WHEREAS, the International Union for Conservation of Nature (IUCN) was founded in 1948 and is the world's oldest and largest global environmental network; and

WHEREAS, the IUCN is a democratic membership union with more than 1,000 government and non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and almost 11,000 volunteer scientists in more than 160 countries; and

WHEREAS, the IUCN's work is supported by over 1,000 professional staff in 60 offices and hundreds of partners in public, NGO, and private sectors around the world; and

WHEREAS, there are 87 state members (i.e. nations) officially represented, and 25 government agencies without state membership; and

WHEREAS, the official United States (U.S.) state representative is the U.S. Department of State's Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs; and

WHEREAS, funding for the IUCN comes from governments, bilateral and multilateral agencies, foundations, member organizations, and corporations; and

WHEREAS, the IUCN holds official observer status at the United Nations General Assembly; and
WHEREAS, the IUCN World Conservation Congress (WCC) convenes every four years and is hosted by a member state, but has never met in the U.S.; and

WHEREAS, the WCC is a two-part international event:

(1) The World Conservation Forum, a 5-day event open to all registrants to discuss major sustainable development issues, propose solutions, and facilitate the sharing of information and experiences; and

(2) The Members' Assembly, a 5-day deliberative session on policy open to official delegates of member organizations;

and

WHEREAS, the entire WCC lasts almost two weeks and attracts approximately 8,000 delegates from around the world; and

WHEREAS, attendees and active participants include, among others, world leaders in policy and conservation, scientists, leaders in communications and alternative energy, indigenous groups, prominent world citizens, and Nobel laureates; and

WHEREAS, the theme for the 2016 WCC will be "Oceania"; and

WHEREAS, the IUCN WCC is an opportunity for transformational change globally, within the nation, and for the State of Hawaii; and

WHEREAS, with increased attention from world governments, NGOs, researchers, and the public to marine and island systems, Hawaii offers an outstanding site for the next WCC; and

WHEREAS, Hawaii is ideally poised to host the WCC, as its geographic location serves as a bridge from the West to Oceania and Asia; and

WHEREAS, the WCC would offer Hawaii an opportunity to display its natural and cultural diversity to the world; and
WHEREAS, Honolulu is a world-renowned visitor destination and has the capability and facilities required to stage the IUCN WCC; and

WHEREAS, tourism is Hawaii's largest employer, revenue producer, and growth sector, and hosting international conferences is critical to the economic well-being of the State; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the House of Representatives of the Twenty-fifth Legislature of the State of Hawaii, Regular Session of 2010, that this body expresses its support for Hawaii to pursue the bid to host the 2016 IUCN WCC; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the Assistant Secretary for the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs; each member of Hawaii's Congressional delegation; Governor; Director of Business, Economic Development, and Tourism; President and Chief Executive Officer of the Hawaii Tourism Authority; and Mayor of the City and County of Honolulu.

OFFERED BY: 

MAR 09 2010