Resolution No. 31-GA-14

"Respectfully requesting and urging the United States Congress to recognize the longstanding rights of persons from the APIL member states with respect to their political agreements and relationships with the United States; and for other purposes."

WHEREAS, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 31st General Assembly Conference on the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana on June 20 - 23, 2012 respectfully urges the United States Congress to recognize the longstanding rights of persons from the APIL member states as set forth within their political agreements and relationships with the United States; and

WHEREAS, like the thirteen original colonies, the persons of Northern Marianas descent of the Northern Mariana Islands chose, voluntarily, to become part of the United States of America through the negotiated Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in a Political Union with the United States of America (the Covenant), which was approved in 1975 by 78.8% of the voters in the Northern Marianas and by the U.S. Congress in 1976, through the enactment of Pub. L. No. 94-241, 90 Stat. 263 (1976), codified at 48 U.S.C. §1801 establishing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in a Political Union with the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the Covenant’s ten articles detail the political relationship between the United States and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and thus the
United States has only such power over the Northern Marianas Islands as is expressly recognized in the Covenant; and

WHEREAS, after most provisions of the Covenant became effective on January 9, 1978, the Northern Mariana Islands has been greatly affected by federal laws and regulations that failed to consider, honor and respect the intent, spirit, and principles on issues such as the submerged lands, the Marine Monument, the military buildup in the Pacific, the utilization of the CNMI's Northern Islands, and the dissemination of information; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 31st General Assembly, Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands, June 20 - 23, 2012, that the United States Congress review and legislatively support the spirit and intent underlying the substantive provisions of the Covenant pertaining to economic development and the principles of self-determination that governed the Covenant negotiations between the CNMI and the United States; 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