

CC-PR-4-30  
Proposal No.: ~~CC-PR-30~~

Assigned to: *Committee on Civil Liberties & Tradition*

## PROPOSAL TO AMEND CONSTITUTION

To amend Article III, Section 3 of the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia to require a citizen who is recognized as a citizen of another nation to reside in the FSM for not less than 1 year to enjoy the full rights and privileges of a citizen.

### Section 3.

~~A citizen of the Federated States of Micronesia who is recognized as a citizen of another nation shall, within 3 years of his 18<sup>th</sup> 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.~~ A citizen who is recognized as a citizen of another nation shall, in his lifetime, have resided in the FSM for not less than 1 year to enjoy the full rights and privileges of a citizen. A national who is recognized as a citizen at one time may regain his citizenship, with an oath of allegiance, after residing in the FSM for not less than 2 years after such loss.

### PURPOSE AND INTENT OF AMENDMENT:

Dual citizenship is a very controversial issue that has been floating around for quite sometime now. It has been voted on, through referendum, 4 or 5 times in the past with no success. The main reason for the failures seems to be based on two underlying factors: 1. Land ownership- There is fear that a new class of citizens will emerge who may not value our customs and traditions, and who will not see the importance of land to us Micronesians; 2. Loyalty- There is fear that a new class of citizens will emerge who may have divided loyalty. In repealing the old law and replacing it with the new version, it is hoped that the new sets of qualifiers will serve as tools to reassure those who do not support the initiative that only those who want to be Micronesians may claim those rights we want to protect, ie land ownership, etc. This proposal addresses those who are born abroad and those who have relinquished their FSM citizenship due to Military or otherwise.

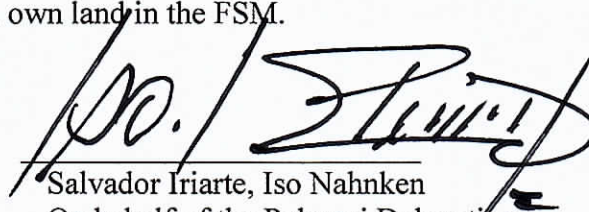
There are two sets of qualifiers. One is intended for children born abroad, that in order for the individual to enjoy the rights and privileges afforded every citizen, he or she must fulfill a residency requirement of 1 year. However, for those who are currently nationals now by virtue of the existing law, they will need to satisfy two sets of qualifiers. First being the residency requirement of 2 years and followed by an oath of allegiance.

Proposal No: CC-PR-4-30

Civil Liberties &  
Tradition

This amendment should be seen as an attempt to strike a middle ground to this controversial issue. We are not opening the door to everyone who has a claim of citizenship, but rather we are letting in those who want to be part of our Micronesian family. After all, we are witnessing a growing decline of citizens due to out-migration. If we do not put in place a sound policy to addressing the population decline, there may come a time in the future where only those with money will own land in the FSM.

Introducer:



Salvador Iriarte, Iso Nahnken  
On behalf of the Pohnpei Delegation

Date: \_\_\_\_\_