

SUMMARY OF HOUSE LEGISLATIVE INITIATIVE 18-1

Article XII limits acquisition of permanent and long-term interests in real property in the Commonwealth to persons of Northern Marianas descent. House Legislative Initiative 18-1 (HLI 18-1) proposes to change who qualifies as “a person of Northern Marianas descent” under Section 4 of Article XII of the Northern Mariana Islands Constitution.

Currently, under Section 4, a person is of Northern Marianas descent if he or she is—

- (1) At least one-quarter Northern Marianas Chamorro or Northern Marianas Carolinian, or a combination thereof; OR
- (2) The adopted child of a person of Northern Marianas descent and was adopted when he or she was under the age of eighteen years.

HLI 18-1 proposes to amend Section 4 as follows:

- (1) To define a person of Northern Marianas descent as a person who has “some degree” of Northern Marianas Chamorro or Northern Marianas Carolinian blood;
- (2) To establish a judicial process for determining if a person some degree but less than one quarter Northern Marianas Chamorro or Northern Marianas Carolinian blood; and
- (3) To change the effect of adoption so that a child who does not have any degree of Northern Marianas descent will not be considered of Northern Marianas descent if adopted under the age of eighteen by a person of Northern Marianas descent.