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."

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

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

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

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

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

WHEREAS, the Republic of Palau created the world's first shark sanctuary, banning the catching and export of shark; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii passed SB 2169 that prohibits the sale, possession or distribution of shark fins and fin products; and
WHEREAS, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands passed H.B. 17-94, HD1, SD1 to stop the sale and possession of shark fins; and

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

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

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

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

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

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 15TH DAY OF JUNE, 2011.

REBLUUD KESOLEI
APIL PRESIDENT

ALIK J. ALIK
APIL SECRETARY