



**Tania duPont**  
**SHYLI Emerging Leader at IUCN's World Conservation Congress Spokesperson**

January 9, 2017

Senator Jill Tokuda, Chair, Senate Committee on Ways and Means  
Representative Sylvia Luke, Chair, House Committee on Finance  
Hawaii State Legislature  
415 S. Beretania Street  
Honolulu, HI 96813

Aloha Chair Tokuda and Chair Luke,

I strongly support SHYLI's Sustainable Resolution Toolkit which will make it possible for all Hawaiian students to have a more equitable education about sustainability.

As Pacific Islanders we are living through the immediate repercussions of climate change. It is so important that all youth are directly engaged in what we can do today to create a more sustainable future. We are the ones who will grow to see a future that is entirely dependent on our present actions. The youth of my generation are more than the stereotyped child who is unresponsive and ultimately oblivious to the greater world around us.

SHYLI challenges this through active participation, and demonstrates how young people can truly make a true difference. It was because of the opportunity I was given to learn more about sustainability that my desire to help others was amplified. As a youth from a low income, public school background I was fortunate enough to be a part of SHYLI's amazing program. The Sustainability Education Toolkit makes it possible for ALL Hawaiian youth to be part of the solution! As we get older, our actions can be more expansive and impactful, so it is critical that the seeds of service are planted early. I was honored to help create the video for the prototype.

Trevor Tanaka has been such an inspiration to me, and all SHYLI youth. He is a testament to how a young person can have this kind of potential impact for ALL Hawaiian students. By supporting the Sustainable Education Toolkit, it will provide the opportunity for young people, who like me, will be able to realize the power of their actions.

Sincerely

**Tania duPont**

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