Resolution No. 27-GA-01, CD2

“Requesting the governments of the member states and territories of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures to support the efforts against human trafficking by passing legislation in their respective jurisdictions; and further resolving that the APIL jurisdictions ratify or accede to the Optional Protocol on the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women.”

WHEREAS, human trafficking is a multi-dimensional threat; it deprives people of their human rights and freedoms; it is a global health risk; and it fuels the growth of organized crime; and

WHEREAS, trafficking in persons is modern-day slavery, involving victims who are forced, defrauded or coerced into labor or sexual exploitation. Annually, about 600,000 to 800,000 people -- mostly women and children -- are trafficked across national borders which does not count millions trafficked within their own countries; and

WHEREAS, at least 15,000 women and girls from impoverished communities in the Pacific, Asia, Eastern Europe, Africa and Latin America are being trafficked into the United States each year for forced labor; and

WHEREAS, traffickers employ a variety of deceptions to lure desperately poor women with false promises of jobs and opportunities in the United States; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking for forced labor and sexual exploitation takes a variety of forms—forced prostitution, forced participation in the production of pornography and other forms of commercial sexual activity, forced labor in sweatshops, households, agricultural fields and other workplaces, and commercial or exploitative marriages; and
WHEREAS, women and girls who are trafficked for exploitative labor, as domestic workers in private homes and as laborers in sweatshops or agricultural fields, are almost always subjected to sexual violence; and

WHEREAS, human trafficking has a devastating impact on individual victims, who often suffer physical and emotional abuse, rape, threats against self and family, passport theft, and even death. But the impact of human trafficking goes beyond individual victims; it undermines the safety and security of all nations it touches; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, Twenty-Seventh General Assembly, Island of Guam, May 5-7, 2008, that member jurisdictions of APIL are encouraged to promote and support efforts against human trafficking and that each jurisdiction pass anti-human trafficking legislation; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the APIL jurisdictions ratify or accede to the Optional Protocol on the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the Sale of Children, Child Prostitution and Child Pornography, and the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that the President of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures certifies, and the Secretary of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures attests to, the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall be thereafter transmitted to the Secretary -General of the United Nations; and to the Presiding Legislative Officers and Chief Executives of each of the APIL member jurisdictions.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 7TH DAY OF MAY, 2008.

SABINO SAUCHOMAL
APIL PRESIDENT

WILLIAM NEIRAIKELAU
APIL SECRETARY