Resolution No. 27-GA-05

“Expressing the Strong Support for the 10th Festival of the Pacific Arts; Recognizing American Samoa as the Official Event Host; and Encouraging Full Participation in the Festival.”

WHEREAS, in 1969, the Conference of the South Pacific Commission, now the Pacific Community, visualized a regional event to resist the erosion of traditional customary practices, which vision has materialized into the Festival of Pacific Arts, held every four years for cultural sharing and cultivation of deeper understanding and friendship between countries; and

WHEREAS, the Festival has enjoyed continued growth and success since 1972 as seen by attendance in excess of 2,000 participants and delegations from some 27 Pacific Island countries and territories, including American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Easter Island, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Hawaii, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Norfolk Island, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna; and

WHEREAS, the Festival of Pacific Arts affords an opportunity for the Pacific people to assert their identities, and to share their history, customs and traditions with fellow Pacific Islanders and also provides a unique opportunity for the host country to present itself to its own people, to invited countries, and to Festival audiences; and

WHEREAS, past Festivals have demonstrated, exhibited and conducted a multitude of activities, including contemporary arts, traditional arts, photographic arts, cinematography, body art, weaving, wood, bone and stone carving, tapa making, tattooing, jewelry, beadwork and shell work, costume pageants, pottery, floral arts, traditional medicine and healing crafts, traditional boat building and navigational crafts, traditional culinary arts, philatelic arts and traditional monies, literary arts, traditional and contemporary performing arts (orations and story-telling, musical instruments, song, dance, theatre, drama and fire walking), traditional sports, symposia, debates and workshops; and
WHEREAS, from July 20th through August 8th, 2008, the tenth Festival will be graciously hosted by the Territory of American Samoa, with the theme *Threading the Oceania Ula*, to accentuate a coming together and unification of the Pacific people; and

WHEREAS, since the Festival of the Pacific Arts is a major cultural, technical and economic event for the region, with 25 Pacific Island countries and territories scheduled to participate, it is fitting to recognize this celebration as a superb opportunity for Pacific Islanders to gather and share the uniqueness of their respective cultures and to promote the preservation of their traditional customary practices, while at the same time, showcasing many contemporary developments; and

WHEREAS, insofar as the Festival presents special challenges for the host country, it is likewise appropriate to recognize the Territory of American Samoa as the official host; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, Twenty-Seventh General Assembly, Island of Guam, May 5-7, 2008, that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures extends its strong support for a successful 10th Festival of the Pacific Arts, and encourages full participation by Pacific Island countries and territories, and acknowledges the Territory of American Samoa as the official host country; 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 Honorable Dr. Jimmie Rodgers, Director-General, Secretariat of the Pacific Community; the Honorable Togiola T.A. Tulafono, Governor of American Samoa; the Honorable Lolo M. Moliga, President of the American Samoa Senate; the Honorable Savali Talavou Ale, Speaker of the American Samoa House of Representatives; Mr. Fagafaga Daniel Langkilde and Mrs. Leala Elisara, Co-Chairpersons of the American Samoa 10th Festival of Pacific Arts Organizing Committee; 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 SAUCOMAL
APIL PRESIDENT

WILLIAM NIGAIKELAU
APIL SECRETARY