A RESOLUTION

APIL Resolution No. 30-GA-08

"Requesting that the member island jurisdictions of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures increase their focus on addressing behavioral health issues, including but not limited to alcohol abuse and dependence, tobacco consumption, illicit drug use, and violence against children and women, and in so doing thereby contribute to the reduction of Non-Communicable Diseases as well as the pain and suffering by individuals, families and communities within the APIL region."

WHEREAS, the Pacific Behavioral Health Coordinating Council (PBHCC) is an organization of health and other leaders from most of the APIL countries, organized in 2000 with a Vision of Pacific Island Communities, Families and Individuals with Optimal Health and Free from Substance Abuse; and

WHEREAS, PBHCC's stated mission is to promote sustainable, culturally appropriate services and capacity building systems that address issues of mental health and substance abuse prevention and treatment; and

WHEREAS, PBHCC advocates for behavioral health policies and systems improvement that will enhance the physical and mental health of Pacific island communities; and

WHEREAS, among the major contributing factors to behavioral illnesses and dysfunctions that PBHCC works to address include alcohol abuse and dependence, tobacco consumption and addiction, and other forms of drug abuse; and
WHEREAS, the recent epidemiological reports developed among PBHCC member countries show that the health and social consequences of alcohol abuse are significant and are correlated to suicides and suicide attempts among Pacific islanders; and

WHEREAS, it has been established that suicide rates, especially among youth, are consistently higher in the Pacific than in the continental U.S. and tobacco use is a leading cause of preventable death and disease in the Pacific, with heart disease, cancer and stroke being among the top five leading causes of death; and

WHEREAS, alcohol abuse, in addition to being a major behavioral risk factor for persons at high risk dysfunctional families and communities, is also a major risk factor for Non-Communicable Diseases; and

WHEREAS, APIL has taken exemplary action to address the issue of alcohol abuse within the APIL communities through the adoption of APIL Resolution No. 49-BOD-07, CDI in Majuro in December, 2004; and

WHEREAS, APIL Resolution No. 49-BOD-07, CDI resulted in the following: (1) Budweiser Company no longer advertises its product with the “Bud Nation Guam, Saipan, Palau, Yap, Chunk, Pohnpei, Kosrae and Marshall Islands” slogan; (2) various APIL Legislatures have passed local resolutions supporting and reinforcing the APIL resolution; and (3) the APIL resolution provided impetus for the development of Guam's “One Nation Alcohol-Free” campaign; and

WHEREAS, the PBHCC believes the “One Nation Alcohol-Free” campaign is a Pacific island model that is culturally appropriate, relevant and timely, can be replicated in other APIL jurisdictions to prevent underage drinking and alcohol abuse among adults, and can be designed
to also address tobacco and illicit drug use prevention towards building stronger and healthier
APIL communities; and

WHEREAS, the PBHCC acknowledges the facts that alcohol abuse and tobacco
consumption are major risk factors for development of Non-Communicable Diseases; and

WHEREAS, the PBHCC believes that alcohol and other forms of drug abuse, tobacco
consumption, as well as untreated mental illnesses, contribute to personal, family and community
consequences and are still inadequately addressed within the APIL jurisdictions; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 30th General
Assembly, Republic of Palau, June 15-17, 2011, that the Association of Pacific Island
Legislatures hereby requests that the member island jurisdictions of the APIL unite and support
PBHCC's mission and findings that alcohol abuse and tobacco consumption are major risk
factors for development of Non-Communicable Diseases; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures
hereby requests that the member island jurisdictions of the APIL increase their focus on
addressing behavioral health issues, including but not limited to alcohol abuse and dependence,
tobacco consumption, illicit drug use, and violence against children and women, and in so doing
thereby contribute to the reduction of Non-Communicable Diseases, as well as the alleviation of
pain and suffering by individuals, families and communities within the APIL region; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures
hereby requests that the member island jurisdictions of APIL unite and support the “One Nation
Alcohol-Free” campaign as a Pacific island model that is culturally appropriate to prevent
underage drinking and alcohol abuse among adults; and

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BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures hereby requests that the member island jurisdictions of APIL utilize known effective international, national, regional and local declarations, strategies, initiatives and frameworks, such as the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and the Strategic Prevention Framework for substance abuse prevention in the development of their legislative agendas and work; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the APIL President shall certify, and the APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall be transmitted 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 17TH DAY OF JUNE, 2011

REBLUUD KESOLEI
APIL PRESIDENT

ALIK J. ALIK
APIL SECRETARY