



UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

Legislative Testimony

Written Testimony Presented Before the
Senate Committee on Water and Land
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by
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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.