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Section 804. In view of the importance of the ownership of land for the cultural and traditions of the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, and in order to protect against exploitation and to promote economic advancement and self-efficiency, the Government of the Northern Mariana Islands will [MPSC: be empowered to] regulate the alienation of interests in real property [US: other than leases] so as to restrict the acquisition of such interests to persons of Northern Mariana Islands descent, [US: and will regulate the extend to which land now classified as public land can be held by individuals,] not withstanding provisions of Article V, except as otherwise provided in this Article VIII.