

Testimony in support of House Bill 2911
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.

Like HB 2910, House Bill 2911 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 wisely invalidate any provision in an employment agreement that requires an employee to assign the employee's rights to an invention to the employer if the employee developed the invention entirely on the employee's own time and with the employee's own materials (with certain exceptions).

Thank you for the opportunity to submit testimony in support of HB 2911.