Resolution No. 53-BOD-02

"Expressing the Strong Support for the 12th Festival of Pacific Arts; Recognizing Guam as the Official Event Host; and Encouraging Full Participation in the Festival."

1 WHEREAS, in 1969, the Conference of the South Pacific Commission, now the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, visualized a regional event to resist the erosion of traditional customary practices, which vision has materialized into the Festival of Pacific Arts, held every four years for cultural sharing and cultivation of deeper understanding and friendship between and among countries; and

2 WHEREAS, the Festival has enjoyed continued growth and success since 1972, as seen by attendance in excess of 2,000 participants and delegations from 27 Pacific Island countries and territories, including American Samoa, Australia, Cook Islands, Easter Island, Federated States of Micronesia, Fiji Islands, French Polynesia, Guam, Hawaii, Kiribati, Marshall Islands, Nauru, New Caledonia, New Zealand, Niue, Norfolk Island, Northern Mariana Islands, Palau, Papua New Guinea, Pitcairn Islands, Samoa, Solomon Islands, Tokelau, Tonga, Tuvalu, Vanuatu and Wallis and Futuna; and

3 WHEREAS, the Festival of Pacific Arts affords an opportunity for the Pacific people to strengthen their identities, and to share their history, customs and traditions with fellow Pacific Islanders and also provides a unique opportunity for the host country to present itself to its own people, to invited countries, and to Festival audiences; and

4 WHEREAS, past Festivals have demonstrated, exhibited and conducted a multitude of activities, including contemporary arts, traditional arts, photographic arts, cinematography, body art, weaving, wood, bone and stone carving, tapa making,
tattooing, jewelry, beadwork and shell work, costume pageants, pottery, floral arts, traditional medicine and healing crafts, traditional boat building and navigational crafts, traditional culinary arts, philatelic arts and traditional monies, literary arts, traditional and contemporary performing arts (orations and story-telling, musical instruments, song, dance, theatre, drama and fire walking), traditional sports, symposia, debates and workshops; and

WHEREAS, during the summer of 2016, the twelfth Festival will be graciously hosted by the Territory of Guam with the theme “WHAT WE OWN, WHAT WE HAVE, WHAT WE SHARE, UNITED VOICES OF THE PACIFIC”; and

WHEREAS, the Festival of Pacific Arts is a major cultural, and economic event for the region, with 27 Pacific Island countries and territories scheduled to participate, and it is therefore fitting to recognize this celebration as a superb opportunity for Pacific Islanders to gather and share the uniqueness of their respective cultures and to promote the preservation of their traditional customary practices, while at the same time showcasing many contemporary developments; and

WHEREAS, each member island of APIL is also a recognized member of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community and are invited delegates to the Festival of Pacific Arts; and

WHEREAS, it is appropriate to recognize Guam as the official host of the 12th Festival of Pacific Arts in 2016; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 53rd Board of Directors’ Meeting, State of Pohnpei, FSM, December 5-6, 2012 that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures extends its strong support for a successful 2016 Festival of Pacific Arts and encourages full participation by Pacific Island countries and territories and acknowledges Guam as the official host country; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures recognizes the need to establish a 2016 Festival of Pacific Arts Ad Hoc Committee in preparation for participation in the 2016 Festival in Guam Artisans to raise funds for travel to Guam for the performance of songs dances and traditional practices; and
BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures recognizes the need for semi-annual updating to APIL by the Guam 2016 Coordinating Committee; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures encourages the executive branches (Governors/Presidents) of island nations to begin planning and coordinating their respective cultural practitioners in preparation for the Guam 2016 Festival; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that APIL encourages the Council of Micronesia Chief Executives (CMCE) to adopt a similar support resolution; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the President of APIL certifies, and the Secretary attests to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Dr. Jimmie Rodgers, Director-General, Secretariat of the Pacific Community; the Honorable Edward B. Calvo, Governor Guam; the Honorable Judith T. Won Pat, Ed.D, Speaker of the 31st Guam Legislature; the honorable Benjamin J.F. Cruz, Vice Speaker and Chairperson, Committee on Culture of the 31st Guam Legislature; Ms. Theresa C. Arriola, Chairperson of the Guam 12th Festival of Pacific Arts Organizing Committee; and to the Presiding Legislative Officers and Chief Executives of each of the APIL member jurisdictions.

DULLY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 6TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2012.

JUDITH T. WON PAT, ED. D.
PRESIDENT

CHANG B. WILLIAM
SECRETARY