A RESOLUTION

"Expressing the support of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures to the newly formed Micronesian Council of Culture, Art and Tourism (MCCAT) and paying special tribute and recognition to this historic effort in encouraging and strengthening regional cooperation in promoting the welfare and advancement of tradition, culture, art and tourism among the people of the islands of Micronesia."

WHEREAS, it is the sense of the APIL to acknowledge and unequivocally support sub-regional efforts to encourage and strengthen cooperation among fellow Micronesians in promoting the welfare and advancement of culture, art and tourism among our people of common heritage; and

WHEREAS, Micronesia, with its four main archipelagos comprising approximately 2,100 islands, constitutes a unique sub-region in its combination of breathtaking natural physical environment, its indigenous people and their vibrant island spirit, and its varied ethnic groups, cultures, religions and lifestyles dating back millennia; and

WHEREAS, these facets of beauty and regard are not only the basis for tourism but also for a friendly interchange of ideas, as well as commercial and social bonds within Micronesia; and

WHEREAS, as the Pacific region becomes increasingly competitive in the marketing of assets and attractions, and as Micronesia in turn develops its visitor industry, Micronesian cultures have come under threat from cultural influences from outside of the area, thereby presenting a clear and urgent need to preserve, protect and promote the sub-region’s traditional cultures and to develop its contemporary cultures; and
WHEREAS, Micronesian peoples, whose common heritage transcends political boundaries and differences, in turn must look to each other for support and assurance to maintain and promote their arts and cultures; and

WHEREAS, established with the enactment of Public Law 19-7 by Governor Joseph F. Ada on August 26, 1987, the Guam Micronesia Island Festival (GMIF) was created to form closer economic ties between Guam and its neighbors and to ensure success in tourism and commerce for all islands in Micronesia; and

WHEREAS, inaugurated in 1988, the GMIF began as a cultural and commercial event for the display of handicrafts, artisanal works and live performances, and the exhibition of manufactured goods, agricultural products and livestock from industrial and agricultural developers; twenty-seven (27) years later, the GMIF has since evolved into the annual signature cultural event of the Guam Visitors Bureau and the largest cultural event of the sub-region, showcasing Micronesia’s carvers, blacksmiths, traditional fishing experts, jewelers, weavers, dancers, musicians and culinary masters; and

WHEREAS, despite regular annual participation of island states and governments of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota; the Federated States of Micronesia States of Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk and Yap; the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and the Republic of Palau over the last quarter century (invitations to the Republic of Kiribati and the Republic of Nauru continue despite cognizance of the prohibitive cost of participation), delegation heads met formally for the first time in 2011 at the 24th GMIF and agreed to continue the exchange of information on cultural and art activities and events within jurisdictions; and

WHEREAS, in 2013 at the 26th GMIF, delegation representatives reached a consensus to organize a sub-regional council on culture, art and tourism to facilitate activities such as cultural exchanges of artifacts, information and personnel, and joint cultural workshops and seminars, in support of the GMIF, and tasked Guam to draft the resolution and foundation agreement; and
WHEREAS, the island states and governments of the Federated States of Micronesia States of Chuuk and Pohnpei; the U.S. Territory of Guam; the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and the Republic of Palau have, through their duly authorized representatives, met together in Guam for the 27th Guam Micronesian Island Fair on Saturday, April 26th in 2014, and made an agreement to form the Micronesian Council of Culture, Art and Tourism (MCCAT); the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota at a later date had also joined this laudable inter-island partnership of commerce, conservation and culture; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, Fifty-fifth Board of Directors Meeting, State of Yap, December 3-5, 2014, that the Board of Directors of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, for and on behalf of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, hereby express its acknowledgement and support to the Micronesian Council of Culture, Arts and Tourism (MCCAT) following its momentous founding; 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 thereafter be transmitted to the Chief Executives and Presiding Legislative Officers of each member jurisdiction of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

Duly and regularly adopted on the 5th day of December, 2014

JUDITH T. WON PAT, ED. D. ACTING PRESIDENT

CHANG B. WILLIAM SECRETARY