A RESOLUTION

APIL Resolution No. 36-GA-08

“Expressing deep appreciation for the courage and foresight of the Hawaii State Legislature in its landmark passage of Public Act 35(2017), by which the State of Hawaii became the first State in the USA to codify its continuing commitment to climate change strategies aligned with the Paris Climate Accord.”

WHEREAS, in a historic event, supported by all the nations of the world but two, the world leadership joined together in signing the Paris Climate Accord through which a world-wide effort has been launched to address and to mitigate the adverse affects of climate change and its consequent rise in the levels of the sea; and

WHEREAS, while the leaders of the small island states, including the jurisdictions of the APIL Pacific participating in the Paris discussions, pressed for much more pro-active strategies and more ambitious goals to address the challenges of global warming, we were pleased to see that the most advanced and most environmentally polluting countries of the world added their support for the Paris Climate Accord and pledged their assistance to help the countries most vulnerable to sea level rise to cope with the challenges facing their peoples, both now and in the future; but

WHEREAS, the newly elected President of the United States of America recently announced his Administration’s intentions to withdraw from America’s commitment and active participation in the goals and strategies of the Paris Climate Accord and, although he denied it by rhetorical commentary, his actions signaled a return of his country to the harmful environmental practices of the past, including a return to reliance on CO2 emitting energy production, labor intensive industrial manufacturing and wide-scale, consumer consumption; and

WHEREAS, this sad and distressing fall of the American Government from its leadership role in international circles in championing causes committed to combating the grievous damages of
climate change has distressed the whole of the international community of nations, but most especially
the most vulnerable island countries and jurisdictions of the Pacific; and

WHEREAS, as this dramatic fall from international consciousness and responsibility was
unfolding before us, the members of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures have been most
encouraged to find that the Hawaii State Legislature has stepped forward to firmly and resolutely
decree that the State of Hawaii is not in agreement with the distressing policies of the Federal
Government; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii’s honest assessment that global warming and consequent sea
rise are realities of our times and its commitment to promote a statewide response to climate change
has been heralded by the Legislature’s calling for Hawaii’s strategies to be aligned in collaboration
with those of the 2016 Paris Agreement; and

WHEREAS, the State of Hawaii’s commitment to uphold the principles and to forward the
goals and strategies of the Paris Climate Accord is forcefully set forth in Public Act No. 35(2017)
which establishes the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission that will be
responsible for providing policy direction, facilitation, coordination and planning among state and
county agencies, federal agencies and appropriate partners in areas relating to climate change; and

WHEREAS, the members of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures are very comforted
by the fact that this landmark legislation was introduced into the Hawaii State Legislature by our very
own Senator J. Kalani English, present Board member and former President of the APIL itself; and

WHEREAS, on Wednesday, June 7, 2017, Hawaii State Governor David Ige signed this
landmark legislation into law, making the State of Hawaii the first State in the USA committing that
State to upholding the tenets of the Paris Climate Accord; and
WHEREAS, Hawaii is one of more than 10 states that have joined the US Climate Alliance, a coalition of State Governments in the USA that are committed to upholding the Paris Climate Accord, despite the US Administration declaration of withdrawal from the international agreement; 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 foresight of the Hawaii State Legislature for its landmark passage of Public Act No. 35(2017) by which the State of Hawaii became the first State in the USA to codify its continuing commitment to climate change strategies aligned with the Paris Climate Accord and applauds the State of Hawaii in joining with other informed and concerned US states in the Climate Alliance which advocates for environmental responsibility at all levels of government in the USA; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that this Assembly especially applauds the foresight and understanding of the introducer of this landmark legislation, our own Senator J. Kalani English, and we wish to assure our good Senator that each of our jurisdictions shares in the concerns of the Honorable Senator and his fellow Hawaiian Legislators for the protection and preservation of our island homes and environments; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures humbly, but urgently, beseeches the members of the Hawaii State Legislature to use their newly found leadership role in the US Climate Alliance to turn the attitudes of the US Administration back to accepting its responsibilities and regaining its central role in leading the world in a collective and shared commitment to combating the damages of climate change and to mitigating its destructive
affects on the most vulnerable peoples of the world, especially the peoples of the low lying atolls of
the member jurisdictions of the APIL Pacific; 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 President of
the Senate and the Speaker of the House of the Hawaii State Legislature, to the Governor of the State
of Hawaii, to the President of the United States of America, to the Presiding Officers of the US
Congress, to the Presiding Officer of the US Climate Alliance, and to the Legislative Presiding
Officers and Chief Executives of each member jurisdiction of the Association of Pacific Island
Legislatures.


ROBERT I. TAULUNG
PRESIDENT

NELSON STEPHEN
SECRETARY