"RELATIVE TO SUPPORTING A UNITED APPROACH TO THE INCREASED U.S. MILITARY BUILD-UP OF THE PACIFIC REGION, AND DEMANDING AN INCREASED DIALOGUE WITH THE AffECTED ISLANDS AND THE IMMEDIATE RELEASE OF WORKING INFORMATION FROM THE MILITARY AND THE UNITED STATES; AND ESPECIALLY RESOLVING TO DEMAND AND ENSURE TRANSPARENCY AS TO ANY POTENTIAL OR CUMULATIVE IMPACT ON THE ECONOMIES, SOCIAL STRUCTURE, AND CULTURE OF EACH OF OUR ISLANDS FROM THE INCREASED MILITARY BUILD-UP OF THE REGION."

WHEREAS, we have witnessed the deterioration of our indigenous communities and our island people; we have witnessed the deterioration of our land, our water and our air space (our biosphere) as a result of foreign contaminants; and

WHEREAS, whole societies are already suffering from the effects of a build-up in the military presence that many of us fear as threat to the future; and

WHEREAS, our home islands as a part of the biosphere, still have an incredible ability to provide what we need and the potential to heal, given the right treatment; and

WHEREAS, we envision a world of genuine security based on justice, respect for others across national boundaries, and economic planning that meets our people’s needs, especially women and children; and

WHEREAS, we continue to work toward the creation of a society free of violence, and all forms of exploitation and for the safety, well-being, and long-term sustainability of our communities and the stability of our families in our home islands; and

WHEREAS, we believe that with everyone working towards having access to necessities of life, we can develop our full human potential – something more than basic human security, one about thriving with elements of our economy, our environment, respect for culture, and protection from avoidable harm; and

WHEREAS, each of our experiences is different and unique and our cultural values are different than the value the military places in us, yet in this situation is our strength as a region; and
WHEREAS, in recognition of the strength that comes from our differences, we are united in our firm belief in the inherent rights and responsibility of our citizens to know of the military plans and activities that affect their lives; and

WHEREAS, the member entities of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures hereby resolve to ensure that the needs, the care, and the health of girls and women of our Pacific islands be made priority as the US expands its military forces in our islands and in our Pacific region; 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 a united approach to the increased U.S. military build-up of the Pacific region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we stand united in demanding an increased dialogue with the affected islands and the immediate release of working information from the military and the United States; and especially resolve to demand and ensure transparency as to any potential or cumulative impact on the economies, social structure, and culture of each of our islands from the increased U.S. military build-up of the region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that we want to ensure economic benefits from the military expansion in our region come to our islands without other adverse impact, and, that the consent of the island community concerned be obtained before any mitigation or alternative plan is considered; 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 Presiding Legislative Officers and Chief Executives of each of the APIL member jurisdictions.

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

[Signatures]

SABINO SAUCHOMAL
APIL PRESIDENT

WILLIAM NGIRAIKELAU
APIL SECRETARY