Resolution No. 28-GA-13

“Respectfully requesting the United States Department of Defense to commence a dialogue with the APIL member jurisdiction governments to explore appropriate means by which to share with the Pacific Island governments vital information about the surrounding seas, gained through the state of the art technology being emplaced on Guam that can readily and accurately detect and monitor the activities of vessels operating in the Pacific which may be violating national laws and international agreements.”

WHEREAS, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, (APIL), is an organization of Legislatures and Parliaments within the vast expanses of the Pacific Ocean, the membership of which includes the island jurisdictions of American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas, the Island of Guam, the FSM State of Chuuk, the FSM State of Kosrae, the FSM State of Pohnpei, the FSM State of Yap, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, the State of Hawaii, the Republic of Nauru, and the Republic of Kiribati; and

WHEREAS, the seas that surround the members of the APIL constitute the greatest fisheries resources remaining in the world today; and

WHEREAS, despite the high priority and close levels of cooperation that the APIL jurisdictions have been devoting to the management of these fisheries resources, our best efforts to prohibit illegal and unsustainable fishing by unlicensed boats and unscrupulous companies are being severely hampered by the extremely high costs of ocean surveillance; and
WHEREAS, it is the sense of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures that
the U.S. Military Build-Up on the Island of Guam is one of the most significant
devotions in the Pacific that has occurred in many years; and
WHEREAS, the build-up of the military on Guam will bring with it
unprecedented levels of state of the art technology to our region of the world; and
WHEREAS, with this advanced technology available to the military on Guam,
they will be able to monitor all types of activities in the surrounding seas at astounding
levels of sensitivity and accuracy; and
WHEREAS, it is the further sense of the APIL that through the sharing of
information regarding the activities of vessels that enter the two hundred mile resource
zones of the APIL jurisdictions, the U.S. military could provide a very valuable service
to the Pacific Islanders, helping us to dramatically reduce the cost of necessary
surveillance and law enforcement within our managed resource zones; now, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 28th
General Assembly, Island of Pohnpei, June 9-11, 2009, that the APIL hereby
respectfully requests the United States Department of Defense to commence a dialogue
with the APIL member jurisdiction governments to explore appropriate means by which
to share with the Pacific Island Governments vital information about the surrounding
seas, gained through the state of the art technology being emplaced on Guam that can
readily and accurately detect and monitor the activities of vessels operating in the
Pacific which may be violating national laws and international agreements; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the APIL President shall certify, and the
APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof; and that certified copies of this
Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States of America, to the
Secretary of the United States Department of Defense, to the U.S. Defense
Representative for Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau, and to the Chief Executives and Presiding Legislative Officers of each of the members of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.


J. KALANI ENGLISH  
APIL PRESIDENT

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