IUCN Congress Students’ Day

September 6, 2016 // 8AM – 2 PM

Hawai‘i had the honor of hosting the 2016 IUCN World Conservation Congress and pioneering programs for youth, such as the IUCN Congress Students’ Day.

As a joint community effort, this event gave Hawai‘i students the opportunity to experience the global conference in a meaningful way. Students’ Day was open to Hawai‘i students 6th – 12th grade, with representation from public, private, charter, and home schools.

Inspirational Speakers

To open the event, students heard from inspirational guests who spoke about their experiences in conservation and the essential role that youth play in finding solutions to protect our planet. These guest speakers included:

- David Ige, Hawai‘i Governor
- Dawn Ige, Hawai‘i First Lady
- Jack Johnson, Singer/Songwriter
- Alison Sudol, IUCN Goodwill Ambassador

Pavilion Presentations

Students had the opportunity to visit two of the nine thematic IUCN Congress Pavilions. Each pavilion featured a twenty minute presentation by a conservation expert showcasing their work and its importance to conservation. This gave students the opportunity to learn about global climate change issues and engage with international conservation experts. Pavilion themes included:

- Water
- Forests
- #NatureForAll
- Oceans & Islands
- Business & Biodiversity
- Hawai‘i Pacific
- Species Conservation
- Protected Planet: Delivering the Promise of Sydney

Students learning from Mark Ellis, Hōkūle‘a navigator, at the Hawai‘i Pacific Pavilion

Number of Participants

856 students
159 teachers/chaperones
1,015 total participants

Number of Volunteers

109

Partners, collaborators, and community members volunteered on Students’ Day.

Number of Schools

54

Middle schools and high schools participated at Students’ Day.

Student Representation

* Number of student participants from each region

Big Island | 756*
Kaua‘i | 44
Maui | 3
Moloka‘i | 24
Canada | 21
O‘ahu | 8

* Number of student participants from each region
A Design Thinking Activity to Redesign Sustainability and Empower Youth to Protect Nature

Students used the Design Thinking process, a human centered problem solving process, to brainstorm solutions and ideas that empower youth around sustainability and conservation. Students were asked to explore the questions:

- How might we empower Hawai’i youth to lead the charge to save the earth?
- How might we help youth to develop a passion for the environment?
- How might we engage communities to care for their environment as if it was their own backyard?

Student Collaboration

Students’ Day teams were composed of students from different schools, islands, and grades. This team structure allowed students to meet new people and learn different perspectives from their peers across the state.

Storyboard Ideas

Student teams were asked to storyboard their top ideas and present to other teams for feedback. Top storyboards included ideas such as:

- Participating in field trips to nature
- Utilizing technology and phone apps
- Reducing litter and solid waste
- Creating school environmental clubs
- Working on community projects
- Influencing government and policy

Hawai’i Youth Sustainability Challenge - Legacy Initiative

A major goal of Students’ Day was to inspire youth and give them a platform to connect with the IUCN Congress. A legacy initiative of the Congress and Students’ Day is the Hawai’i Youth Sustainability Challenge, which aims to inspire youth to be intentionally engaged with the environment to become better stewards.

Announced on Students’ Day by First Lady Dawn Ige, this initiative will give students the opportunity to apply for micro-grants to implement their conservation ideas.

Hawai’i Governor David Ige and First Lady Dawn Ige with Waipahu High School student

Schools Represented at Students’ Day

Big Island (8)
- Kea’au High School
- Kealakehe High School
- Ke Kula O Nawahiokalaniopuu
- Kua O Ka La
- Parker School
- Waiakea High School
- Waimea Middle Public Conversion Charter School

Kauai (1)
- Waimea High School

Maui (4)
- Kamehameha Schools – Maui High School
- Kamehameha Schools – Maui Middle School
- Lahaina Intermediate School
- Lahainaluna High School

Molokai (4)
- Kaunakakai School
- Molokai High School
- Molokai Live Program
- Molokai Middle School

Oahu (34)
- Assets School
- Castle High School
- Chee Ohana Academy (Homeschool)
- Ewa Makai Middle
- Farrington High School
- FlashPointSTEM (Homeschool)
- Hālau Kū Māna – Ke Ea Hawai’i
- Homeschoolers of Older Children on Oahu STEM Club
- IMAG Academy LAB (Homeschool)
- Kahuku High and Intermediate
- Kaimuki Middle School
- Ke Kula o Samuel M. Kamakau
- Kamehameha Schools – Kapālama High School
- Kawanakoa Middle School
- Kupu – HYCC Community
- Major Sheldon Wheeler Middle School
- Maryknoll School
- Mid Pacific Institute
- Mililani High School
- Mililani Middle School
- Moanalua High School
- Nanakuli Intermediate & High School
- Olomana School
- Pearl City High School
- Punahou School
- School for Examining Essential Questions of Sustainability
- St. Michael
- Stevenson Middle School
- Sunset Beach Elementary
- SW King Intermediate School
- Waipahu High School
- Le Jardin Academy

Canada (3)
- Canadian Rockies
- Edmonton Public
- Gulf Islands

Students’ Day Partners and Sponsors

Harold K. L. Castle Foundation
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Hau’oli Mau Loa Foundation
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