Resolution No. 31-GA-03, CD1

"Calling upon the Leadership of the APIL and the APIL Secretariat to seek out technical assistance and financial support to help the member governments of the APIL bridge the digital divides that are adversely affecting the Blue Continent."

1. WHEREAS, first found in only the most developed nations of the world, Information and Communication Technologies, or ICT, have now become a global phenomenon; and

2. WHEREAS, although ICT have become a global phenomenon, there still exists a digital divide between various regions of the world due to many factors that relate not only to access to ICT networks, but also to understandings of how ICT can be utilized as positive, interactive force in support of the economic development and social advancement of individuals, communities, states and nations; and

3. WHEREAS, because of the remoteness and vast distances between the islands which have joined together to form the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, our region of the world has been one of the last areas of the globe to begin to receive the benefits of ICT; and

4. WHEREAS, due to the sheer immensity of the largest ocean on our planet, it is much more difficult and much more expensive for the APIL governments, public telecommunications corporations and private telecommunications businesses to lay the necessary fiber-optic cable between our islands and to connect our communities to the worldwide internet highway; and

5. WHEREAS, because of the unique challenges facing the APIL Pacific with respect to this vital infrastructure for the digital age, our region is facing the risk of being left behind as the
rest of the world progresses towards an increasingly more knowledgeable, sophisticated and technologically savvy global information society; and

WHEREAS, even within the APIL Pacific itself, there exists a huge digital divide between islands which are blessed with broadband infrastructures, islands which must rely on slower and more expensive satellite bandwidths, and islands which are still dependant to this day on the World War II technology of shortwave radio communications; and

WHEREAS, to address both the external and internal digital divides of the central Pacific, APIL has begun the formulation of a program called "Connecting the Blue Continent"; and

WHEREAS, this program has been created to highlight the major challenges we are facing and to bring together the collective efforts of all our governments; but

WHEREAS, it is the sense of the members of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures as we meet together that the challenges of the digital divides that we are facing all across the Blue Continent are too great to be conquered on our own; we need to liaise our efforts with appropriate entities and individuals who can offer technical assistance and financial support; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 31st General Assembly, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, June 20-23, 2012, that the APIL hereby acknowledges that a digital divide exists between the APIL Pacific and the more developed areas of the world and furthermore acknowledges that a second digital divide exists between and among the islands of the APIL Pacific, and therefore the General Assembly calls upon the Leadership of the APIL and the APIL Secretariat to communicate with:
International organizations such as the United Nations Development Program, the United Nations Global Centre for Information and Communication Technologies in Parliament, the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and other organizations;

Donor countries such as the nations of the European Union, the United States, Japan, Australia, New Zealand, South Korea and China, and Republic of China, Taiwan; and

Concerned NGO's, charitable foundations, ICT societies and other friends of APIL to seek out technical assistance and financial support to help the governments of the APIL bridge the digital divides that so adversely affect our Blue Continent; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the APIL President shall certify, and the APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies be transmitted to the Chief Executives and Legislative Presiding Officers of each member jurisdiction of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures and to the World Bank; the Asia Development Bank and to such other international organizations, donor countries, and concerned NGO's, foundations, societies and individuals as the President of the APIL deems appropriate.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 22\textsuperscript{nd} DAY OF JUNE, 2012.

\begin{itemize}
\item \textbf{REBLUUD KESOLEI} \\
\textbf{APIL PRESIDENT}
\item \textbf{CHANG WILLIAM} \\
\textbf{ACTING SECRETARY}
\end{itemize}