



# UNIVERSITY OF HAWAII SYSTEM

## Legislative Testimony

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Testimony Presented Before the  
Senate Committee on Water and Land  
March 24, 2014 at 1:18 PM  
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:

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.