APIL Resolution No. 32-GA-06

“Encouraging the member governments of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures to develop and implement national healthcare programs that guarantee universal access to affordable, quality healthcare.”

WHEREAS, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 32nd General Assembly Conference in Honolulu, Hawaii on June 25-27, 2013, finds that access to quality healthcare is essential to enhancing an individual’s ability to achieve the highest possible quality of life; and

WHEREAS, the United Nations recently adopted a resolution entitled “Global Health and Foreign Policy” urging member governments to make efforts to transition towards systems that provide universal access to affordable and quality healthcare, and providing that ensuring such access is the responsibility of every government; and

WHEREAS, the implementation of a national universal healthcare system has proven successful in many countries, including nearly all of the developed world, and many small developing nations including the Republic of Palau which recently launched a national healthcare program with promising initial results; and

WHEREAS, APIL member states face many of the same challenges in ensuring access to healthcare, including the lack of qualified medical personnel and crucial medical equipment on the islands, which necessitates the use of medical referrals for medical services; and

WHEREAS, rising healthcare costs and insurance premiums present a common challenge for all APIL member states seeking to improve their citizens’ access to healthcare services and reduce the financial burden of the cost of health services on individuals and member states; now, therefore,
BE IT RESOLVED, by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 32nd General Assembly, Honolulu Hawaii, June 25-27, 2013, that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures hereby encourages the member entities of the APIL to support the efforts of member states in their efforts to develop national healthcare programs, to share information regarding the experiences of member states in implementing national healthcare, and to consider the feasibility of a regional health insurance program to help guarantee universal access to affordable, quality healthcare; 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 27th DAY OF JUNE, 2013.

JUDITH T. WON PAT ED.D. PRESIDENT

CHANG B. WILLIAM SECRETARY