

STANDING COMMITTEE REPORT NO. :CC-SCR-04-02

DATE: March 02, 2020

RE: Delegate Proposal No. CC-PR-4-01

The Honorable Redley Killion
President
Fourth Constitutional Convention of the
Federated States of Micronesia
Palikir, Pohnpei 96941

Dear Mr. President:

Your Committee on Civil Liberties and Traditions, to which was referred Delegate Proposal No. CC-PR-04-01 entitled:

“A PROPOSAL TO AMEND ARTICLE IV, SECTION 2 OF THE CONSTITUTION, BY ADDING ‘AND OTHER PAROCHIAL ESTABLISHMENTS’ AND DELETING ‘NON RELIGIOUS’ AND INSERTING ‘SECULAR’ IN ORDER TO EXPAND THE ABILITY OF THE GOVERNMENTS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA TO PROVIDE ASSISTANCE TO NOT MERELY PAROCHIAL SCHOOLS, BUT ALSO OTHER PAROCHIAL ESTABLISHMENTS WHICH ALSO PROVIDE SECULAR SERVICES TO THE ENTIRE COMMUNITY.”

begs leave to report as follows:

The intent and purpose of the proposal is expressed in its title.

Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution currently provides:

“No law may be passed respecting an establishment of religion or impairing the free exercise of religion, except that assistance may be provided to parochial schools for non-religious purposes.”

Delegate Proposal No. CC-PR-04-01 is intended to amend Article IV, Section 2 of the Constitution to allow the governments of the Federated States of Micronesia to be able to provide assistance to not only parochial schools, but also other parochial establishments, including but not limited to churches, for secular activities and services.

Your committee believes that such amendment is only proper as many of the activities and services that the churches do within their communities are sometimes non-religious or secular in nature. There are also NGOs that have as their purpose to provide services that also work hand-in-hand with the churches. Such secular activities and services that the churches provide and which benefit the community include, but are not limited to, schools, sports centers, community meeting venues, typhoon shelters, and shelters for victims of violence. Sometimes, in many remote areas, these church services are the only means of assistance the communities have. The

amendment would permit the Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia to provide assistance to the churches as 'other parochial establishments' in order to carry out these types of secular services.

For the reasons stated herein, your Committee on Civil Liberties and Traditions is in accord with the intent and purpose of the committee proposal attached hereto and recommends its passage on First Reading, and that it be placed on the Calendar for Second Reading for review by your Committee of the Whole, then placed on the Calendar for Final Reading after review by your Committee on Style and Arrangement.

Respectfully submitted,



Mason Albert, Chairman

Delegate Salvador Iriarte, Iso Nahnken



Camillo Noket, Vice Chair

Delegate Akillino H. Susaia

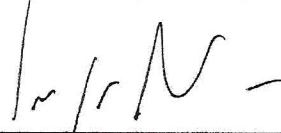


Delegate Salomon Saimon

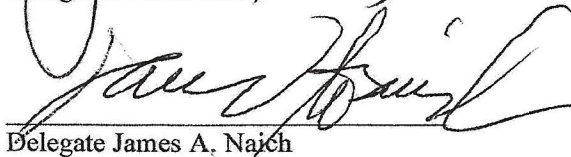
Delegate Andrew R. Yatilman



Delegate Jack S. Fritz



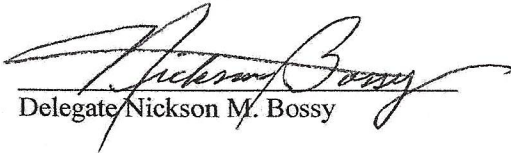
Delegate Victor Nabeyan



Delegate James A. Naich



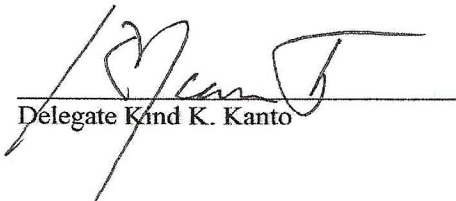
Delegate Yoslyn G. Sigrah



Delegate Nickson M. Bossy



Delegate Canney L. Palsis



Delegate Kind K. Kanto

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Relating to the establishment of religion.

RESOLVED, that the following be agreed upon as an amendment to the Constitution:

ARTICLE IV

Section 2. No law may be passed respecting an establishment of religion or impairing the free exercise of religion, except that assistance may be provided to parochial schools and other parochial establishments for ~~non-religious~~ secular purposes.

Date: March 02, 2020

Offered by: Committee on Civil Liberties and Traditions