

July 5, 1995

COMMITTEE ON LAND AND PERSONAL RIGHTS

REPORT NO. 2: PREAMBLE

The Committee met on Wednesday, June 21, 1995 and Wednesday, July 5, 1995 to consider amendments to the Preamble to the Constitution. The Committee considered Delegate Proposal 48 on this subject.

The current Preamble reads:

We, the people of the Northern Marianas Islands, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, ordain and establish this Constitution as the embodiment of our traditions and hopes for our Commonwealth in Political Union with the United States of America.

The Committee decided that the current Preamble is very good, but that some fundamental concepts should be added. The Preamble to the Constitution is a statement of our basic philosophy and this statement should include these concepts.

Government for the benefit of the people: Our current Preamble does not express directly the philosophy that government does not exist for its own benefit, or for the benefit of those who hold office, but for the benefit of the people.

Responsibilities and obligations of the people: Our current Preamble does not make clear that the Constitution guarantees the people certain rights, and at the same time these rights cannot endure unless the people recognize their corresponding obligations and responsibilities.

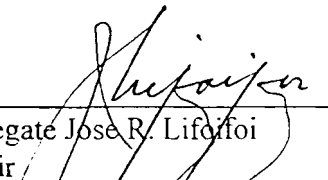
Commonwealth unity: Our current Preamble does not include an express commitment to Commonwealth unity. This philosophy -- that we value our unity and have an responsibility to preserve it -- should be an express part of the Preamble.


The Committee discussed various formulations and ways to express these concepts and agreed on two new sentences to be added to the existing Preamble:

"Our rights, secured and defined with respect for our own island ways, impose on each of us responsibilities and obligations which we acknowledge and accept. We govern our islands for the security and well-being of all our people and for the unity of our Commonwealth."

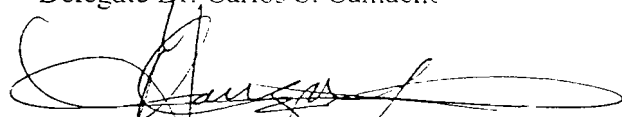
The constitutional language reflecting the Committee's decisions is attached. The Committee recommends this language to the Convention.

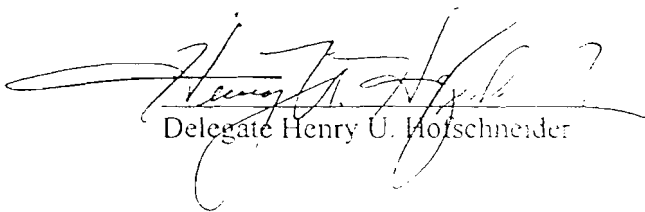
Respectfully submitted,

  
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Delegate Jose R. Lifofoi  
Chair

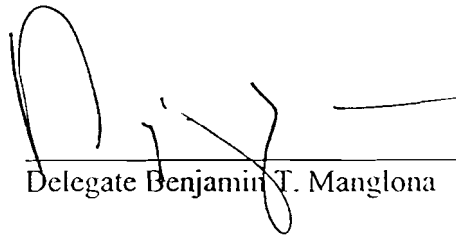
  
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Delegate Marian Aldan-Pierce  
Vice Chair

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Delegate Dr. Carlos S. Camacho

  
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Delegate John O. DLR. Gonzales

  
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Delegate Henry U. Hofschneider

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Delegate David L. Igitol



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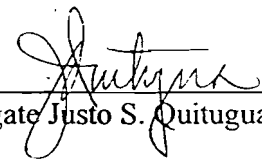
Delegate Benjamin T. Manglona

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Delegate David Q. Maratita

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Delegate Donald B. Mendiola

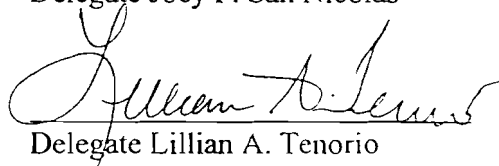


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Delegate Justo S. Quitugua

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Delegate Joey P. San Nicolas



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Delegate Lillian A. Tenorio

July 5, 1995

PREAMBLE

We, the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, grateful to Almighty God for our freedom, ordain and establish this Constitution as the embodiment of our traditions and hopes for our Commonwealth in Political Union with the United States of America. Our rights, secured and defined with respect for our own island ways, impose on each of us responsibilities and obligations which we acknowledge and accept. We govern our islands for the security and well-being of all our people and for the unity of our Commonwealth.