

Committee on Civil Liberties &  
Tradition

Proposal No.: CC-PR-4-13

Assigned to: Committee on Public Finance &  
Revenue

### PROPOSAL TO AMEND CONSTITUTION

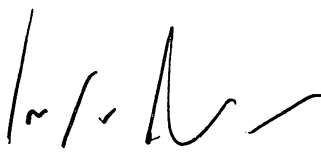
To enact a new section 4 of Article V of the Constitution of the Federated States of Micronesia to provide for the recognition and preservation of traditional ownership of submerged reef areas in the waters of the Federated States of Micronesia.

Section 4. Traditional ownership of submerged reef areas in the waters of the Federated States of Micronesia beyond 12 miles from island baselines shall be recognized and preserved. Congress shall give effect to this provision by statute, including for the purpose of distributing net revenue derived from the exploitation of natural resources in such submerged reef areas to appropriate stakeholders.

#### PURPOSE AND INTENT OF AMENDMENT:

This proposal aims to enshrine the recognition and preservation of traditional ownership of submerged reef areas in the waters of the Federated States of Micronesia beyond 12 miles from island baselines. The issue of traditional ownership of submerged reef areas within 12 miles from island baselines of the Federated States of Micronesia is a matter for each State government in the Federated States of Micronesia to recognize and preserve, whereas recognition and preservation of traditional ownership of submerged reef areas beyond 12 miles from island baselines fall within the purview of National law. This proposal is intended to constitutionally recognize and preserve traditional ownership of submerged reef areas beyond 12 miles from island baselines, and to require the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia to give effect to such recognition and preservation by statute, including a statute or statutes that outline how net revenue derived from the exploitation of natural resources in such submerged reef areas is shared with or accrues to the benefit of those who have stakeholder interest in such submerged reef areas, including those holding traditional ownership of such areas.

Introducer:



Victor Nabeyan  
By request of the Delegation

Date:

1/10/20