A RESOLUTION

APIL Resolution No. 36-GA-07

“Expressing the deep appreciation of the members of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures for the courage and inspiration that the Polynesian Voyaging Society has provided to the world at large with its ocean voyaging programs, and to the master navigators and many crews members of the Hōkūle‘a who participated over the course of four decades of open ocean voyaging in demonstrating to the world at large and providing historical remembrances to our island societies of what it means to be a Pacific Islander.”

WHEREAS, the Polynesian, double-hulled, open ocean voyaging canoe Hōkūle‘a returned to Hawaii on Saturday, the 17th of June, 2017, after completing an arduous, yet awe inspiring three-year sailing journey around the world; and

WHEREAS, the Hōkūle‘a is a performance-accurate full-scale replica of a wa‘a kaulu, a Polynesian double-hulled voyaging canoe which was first launched on the 8th day of March, 1975, by the Polynesian Voyaging Society; and

WHEREAS, before her circumnavigation of the world, the Hōkūle‘a completed ten open ocean passages to ports in Tahiti, Micronesia, Polynesia, Japan, Canada and the mainland United States, all using ancient navigation techniques utilizing the stars above and the waves and ocean currents below to find the way; and

WHEREAS, on May 18, 2014, Hōkūle‘a embarked from Oahu for “Malama Honua”, her three-year circumnavigation of the earth; and

WHEREAS, on the nineteen-leg Mālama Honua Worldwide Voyage, the Hōkūle‘a hosted 245 crew members who sailed in groups of twelve to thirteen which were alternated at assigned ports of call along the navigated route of the traditional sailing canoe; and
WHEREAS, the Hōkūleʻa returned to port in Hawaii to a huge gathering of cheering enthusiasts and a joyous celebration on June 17, 2017, having navigated over 47,000 nautical miles with stops at eighty-five ports of call in twenty-six countries; and

WHEREAS, celebrated as a triumph of Oceanic voyaging skills, the success of the Hōkūleʻa would not have been possible without the expert teaching and hands-on demonstrations by the master navigators of Micronesia, skilled in Pwo, the ancient ways of steerage between the limitless horizons of the greatest and most awesome ocean in the world; and

WHEREAS, the Polynesian Voyaging Society fully recognizes and embraces the ocean heritage of all of our islands and is fully cognizant of the importance of the navigators of Hōkūleʻa’s many voyages, for in the teachings of Pwo, master navigators are the true leaders of our Pacific trans-oceanic voyages in that:

- If there are conflicts, the navigator must resolve them;
- If there is sickness, the navigator’s responsibility is to heal;
- If there is damage, the navigator must repair it; and
- It is the navigator’s kuleana to sail the canoe and bring back gifts to his home island;

and

WHEREAS, as the Hōkūleʻa traveled to destinations all across the world, the voyaging canoe and its crews carried an inspiring message to the many peoples they met along the way of the proud heritage of our ancient and legendary forefathers and foremothers, the earliest sailors and explorers of the Pacific, who purposely conquered the challenges of the sea, deliberately landed on the shores of its islands and consciously established communities in its island habitats; and

WHEREAS, even more important messages were carried by the crews of the Hōkūleʻa to the peoples of the world of the fragility of our island environments and the perils of global warming and consequent sea rise --- but perhaps the most important message of all was not expressed in words, but
in the very act of navigating around the entire world --- that is the message of the resiliency of our
Pacific Island peoples and our determination, born out of ancient customs and traditions, to plot a
determined course of purpose and design that will ultimately bring us to the shores of enlightenment
and understanding as to who we are, how we have come to be, and where we, as Pacific peoples,
should be voyaging into the future; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 36th General Assembly,
Christmas Island, Republic of Kiribati, June 22-24, 2017, that this Assembly hereby expresses our
deep appreciation for the courage and inspiration that the Polynesian Voyaging Society has provided
to the world at large with its ocean voyaging programs, and to the master navigators and many crew
members of the Hōkūleʻa who participated over the course of four decades of open ocean voyaging,
in demonstrating to the world at large and providing historical remembrances to our island societies of
what it means to be a Pacific Islander; 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 Presiding
Officials of the Polynesian Voyaging Society to share among the master navigators and crews of the
Hōkūleʻa, and to the Legislative Presiding Officers and Chief Executives of each member jurisdiction
of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.


ROBERT I. TAULUNG  NELSON STEPHEN
PRESIDENT  SECRETARY