Resolution No. 49-BOD-12, CD1

"Congratulating President-elect Barack Obama on his ascendancy to the highest post in the United States of America and pledging the consolidated support of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures to further the implementation and support of the Obama Administration."

WHEREAS, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures is a regional organization committed to cooperation on matters of mutual concern and interest, seeks to exchange assistance and support to achieve stability and progress through collective action, since its establishment in 1981; and

WHEREAS, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures congratulates President-elect Barack Obama, a son of the Pacific Islands, on his new role as Commander-in-Chief of the United States of America and like other island people, you accept your responsibilities as a President with honor, dignity, strength and great humility; and

WHEREAS, American Samoa, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, FSM State of Chuuk, FSM State of Kosrae, FSM State of Pohnpei, FSM State of Yap, Island of Guam, Republic of Kiribati, Republic of the Marshall Islands, Republic of Palau, and the State of Hawaii join together and with one voice to aspire to mutually respectful and progressive relations with the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, as a myriad of challenges face APIL member nations, we are as distinct and similar as the ocean that unites us, and despite our distinctions, the survival and evolution of each member island is inextricably tied to the policies and laws of the United States. The States, Territories and Nations of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures stand as one in the request that the new administration promote policy enabling member Islands to thrive socially, culturally, economically, politically, and environmentally; and
WHEREAS, it is with great determination and concern for the welfare of our people that
the Member Islands request that President-elect Barack Obama lend an open ear to the voices of
your Island Brothers and Sisters, and the Member Islands entreat the President-elect to reconsider
policy and laws that are detrimental to the survival of Pacific Island Nations; and

WHEREAS, certain trade agreements, immigration laws, minimum wage laws and labor
laws, cabotage and the Jones Act are strangling some of our Member Islands and we earnestly
request a re-evaluation of the effects of the imposition of such actions by the United States of
America; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Board of Directors on behalf of the Association of Pacific
Island Legislatures, 49th Board Meeting, December 4-5, 2008, Majuro, Republic of the Marshall
Islands, that each of the member jurisdictions applaud President-elect Barack Obama and offer
our support to the Obama Administration and it is with great anticipation, providence and
fortitude that we pledge our commitment to the Obama Administration in forging stronger and
mutually beneficial relations with the United States of America and the Members Islands of the
Association of Pacific Island Legislatures; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of the Association of Pacific Island
Legislatures certifies, and the Secretary of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures attests
to, the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall be thereafter transmitted to President-
elect Barack Obama; to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress; to the
President of the Senate of the U.S. Congress and to the Presiding Legislative Officers and Chief
Executives of each of the APIL member jurisdictions.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 5TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2008.

J. KALANI ENGLISH       JUDITH T. WON PAT, Ed. D.
PRESIDENT               SECRETARY