



# Association of Pacific Island Legislatures

American Samoa  
Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands  
FSM, State of Chuuk  
FSM, State of Kosrae  
FSM, State of Pohnpei  
FSM, State of Yap  
Island of Guam  
Republic of Kiribati  
Republic of the Marshall Islands  
Republic of Nauru  
Republic of Palau  
State of Hawaii

## A RESOLUTION

APIL Resolution No. 30-GA-03, CD1

**“Requesting all legislative assemblies of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures to adopt legislation prohibiting the possession, selling, offering for sale, trading or distribution of shark fins, rays and ray parts.”**

1           **WHEREAS**, there is an inhumane practice called *shark finning* which involves cutting  
2 off the fins of a shark and then throwing the shark back into the ocean, often while still alive,  
3 only to drown, starve or die a slow death by predation from other animals; and

4           **WHEREAS**, approximately 73 million sharks are killed each year primarily for their  
5 fins; and

6           **WHEREAS**, killing sharks at this rate, and pushing an estimated one-third of open ocean  
7 shark species to the brink of extinction, damages the ecosystems that support many other  
8 species, degrading habitats like coral reefs and kelp forests and ultimately affecting the fish  
9 populations that we depend on for food; and

10           **WHEREAS**, shark populations cannot sustain current slaughter rates and unlike other  
11 fish species, sharks produce few pups, and thus many species are endangered or threatened due  
12 to the shark fin trade; and

13           **WHEREAS**, each entity within this Association shares the same ocean water resources  
14 and ecosystems that are affected by the harvesting of shark fin; and

15           **WHEREAS**, the Republic of Palau created the world’s first shark sanctuary, banning the  
16 catching and export of shark; and

17           **WHEREAS**, the State of Hawaii passed SB 2169 that prohibits the sale, possession or  
18 distribution of shark fins and fin products; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands passed H.B. 17-94,  
2 HD1, SD1 to stop the sale and possession of shark fins; and

3           **WHEREAS**, The 31<sup>st</sup> Guam Legislature recently passed Bill 44-31 prohibiting the  
4 possession, selling, offering for sale, trading or distribution of shark fins, rays and ray parts; and

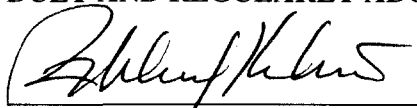
5           **WHEREAS**, similar model legislation has been passed in the State of Washington and  
6 has been introduced in other Coastal States; and

7           **WHEREAS**, member legislative assemblies should consider the possession of shark for  
8 sustenance and cultural sharing purposes to be allowable; now, therefore,


9           **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 30<sup>th</sup> General  
10 Assembly, Republic of Palau, June 15-17, 2011, that the APIL hereby declares that it is in  
11 agreement with the perceptive enactments of protective legislation in Palau, Hawaii, CNMI and  
12 Guam and requests all member legislative assemblies of the APIL to adopt similar legislation  
13 for a unified regional ban prohibiting the possession, selling, offering for sale, trading or  
14 distribution of shark fins, rays and ray parts; and

15           **BE IT FURTHER REOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify, and the APIL  
16 Secretary shall attest to the adoption of this Resolution and that copies of the same shall be  
17 transmitted to the Pew Environment Group and to the Chief Executives and Legislative  
18 Presiding Officers of each member jurisdiction of the Association of the Pacific Island  
19 Legislatures.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 17<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2011.**



**REBLUD KESOLEI**  
**APIL PRESIDENT**

  
**ALIK J. ALIK**  
**APIL SECRETARY**