

ARTICLE XII: RESTRICTIONS ON
ALIENATION OF LAND

Section 1: Alienation of Land. The acquisition of permanent and long-term interests in real property within the Commonwealth shall be restricted to persons of Northern Marianas descent.

Section 2: Acquisition. The term acquisition used in section 1 includes acquisition by sale, lease, gift, inheritance or other means. A transfer to a spouse by inheritance is not an acquisition under this section. A transfer to a mortgagee by means of a foreclosure on a mortgage is not an acquisition under this section if the mortgagee does not hold the permanent or long-term interest in real property for more than five years. ;

Section 3: Permanent and Long-Term Interests in Real Property. The term permanent and long-term interests in real property used in section 1 includes freehold interests and leasehold interests of more than forty years including renewal rights:

Section 4: Persons of Northern Marianas Descent. A person of Northern Marianas descent is a person who is a citizen or national of the United States and who is of at least one-quarter Northern Marianas Chamorro or Northern Marianas Carolinian blood or a combination thereof or an adopted child of a person of Northern Marianas descent if adopted while under the age of eighteen years. For purposes of determining Northern Marianas descent, a person shall be considered to be a full-blooded Northern Marianas Chamorro or Northern Marianas Carolinian if that person was born or domiciled

in the Northern Mariana Islands before 1950 and was a citizen of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands before the termination of the Trusteeship with respect to the Commonwealth.

Section 5: Corporations. A corporation shall be considered to be a person of Northern Marianas descent so long as it is incorporated in the Commonwealth, has its principal place of business in the Commonwealth, has directors at least fifty-one percent of whom are persons of Northern Marianas descent and has voting shares at least fifty-one percent of which are owned by persons of Northern Marianas descent as defined by section 4.

Section 6: Enforcement. Any transaction made in violation of section 1 shall be void ab initio. Whenever a corporation ceases to be qualified under section 5, a permanent or long-term interest in land in the Commonwealth acquired by the corporation after the effective date of this Constitution shall be forfeited to the government.