



# Third Northern Mariana Islands Constitutional Convention -1550-

Delegate Proposal No. 610.

Date: July 10, 1995

It is proposed that a constitutional amendment be prepared that does the following:

Revises the arrangements for local government to provide a clear delineation between Commonwealth functions and local government functions, as follows --

Local matters would be defined as any subject that is local in nature because it affects only one senatorial district and does not affect the Commonwealth as a whole. This is necessarily a general definition, but it also allows flexibility for the future. The local governments have authority over local matters. The Commonwealth government does not have authority over local matters.

Commonwealth matters would be defined as the functions of offices that are Commonwealth-wide including the Attorney General, the health service, the Commonwealth Utilities Corporation, the Department of Finance, immigration, the Northern Marianas College and similar functions. The Commonwealth government has authority over Commonwealth matters. The local governments do not have authority over Commonwealth matters.

Shared matters would be defined as matters in which policy is made by the Commonwealth government and the policies are executed and administered by the local government. In these areas, the Commonwealth government has the authority to establish policy, standards, guidelines, and regulations. The local governments have no authority over policy, standards, guidelines, and regulations. The local governments have the authority to control and supervise the delivery of services and the carrying out of executive and administrative functions. The Commonwealth government has no authority, within the municipalities, for control and supervision. Examples include maintenance of parks, roadways, and agricultural extension programs.

Submitted by: DAVID L. ISHII  
Delegate DAVID L. ISHII

CONSTITUTIONAL ARTICLES THAT WOULD BE AMENDED: Art. II, Art. III, Art. II

CONSTITUTIONAL ARTICLES THAT WOULD BE AFFECTED: None