Resolution No. 31-GA-15

"Recognizing Mr. Nikolao Pula for being the Keynote speaker for the 31st APIL General Assembly and for all his contributions to the people of the member states of the APIL; and for other purposes."

WHEREAS, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 31st General Assembly Conference on the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of Northern Marianas on June 20 - 23, 2012 finds that Mr. Nikolao Pula has honored the APIL and each and every one of the delegates by accepting our invitation to be our Keynote speaker for the 31st APIL General Assembly and maintaining the lines of communication between the member states of the APIL and the Office of Insular Affairs; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nikolao Pula is the youngest son of Tofa Nikolao Pula Sr. (later Tuiteleapaga Nikolao), one of the founders of the public school system in American Samoa; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nikolao Pula graduated of the Marist Brothers’ School in American Samoa and Menlo College in Atherton California and continued his studies at Brigham Young University in Provo, Utah and George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nikolao Pula is the first Pacific islander of Samoan ancestry ever to serve as the Director of the office of Insular Affairs of the Department of Interior in Washington, DC; and
WHEREAS, Mr. Nikolao Pula joined the Department of Interior in 1993 where he served as OIA director of policy from February 2000 to January 2001 prior to assuming the directorship; and

WHEREAS, Mr. Nikolao Pula during his tenure with OIA, also served as a policy desk officer from August 1993 to July 2000 and acting director from January 2001 to June 2002; and

WHEREAS, as the OIA Director, Mr. Nikolao Pula advises the Secretary of the Interior on operational and administrative matters involving federal policy in the insular areas; and

WHEREAS, the OIA is the Executive Branch’s liaison organization with four of the five principle US Insular areas, namely, Guam, American Samoa, the CNMI, and Virgin Islands in addition to the three freely associated states of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and Palau; and

WHEREAS, the OIA also exercises certain responsibilities in two of the nine smaller US insular areas, namely, Palmyra and Wake Atolls; 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 recognizes that Mr. Nikolao Pula has honored each of the members of the APIL by accepting our invitation where he delivered an informative, insightful, and enlightening keynote speech which was greatly appreciated by the members of the APIL and all who attended the 31st General Assembly Conference; 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 Mr. Nikolao Pula, Director, Office of Insular Affairs and 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