Resolution No. 28-GA-01, CD1

“Urging the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures Regional Governments to request that the Non-COFA Migrant spouses, children, and immediate relatives of COFA Migrants be allowed to enter, engage in occupations, and establish residence as non-immigrants in the United States and its territories.”

WHEREAS, the Compacts of Free Association ("COFA") are joint congressional-executive agreements between the United States and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau; and

WHEREAS, the U.S. Census Bureau recently estimated that there are 2,100 COFA migrants or persons admitted or residing within the CNMI, to include their children under the age of 18, pursuant to Section 141 of the Compacts of Free Association; and

WHEREAS, pursuant to U.S. Public Law 110-229, the immigration laws of the United States will apply to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands ("CNMI"); and

WHEREAS, as a result of the enforcement of U.S. Public Law 110-229, CNMI immigration laws will cease to have legal force and effect such that the ability of Non-COFA Migrant spouses and immediate relatives of COFA Migrants to enter, engage in occupations, and establish residence as non-immigrants in the United States and its territories will be called into serious doubt if not eliminated altogether subsequent to November 28, 2009; and

WHEREAS, the CNMI has benefited substantially from the economic input of COFA Migrants and their Non-COFA Migrant spouses; and
WHEREAS, on a humanitarian level, the spouses and other immediate relatives
of said migrants will suffer great emotional loss if their ability to remain within the CNMI
and live as they did prior to the implementation of U.S. Public Law 110-229; now,
therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 28th
General Assembly, FSM State of Pohnpei, June 9-12, 2009, that the Association of
Pacific Island Legislatures hereby urges all member governments to request that the
United States Department of Homeland Security together with the Office of Insular
Affairs, taking into consideration the welfare and social and economic benefit that the
Non-COFA Migrant spouses and immediate relatives of COFA Migrants have on the
CNMI, modify the rules and regulations applicable to the CNMI to allow for the Non-
COFA Migrant spouses and immediate relatives of COFA Migrants to enter, engage in
occupations, and establish residence as non-immigrants in the United States and its
territories just as they did prior to the implementation of U.S. Public Law 110-229; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Association of Pacific
Island Legislatures shall attest and the Secretary of the Association of Pacific Island
Legislatures shall certify to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall be
transmitted to the President of the Federated States of Micronesia; to the Speaker of the
Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia and to the Presiding Legislative Officers
and the Chief Executive Officers of all members of the Association of Pacific Island
Legislatures.


J. KALANI ENGLISH
APIL PRESIDENT

JUDITH T. WON PAT, ED.D.
APIL SECRETARY