and protect its fragile ecosystem. It focuses on the integrity of natural and cultural resources of a place and, we believe, its relationship to the indigenous people of that place.

The Aha Moku works to secure, protect and sustain the environment and different ecosystems in the State of Hawaii by bringing forth the voices of communities in sustaining their natural and cultural resources by integrating native Hawaiian traditional and generational resource methodology with contemporary scientific ways. This is a unique, yet indigenous approach to protecting the environment because it brings people together who use empirical and generational knowledge to care for their ecosystems.

Aha Moku is committed to supporting and working with DLNR in showing the rest of the world how the indigenous host culture, integrated with the rainbow of other cultures that are now part of Hawaii, can protect and sustain its exceptional environment in one of the world's most beautiful places.

Thank you for the opportunity to testify on this bill and we urge that this committee pass this measure.



Testimony of Randall Tanaka in Support of HB 2037 HD1  
Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture and  
Committee on Tourism and International Affairs  
Wednesday, March 23, 2016, 2:45PM HCR 224

The Honorable Mike Gabbard, Chair, The Honorable Kalani English, Vice Chair, and  
Committee Members,

My name is Tim Johns, Chair, World Conservation Congress, National Host  
Committee/Hawaii 2016, testifying in strong support of HB 2037 HD1, Relating to  
the World Conservation Congress.

First, I am extremely proud and honored that Hawaii was chosen over many other  
countries to be the first host of the World Conservation Congress in America.

It is truly an honor, that out of the 8 qualified countries, Hawaii was chosen to  
showcase and be the leader on issues such as global climate change, biodiversity,  
native species, water management and of course, conservation/environmental  
leadership in an important cultural setting. Hawaii sets the stage for policies and  
discussions regarding conservation using Hawaiian cultural practices and practices  
by other indigenous cultures for generations to come.

We are very grateful for the assistance and leadership of Hawaii's legislative body  
with the efforts of the World Conservation Congress. The appropriations set aside  
from this body will help in our efforts of making this World Congress very  
meaningful and impactful.

The World Conservation Congress is important to Hawaii now and for its future.  
First, as an island community, global policies that are discussed and passed have a  
direct impact on Hawaii. Policies and discussions on fisheries, garbage drift, invasive  
species, land and water use, all have direct impact in our communities, the way that  
we are able to live, and our host culture. The focus of the conference here in Hawaii  
allows Hawaii to teach the world that conservation and growth can seamlessly  
blend together.

The economic benefits to the State will be approximately \$65M based on the attendance of approximately 8000 delegates. The significant social and media exposure will also expand the economic benefits to the State, as the event will showcase Hawaii in a manner that tourism dollars could not reach or match.

The intellectual benefits to the State are untold. The conference will provide opportunities for our youth, policy-makers and citizens to share and learn from the congress delegates more about conservation issues and initiatives, and to participate in the discussions on a global scale.

Hawaii has the benefit of showcasing its programs over any other state in the union. Hawaii always has been a leader in this regard, but this conference puts the spotlight on the many projects that Hawaii puts forth. From programs such as the amazing Malama Honua worldwide voyages of the Hokule'a or the discussion about science versus host culture concerns such as Mauna Kea and Haleakala. This conference will provide opportunities for the State that is unimagined.

To date, the Hawaii host committee has been able to secure over \$1.2M from various funding sources including private foundations. We are diligently working to raise additional funding. Over \$1.2 million in additional funding has been recently requested in the form of grant requests to local and mainland foundations. This appropriation will help us reach our anticipated goal of \$13.2M and is crucial to securing additional funding from private foundations and corporations.

The World Conservation Congress will be held September 1 – 10, 2016. Your insight and assistance, will provide a lifetime opportunity for Hawaii and its' people to teach the world how we all malama our islands, and that the practices that we employ here can provide the seed for other nations to follow.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

**From:** [mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov](mailto:mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov)  
**To:** [WLA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [igibson@hsus.org](mailto:igibson@hsus.org)  
**Subject:** \*Submitted testimony for HB2037 on Mar 23, 2016 14:45PM\*  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 22, 2016 11:15:24 AM

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**HB2037**

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for WLA/TSI on Mar 23, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Inga Gibson	Humane Society of the US- Hawaii	Support	No

Comments:

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# MARINE AND COASTAL ZONE ADVOCACY COUNCIL KE KAHU O NA KUMU WAI

## COMMITTEE ON WATER, LAND, AND AGRICULTURE

Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair  
Senator Clarence K. Nishihara, Vice Chair

