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A PROPOSAL TO AMEND THE CONSTITUTION

To amend section 3 of Article III of the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia to allow dual citizenship for FSM and US only.

"Section 3. A citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia who is recognized as a citizen of the United States of America may retain his citizenship of both FSM and USA. A citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia who is recognized as a citizen of another nation shall, within 3 years of his 18th birthday, or within 3 years of the effective date of this Constitution, whichever is later, register his intent to remain a citizen of the Federated States and renounce his citizenship of another nation. If he fails to comply with this Section, he becomes a national of the Federated States of Micronesia. This section shall apply retroactively and prospectively "

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Purpose and Intent: This proposal retains the old requirements under the Constitution except for FSM citizens who are also US citizens who are proposed to retain their citizenship from both countries, FSM and USA. This proposal is intended to provide comfort to our citizens to retain title to lands and waters which is the main reason for the debate among our citizens. Note that the proposal uses the word, "may" and not "shall" to allow our dual citizen the option, if he or she chooses in the future, to renounce one of his or her citizenship. If that dual citizen voluntarily renounces his FSM citizenship. then by his or her own action, he or she would no longer be eligible to own title to lands and waters in FSM. Everyone should understand why the "dual rights" to citizenship is limited to US only. This is to maintain the hard-earned benefits that the amended compact provides to our citizens abroad. Those type of benefits have yet to be provided by other nations, so it makes sense at this time to limit "dual citizenship" to FSM-USA only. In other words, our dual citizen may enjoy the benefits offered by both his or her countries, to enjoy the benefits of both worlds. Remember that there are ways in which one may lose his or her citizenship. Note further that an FSM citizen who is also a citizen of another nation may retain his FSM citizenship by registering his or her intent and renounce his or her citizenship of the other nation. The important matter to remember here is the right to own title to land and waters which must be restricted to FSM citizen only. Since this section is proposed to be applied retroactively it would take care of our citizens who have inadvertently missed the three years dateline so that all would retain their dual citizenship.