A RESOLUTION

APIL Resolution No. 34-GA-06

“Extending the heartiest appreciation of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures to the Members of the 33rd Guam Legislature and to the Governor of the Territory of Guam for the passage and signing into law of two very significant and important measures providing eligibility for COFA residents to financial aid at the University of Guam and providing for COFA residents to serve in the Guam Police Department’s Civilian Volunteer Reserve Force.”

WHEREAS, earlier this year, the 33rd Guam Legislature, Liheislaturan Guåhan, enacted two very important bills which were then signed into law affecting COFA migrants residing on Guam; and

WHEREAS, the first of these two bills, entitled “the Equal Opportunity in Higher Education Act of 2015”, provides that migrants from the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia are eligible for University of Guam financial aid programs which in Fiscal Year 2015 amounts to approximately $3.5 million in six different need-based and merit-based financial aid programs; and

WHEREAS, the second measure provides that migrants from the Republic of Palau, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia may be recruited by the Chief of Police to serve in the Guam Police Department’s Civilian Volunteer Reserve Force; and

WHEREAS, this second law also allows COFA migrants who join the volunteer program to serve as temporary full-time officers in a Police Officer 1 position in certain circumstances when there is a vacancy on the permanent force; and
WHEREAS, these laws have been enacted by the Guam Legislature in a generous and praiseworthy effort to assist COFA migrants in becoming meaningful members of the economic and social societies of the Island of Guam; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 34th General Assembly, July 7-10, 2015, Island of Pohnpei, FSM, that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures hereby extends its heartiest appreciation to the Members of the 33rd Guam Legislature, Lihteslaturan Guåhan, for the passage of these two very significant and important bills and to the Governor of Guam for signing these measures into law; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures hereby extends a very special message of appreciation to Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz of the 33rd Guam Legislature, Lihteslaturan Guåhan, for his courage and understanding in introducing both of these measures into the Guam Legislature for consideration by his fellow Senators; 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 thereafter transmitted to the Speaker of the 33rd Guam Legislature, Lihteslaturan Guåhan, to the Governor of the Territory of Guam, to Vice Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz of the 33rd Guam Legislature, Lihteslaturan Guåhan, and to the Chief Executives and the Legislative Presiding Officers of each member jurisdiction of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 9TH DAY OF JULY, 2015.

KENNETH A. KEDI
PRESIDENT

FERNANDO SCALIEM
SECRETARY