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**Hawaii Conservation Alliance  
Hawaii Convention Center  
Honolulu, Hawaii**

**Dear Friends:**

**It is my pleasure to welcome you to the 19th Annual Hawaii Conservation Conference. I regret that due to my Congressional duties in Washington, D.C., I am unable to join you today. Please know, however, you have my best wishes for a productive and successful event.**

**As we face the daunting task of protecting Hawaii's natural beauty, the United Nations' declaration of 2011 as the International Year of the Forest is most fitting and timely. Loss of habitat, pollution, climate change, and the introduction of destructive weeds, diseases, and animal pests pose serious threats to Hawaii's forests. These threats endanger the health of Hawaii's people, ecosystem, and economy.**

**I am confident that Hawaii can, and will rise to face these threats. From the carbon dioxide observations at Mauna Loa Observatory that confirmed the rise in atmospheric greenhouse gases, to NOAA's cutting-edge Pacific Risk Management Ohana collaboration--Hawaii stands on the cusp of our nation's response to climate change. In addition, with partners from academia, state agencies, and local governments, Hawaii is tackling our invasive species challenges directly; providing sound investments in new energy sources; and helping informed citizens to make better decisions about our environment.**

**To all participants, your presence demonstrates your continued commitment to preserve and protect Hawaii's rich and unique natural diversity. I thank you for your dedication, and wish you good luck and Godspeed.**

Aloha,

  
DANIEL K. INOUE  
United States Senator