

Testimony in support of House Bill 2910
Before the Committee on Labor and Public Employment

Rep. Alex M. Sonson, Chair
Rep. Bob Nakasone, Vice Chair
Committee on Economic Development & Business Concerns

Hearing Date:
Tuesday, February 5, 2008
8:30 am in Room 309

5 copies needed for submittal

Aloha Chairman Sonson, Vice-Chair Nakasone and members of the Committee,

My name is Ian Chan Hodges and for the past two years I have appeared before the legislature to provide testimony in support of creating an entity that would enable Hawaii to champion and support the rights of inventors. The entities that were proposed were designed to protect and exploit the patents of inventors with the understanding that patents can provide a very powerful tool for creating and retaining good jobs in a community faced with the stresses of competing in a global economy. You also received testimony from prominent inventors and top labor leaders from around the nation in support of those bills.

House Bill 2910 would increase Hawaii's reputation as a champion of inventors by protecting the rights of employee inventors in a thoughtful and judicious manner. The bill would invalidate trade secret protections unless fair compensation is negotiated collectively with employees involved in developing the trade secret.

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2910.