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**STATE OF HAWAII
DEPARTMENT OF LAND AND NATURAL RESOURCES**

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**Testimony of
SUZANNE D. CASE
Chairperson**

**Before the House Committee on
WATER & LAND**

**Monday, February 1, 2016
10:00 AM
State Capitol, Conference Room 325**

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

House Bill 2037 proposes to appropriate moneys to the Department of Land and Natural Resources (Department) to host the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) World Conservation Congress (Congress) meeting at the Hawaii Convention Center on September 1-10, 2016. **The Department supports this measure provided that this appropriation does not adversely impact appropriations for other priorities in the Executive Budget request or any existing funding to the Department's programs.**

The Executive budget request includes \$4,000,000 in special funds to contribute to the State's obligations as a host site for the Congress.

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 human, social, and economic well-being. The Conference hosts approximately 8,000 delegates from around the world for a ten-day event to discuss, debate, and decide on environmental and development issues and policy. IUCN's mission is to influence, encourage, and assist societies throughout the world to conserve the integrity and diversity of nature and to ensure that any use of natural and cultural resources is equitable and ecologically sustainable.

The IUCN Conference offers a unique opportunity to highlight Hawaii's environmental and natural resources as a showcase for the United States to share with the world. The Conference will enhance natural resource conservation in Hawaii and the United States, the Asia-Pacific Region, and internationally. Hosting the conference will support our 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.



Conservation Council
for Hawai'i

Hawai'i's voice for wildlife

Kō Hawai'i leo no nā holoholona lōhiu



Testimony Submitted to the House Committee on Water and Land
Hearing: Monday, February 1, 2016
Conference Room 325

In support of HB 2037 Relating to the World Conservation Congress

Chair Yamane, Vice Chair Cullen, and Members of the Committee.

Aloha. Conservation Council for Hawai'i supports HB 2037, which appropriates moneys to the Department of Land and Natural Resources to host the International Union for Conservation of Nature World Conservation Congress meeting at the Hawaii Convention Center on September 1-10, 2016.

The 2016 congress is the first one to be held in the U.S. It is an opportunity for Hawai'i to showcase its unique cultural and natural resources, and our cutting-edge conservation work addressing formidable threats to our island home. The congress will also bring spending and increase tax revenues for the state. Hosting the congress should not come at the expense of the DLNR and its meager funding.

Please make an appropriation sufficient enough to cover expenses relating to the congress from this point forward, and to replace the \$4 million from the DLNR's budget last year to pay for the congress. Support for the congress should be shared among state agencies and the visitor industry. Funding for DLNR to host the congress should be additive, and should not come at the expense of existing DLNR programs to protect public land and public trust resources.

Mahalo nui loa for the opportunity to testify.

Marjorie Ziegler

Marjorie Ziegler

cullen2-Chantelle

From: mailinglist@capitol.hawaii.gov
Sent: Saturday, January 30, 2016 10:43 AM
To: waltestimony
Cc: igibson@hsus.org
Subject: *Submitted testimony for HB2037 on Feb 1, 2016 10:00AM*

HB2037

Submitted on: 1/30/2016

Testimony for WAL on Feb 1, 2016 10:00AM in Conference Room 325

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

Comments:

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The Trust For Public Land's Testimony In Support of HB 2037 Relating To The World Conservation Congress

House Committee on Water & Land, Conf. Room 325
Monday, February 1, 2016, 10:00 a.m.

Aloha Chair Yamane, Vice-Chair Cullen, and Committee Members:

The Trust for Public Land supports House Bill 2037 relating to the World Conservation Congress (so long as it does NOT take away from DLNR's regular program spending). This bill appropriates an unspecified amount of money to DLNR to host the World Conservation Congress.

The World Conservation Congress is the "Olympics" of conservation, held every four years. The Congress includes cutting edge research and debate over global conservation policy issues important to Hawai'i, such as sea-level rise, bio-security, and the connection between nature and culture. World conservation leaders from government, non-governmental organizations, and private business attend. Important agreements such as CITES (the treaty banning trade of endangered animal products) emerge from the World Conservation Congress. This is the first time a World Conservation Congress will be held on U.S. soil, an extremely significant event for Hawai'i.

The World Conservation Congress, like APEC, will establish Hawai'i as a place where the world can do business. The benefits to Hawai'i include:

- Estimated \$65M in economic benefits based on 8,000+ delegates, support and workforce participants, and media
- Significant media exposure
- Supports state goals regarding ecotourism, conservation leadership, and positioning Hawai'i as a destination for high-level and global meetings
- Positions Hawai'i on international platform for world conservation issues to showcase Hawai'i's knowledge and experience regarding natural and cultural resource management and sustainability
- Opportunity to gather input from global conservation community to address Hawai'i's challenges
- Conservation education efforts, including leadership development at the East-West Center, conservation leadership certification at the University of Hawai'i, K-14 Youth Leadership Initiatives
- Opportunities for participation in the World Conservation Forum, access to IUCN's scientific credibility, extensive networking and exposure to high-level political, economic, and social decision making regarding conservation

Funding for the World Conservation Congress should NOT take away from regular DLNR funding and programs. The World Conservation



Congress will benefit tourism, the Hawai'i Convention Center's reputation as an international convention center, and statewide education and conservation initiatives.

Mahalo for this opportunity to testify. I regret that I cannot make attend the hearing in person due to a prior commitment.

Me ke aloha,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Lea Hong". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, looping "H" at the end.

Lea Hong
Hawaiian Islands State Director

LATE



Testimony Before The
House Committee on Water and Land
IN SUPPORT OF HB 2037
Monday February 1, 2016, 10:00am, Room 325

My name is Kevin Chang I apologize for not being with you in person today. I am the Executive Director of Kua'āina Ulu 'Auamo (or KUA) and this is my organization's testimony in support of HB 2037 with comments.

KUA works to empower communities to improve their quality of life through caring for their environmental heritage together to better Hawai'i and achieve 'āina momona— an abundant, productive ecological system that supports community well-being.

We employ a community-driven approach that currently supports a network of more than 31 mālama 'āina community groups collectively referred to as E Alu Pū (moving forward together), 38 fishpond projects and practitioners called the Hui Mālama Loko I'a, and a new and growing hui of Limu practitioners all from across our state.

HB 2037 would appropriate a yet to be determined sum of funds to support Hawai'i's hosting of the International Union for the Conservation of Nature's World Conservation Congress. KUA supports HB 2037 with an appropriation at an amount that would not affect DLNR's regular spending for programs and enforcement.

The important natural resource management work of our State, and our broader community, to care for our greatest collective heritage- Hawai'i nei- cannot be done without first a strong and capable partner on the state side. Lastly, the virtues of aloha 'āina and kuleana that our community holds dear will be most importantly represented in our commitment to DLNR on the world stage this year.

Aloha 'Āina Momona.