## COMMITTEE ON TOURISM AND INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Senator J. Kalani English, Vice Chair

DATE: Wednesday, March 23, 2016  
TIME: 2:45 p.m.  
PLACE: Conference Room 224

### **TESTIMONY OF JAMES E. COON SPEAKING IN STRONG SUPPORT OF HB2037 HD1**

Aloha Chair Gabbard, Vice Chairs English, Nishihara, Members of the Committees on Water, Land, and Agriculture and Tourism and International Affairs:

My name is James Coon. I have served as a Council Member of MACZAC Ke Kahu O Na Kumu Wai (Marine and Coastal Zone Advocacy Council) since its inception in 2001.

Hawaii has the unique opportunity to host the World Conservation Congress this year. It is the first time this prestigious Congress has been hosted in the US. I hope we do it in the first class manner it deserves.

#### **I speak in Strong Support of HB 2037 HD1**

The opportunity to collaborate with some of the top resource managers in the world right here in Hawaii is a rare one. MACZAC has advocated for a Mauka Makai approach to managing the coastal zone with local representation embracing traditional knowledge as a vital component to effective decision making. This is also supported in the Ocean Resources Management Plan (ORMP) where I serve on the working group. We not only have the opportunity to learn from conservation managers around the world, but to share what we have learned with the rest of the world.



It would be a terrible embarrassment for Hawaii and for America and a significant injustice to the good people of Hawaii not to host this international gathering of conservation leaders with the Aloha Spirit of Ho'okipa for which Hawaii is so famous. To do this properly DLNR must have adequate funding which HB 2037 provides.

From a strictly business perspective, it also makes solid business sense to do this correctly. Not only will this World Congress bring significant revenue to the State this year, but done properly it will open the doors to more convention business, more group and leisure travel. The international PR this will bring to the State of Hawaii is significant. So this is a good long term investment on many levels.

**I humbly ask you to support this worthy funding request by passing HB 2037.**

Sincerely,

James E. Coon, Member MACZAC Legislative Committee

Ke Kahu O Na Kumu Wai

Testimony of The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i  
Supporting H.B. 2037 HD1 Relating to the World Conservation Congress  
Senate Committee on Water, Land and Agriculture  
Senate Committee on Tourism and International Affairs  
Wednesday, March 23, 2016, 2:45 PM, Room 224

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*The Nature Conservancy of Hawai'i is a private non-profit conservation organization dedicated to the preservation of the lands and waters upon which life depends. The Conservancy has helped to protect nearly 200,000 acres of natural lands in Hawai'i. We manage 40,000 acres in 14 preserves and work in 19 coastal communities to help protect the near-shore reefs and waters of the main Hawaiian Islands. We forge partnerships with government, private parties and communities to protect Hawai'i's important watershed forests and coral reefs.*

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The Nature Conservancy supports H.B. 2037 HD1 to provide funding in the Department of Land and Natural Resources' budget to contribute to the cost of hosting the 2016 World Conservation Congress (WCC); provided that it does not result in the reduction of funding to DLNR's programs that are contributing to the direct care and management of Hawai'i's natural resources.

Hawai'i's combination of globally unique ecological resources coupled with the challenges of addressing climate change, development pressures and invasive species make it an ideal location to host the World Conservation Congress. The WCC hosts approximately 8,000 delegates from around the world to discuss and decide on environmental and development issues and policy to assist societies to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that natural resource use is equitable and sustainable.

The WCC is also estimated to generate \$65M in economic benefits to the state and it supports the tourism goal of positioning Hawai'i as a destination for high-level international meetings.

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Email: [communications@ulupono.com](mailto:communications@ulupono.com)

SENATE COMMITTEES ON WATER, LAND, & AGRICULTURE AND TOURISM &  
INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS

Wednesday, March 23, 2016 — 2:45 p.m. — Room 224

**Ulupono Initiative Strongly Supports HB 2037 HD 1, Relating to the World Conservation Congress**

Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English, and Members of the Committees:

My name is Kyle Datta and I am General Partner of Ulupono Initiative, a Hawai'i-based impact investment firm that strives to improve the quality of life for the people of Hawai'i by working toward solutions that create more locally produced food; increase affordable, clean, renewable energy; and reduce waste. We believe that self-sufficiency is essential to our future prosperity and will help shape a future where economic progress and mission-focused impact can work hand in hand.

