

Honolulu, Hawaii
FEB 29, 2008

RE: H.B. No. 2920

Honorable Calvin K.Y. Say
Speaker, House of Representatives
Twenty-Fourth State Legislature
Regular Session of 2008
State of Hawaii

Sir:

Your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce, to which was referred H.B. No. 2920 entitled:

"A BILL FOR AN ACT RELATING TO FRAUD PREVENTION,"

begs leave to report as follows:

The purpose of this bill is to prevent the fraudulent alteration of notarized documents by:

(1) Requiring notaries to:

- (A) Place the notary's seal over a succinct phrase describing the document being notarized; and
- (B) Keep a record describing the nature of the notarized document;

and

(2) Authorizing the Attorney General to prescribe measures as necessary to prevent the fraudulent use of notarized documents.

The Department of the Attorney General and a concerned individual testified in support of this bill.

Your Committee finds that the alteration of notarized documents undermines the various requirements for these documents that are imposed to ensure their authenticity. This measure

HB2920 HSCR CPC HMS 2008-2705




attempts to address this concern by making it more difficult to alter notarized documents by, for example, switching the signature page from a notarized document into an unrelated document.

Your Committee further notes the Attorney General's concerns that this bill may not be comprehensive enough to address other issues relating to notaries, and is open to future consideration of the Attorney General's suggested amendments to this bill should they be incorporated in future drafts of this measure.

As affirmed by the record of votes of the members of your Committee on Consumer Protection & Commerce that is attached to this report, your Committee is in accord with the intent and purpose of H.B. No. 2920 and recommends that it pass Second Reading and be placed on the calendar for Third Reading.

Respectfully submitted on
behalf of the members of the
Committee on Consumer
Protection & Commerce,



ROBERT N. HERKES, Chair



