Resolution No. 31-GA-04, CD1

“Requesting that the member island nations of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures join the CNMI and support driver’s license reciprocity between the CNMI and Island of Guam.”

1 WHEREAS, the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration ("NHTSA") and the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators ("AAMVA") developed an entry-level driver licensing system consisting of three (3) distinct stages, named by the type of license possessed at each stage: learner's permit, intermediate (provisional) license, and full license; and

2 WHEREAS, young drivers are required to demonstrate responsible driving behavior in each stage of licensing before advancing to the next; and

3 WHEREAS, the Guam Legislature, the I Liheslaturan Guåhan, enacted Public Law 25-096 establishing a graduated drivers licensing system in Guam for all new drivers based on the NHTSA and AAMVA model, which was implemented on June 30, 2000; and

4 WHEREAS, Guam Public Law 25-096, codified at 16 GCA 31A00 et seq., provided for exceptions to the mandated graduated drivers license system as follows: (1) driver’s license holders that have completed all steps of graduated driver’s licensing in another state, territory or country; (2) driver’s license holders that have at least five (5) years of driving experience by another state, territory or country; or (3) driver’s license holders serving on active duty in any branch of the United States Armed Forces from another state or territory of the United States; and
WHEREAS, many youth with CNMI drivers licenses are residing on Guam or attending the University of Guam and other post-secondary and secondary schools; and

WHEREAS, Guam law, however, provides that the holder of a valid license issued by another state territory, or other country may operate a vehicle on the highways of Guam for a period not exceeding 30 days after the date upon which that person arrived on Guam; and

WHEREAS, as a result, CNMI drivers license holders that have less than five (5) years of driving experience have been denied Guam drivers licenses because the CNMI does not have a similar graduated drivers license system; and

WHEREAS, CNMI drivers license holders are told they have to take a Guam drivers education class in order to obtain a Guam’s drivers license; and

WHEREAS, while the CNMI respects Guam’s desire to implement a graduated drivers license system, Guam’s policy adversely affects CNMI students temporarily residing on Guam to obtain a college education; and

WHEREAS, CNMI students cannot afford to pay for a driver’s education class and such mandate is not warranted when they already possess a drivers license from the CNMI, which has the same rules of the road; and

WHEREAS, the Island of Guam consistently refers to the CNMI as its sister island and persistently invites its brothers and sisters from the CNMI to attend the University of Guam. However, these same brothers and sisters are prohibited from obtaining a Guam drivers license necessary to get to and from school; and
WHEREAS, the CNMI humbly requests the Government of Guam to consider exempting the CNMI drivers license holders from the five (5) year restriction or drivers education program requirement because of the negative financial impact on the students; and

WHEREAS, the CNMI pledges reciprocal treatment of Guam drivers license holders residing in the CNMI; 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 Association of Pacific Island Legislatures hereby requests that the Member island nations of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures join the CNMI and support driver’s license reciprocity between the CNMI and Island of Guam to the extent permissible under applicable federal and local laws; 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 22nd DAY OF JUNE, 2012.

REBLUUD KESOLEI
APIL PRESIDENT

CHANG WILLIAM
ACTING SECRETARY