**Ulupono strongly supports HB 2037 HD 1**, which appropriates funds for the IUCN World Conservation Congress meeting.

Ulupono believes that the State of Hawai'i should honor its commitment to host IUCN, especially as this is the first time IUCN has come to the United States. We are hopeful that the seniority of the conference attendees and the quality of the work of the IUCN scientists will have direct benefits across Hawai'i in many different sectors.

Thank you for this opportunity to testify.

Respectfully,

Kyle Datta  
General Partner

*Investing in a Sustainable Hawai'i*



THE SENATE  
THE TWENTY-EIGHTH LEGISLATURE  
REGULAR SESSION OF 2016

WATER, LAND & AGRICULTURE COMMITTEE  
Senator Mike Gabbard, Chair

OTUIISM & INTERNATIONAL AFFAIRS COMMITTEE  
Senator J Kalani English, Vice Chair

3/23/2016  
Rm. 224, 2:45 PM

HB 2037, HD 1  
Relating to World Conservation Congress

Chair Gabbard, Chair English and Members of both Committee, my name is Max Sword, here on behalf of Outrigger Hotels & Resorts in support to HB 2037.

Outrigger supports House Bill 2037 HD1, which provides funds to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (DNLR) for the hosting of the IUCN World Conservation Congress in September of this year.

The IUCN World Conservation Congress is a prestigious conference that is held every four years and for the first time is being held in the United States. The conference will provide an incredible opportunity for Hawai‘i to stand on a global stage. The funding will go along way in making the conference a success, which will attract thousands from around the world and will certainly highlight the various conservation efforts in Hawaii.

We urge your support on this measure and the full funding for DNLR to make the IUCN Congress gathering a success.

Mahalo for allowing me to testify.

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**To:** [WLA Testimony](#)  
**Cc:** [antolinid@gmail.com](mailto:antolinid@gmail.com)  
**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2037 on Mar 23, 2016 14:45PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 22, 2016 9:58:08 AM

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**HB2037**

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for WLA/TSI on Mar 23, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Denise Antolini	Individual	Support	No

Comments: Dear Chair Gabbard, Vice Chair Nishihara, Vice Chair English, and Committee Members, Hawaii is privileged to be hosting the IUCN World Conservation Congress in September 2016. The IUCN puts Hawaii at the center of the world's attention for sustainability for two weeks, a priceless opportunity for our State, both for tourism and international reputation as a green destination for businesses and individuals. I have been personally and professionally involved in several aspects of preparing for the Congress, working with law students, community partners, and colleagues from across the state, national, and the globe. Please support the requested allocation for the WCC - so long as it does not take away from the existing DLNR budget. It would be a shame if our State's contribution to the WCC directly undercut our DLNR's ability to protect our state resources. This is a budget item that must be an ADD, not a hit on an already stretched DLNR staff and budget. The Committee should follow up on the suggestion from Rick Egged to use TAT funds for this purpose (his March 1 FIN testimony: "visitor industry supported using TAT (hotel room tax) funds for the WCC instead of money from DLNR"). Please kokua the IUCN WCC. In the long-run, our investment will come back manifold to our islands. Mahalo nui, Denise Antolini

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**Subject:** Submitted testimony for HB2037 on Mar 23, 2016 14:45PM  
**Date:** Tuesday, March 22, 2016 10:10:58 AM

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**HB2037**

Submitted on: 3/22/2016

Testimony for WLA/TSI on Mar 23, 2016 14:45PM in Conference Room 224

<b>Submitted By</b>	<b>Organization</b>	<b>Testifier Position</b>	<b>Present at Hearing</b>
Jesse K. Souki	Individual	Support	No

Comments: I support the State's investment in the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN), World Conservation Congress. Occurring every four years at a different global location, this is the first time the Congress will be held in the United States. The IUCN has Official Observer Status at the United Nations General Assembly, and its members represent over 180 countries. The IUCN's work focuses on: "[V]aluing and conserving nature, ensuring effective and equitable governance of its use, and deploying nature-based solutions to global challenges in climate, food and development. IUCN supports scientific research, manages field projects all over the world, and brings governments, NGOs, the UN and companies together to develop policy, laws and best practice." See <http://www.iucn.org/about/>. Hosting a successful Congress will elevate Hawaii's status as an international destination for tackling the most pressing issues facing our community, nation, and the world. We have an opportunity to be the Geneva of the Pacific and expand opportunities for future generations choosing to live and work in Hawaii. Mahalo for your consideration.

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