A BILL FOR AN ACT

To establish the Joint Committee on the Future of the Nation and its Secretariat for the purpose of exploring alternatives for the future of the Nation, and for other purposes.

BE IT ENACTED BY THE CONGRESS OF THE FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA:

Section 1. Purpose. In anticipation of the termination of the financial provisions of the Amended Compact of Free Association in 2023, there is hereby established a joint committee of the Executive and Legislative branches.

Section 2. Establishment of the Joint Committee on the Future of the Nation. There is hereby created and established a joint committee to be known as the Joint Committee on the Future of the Nation (“JCFN”), comprising nine members as follows: one representative from each of the four States, as appointed by the President in consultation with the leadership of each State, and four representatives from the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, one from each congressional delegation. The Secretary of Foreign Affairs shall be a member ex officio. He shall chair the Joint Committee's first meeting, and organize the election of its Chairman and Vice Chairman. Six of the members shall constitute a quorum for the transaction of business. Decisions shall be made within the Committee by at least five concurring votes, with each participating member casting a single vote.
Section 3. Meetings. The JCFN shall hold its first meeting at the call of the acting Chairman. Subsequent meetings shall be held in accordance with a schedule set by the JCFN covering the entire period between the first meeting and the termination of the Amended Compact in 2023.

Section 4. Mandate. The JCFN shall carry out the following responsibilities and obligations:

1. In consultation with the Congress, set goals and objectives in anticipation of the termination of the Amended Compact of Free Association;

2. Conduct a thorough analysis of all factors relating the future of the Nation;

3. Develop all necessary strategies and approaches to enable the Federated States of Micronesia to explore alternatives for the future of the Nation;

4. Direct its Secretariat in preparing the documentation necessary to accomplish its responsibilities hereunder;

5. Analyze all economic information available on the Federated States of Micronesia, with the aim of identifying the FSM's continuing requirement for reasonable, fair, and effective financial assistance from all sources from the year 2023 onward;

6. Provide reports periodically to the Congress at each regular session, and to the Office of the President, on all developments, actual or potential, positive or negative, that may
be related to the future of the Nation, including but not limited
to new information, actions, communications, domestic and foreign
policies, bilateral and multilateral plans, as well as periodic
surveys exploring the value of net benefits to a foreign nation
from an exclusive security prerogative; and

(7) Collaborate with the State governments, the
Department of Foreign Affairs, the Congress, and the Office of the
President in identifying the nominees for the JCFN whose selection
will be subject to Congress's expressed approval; and

(8) Use funds for each separate category of expense
only up to the aggregate amount of the line-items of the
corresponding expense category set out in the associated
appropriations bill or bills approved by Congress, and select and
hire the personnel needed to staff the Secretariat, as specified
in section 5 below.

Section 5. Financing of the JCFN.

(1) The President shall include the JCFN operations
budget in his annual budget to Congress;

(2) The departments and agencies of the Executive
Branch shall cooperate in providing information and other
logistical support to the JCFN upon request; and

(3) The expenses of experts and consultants for the
governments (state and national) traveling with JCFN shall be
borne by their agencies of origin.
Section 6. Establishment of the Secretariat. There is hereby created and established a full-time Secretariat for the JCFN. The Secretariat shall consist of an Executive Director, an Administrative Officer, a staff Counsel, and a secretary, all based in Pohnpei. The Secretariat shall have the following responsibilities.

1. Provide all administrative and logistical support to the JCFN, and shall (a) prepare an annual budget for approval by the Joint Committee, (b) transmit an approved budget to the President to submit, with comments, to the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia;

2. Coordinate with the various departments, offices and agencies of the FSM and State Governments to collect all information and technical input necessary for satisfying its responsibilities; and

3. As directed by the JCFN, hire professionals including an outside developmental economist and other consultants with expertise in security or defense policy to assist the Joint Committee with any aspect of its responsibilities, particularly that are provided under section 4(5) above.
Section 7. This act shall become law upon approval by the President of the Federated States of Micronesia or upon its becoming law without such approval.

Date: 7/31/12  Introduced by: /s/ Isaac V. Figir

Isaac V. Figir