Resolution No. 31-GA-10

“Relative to expressing the Association of Pacific Island Legislature’s support of and advocacy for full implementation of the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver program to include Russia and China.”

WHEREAS, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) is an assembly of representatives of the people of the Pacific Islands who meet periodically to consider matters of mutual interest in areas where regional cooperation, coordination, exchange and assistance would help individual governments achieve their goals through collective action, and to address in depth the substantive regional and international issues facing the emerging Pacific governments; and

WHEREAS, APIL acknowledges that Guam and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas are experiencing severe economic challenges; and

WHEREAS, as a result of Guam and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas geographic location, their respective island economies are greatly influenced by a few key markets, one of the most important being tourism; and

WHEREAS, APIL acknowledges and appreciates that the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver program is an excellent opportunity to “test market” the Russia and China markets for future consideration under the broader Visa Waiver program of the United States; and
WHEREAS, according to the World Tourism Organization, the outlook for international tourist arrivals remains promising thereby providing an optimistic outlook for Chinese and Russian travel markets; and

WHEREAS, to reinvigorate the economies of Guam and the CNMI both the United States Congress and the Obama Administration must continue in their path to create and implement a 21st century regulatory framework that will allow Guam and the CNMI to pursue a bold opportunity for the American people, and other People of the Pacific; and

WHEREAS, the APIL’s unified support of the Guam-NMI Visa-Waiver program validates the importance of such a program for the economies of Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and neighboring island economies affiliated with such activities; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 31st General Assembly, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, June 20 - 23, 2012, that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures hereby expresses its support for the Guam-NMI Visa-Waiver program; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures hereby appeals to Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Hon. Janet Napolitano to grant parole status for the admission of Russia and China tourists to Guam and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands; 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 be transmitted to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the Senate, 112th United States Congress; Honorable John Boehner, Speaker of the House, 112th United States Congress; Honorable Doc Hastings, Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources, United States House of Representatives; Honorable John C. Fleming, M.D., Chairman - Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans & Insular Affairs, United States House of Representatives; Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo, Guam Delegate to the United States Congress; Honorable Gregorio Sablan “Kilili,” CNMI Delegate to the United States Congress; Honorable Janet Napolitano, Secretary, United States Department of Homeland Security; and to the Presiding Legislative Officers and the Chief Executive Officers of all members of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 22nd DAY OF JUNE, 2012.

[Signatures]

REBLUUD KE SOLEI
APIL PRESIDENT

CHANG WILLIAM
ACTING SECRETARY