Resolution No. 58-BOD-02

"Respectfully calling upon the United States Government and its elected officials and public servants to finally recognize their moral and ethical obligations and to do what is right and proper for those courageous warriors of the Freely Associated States of Micronesia who have been sacrificing their lives and their limbs in the defense of freedom around the world by extending to these valiant souls who hail from the islands of Micronesia the same care and benefits that the Government of the United States of America readily extends to its own veteran soldiers who hail from the cities of America."

WHEREAS, in the month of December in the year of our Lord, 2015, the Board of Directors of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures earnestly and hopefully adopted Resolution No. 56-BOD-03 respectfully requesting the Government of the United States of America to extend the full complement of veteran benefits and privileges to the U.S. military veterans who are citizens of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of Palau and who are residing within their own countries of citizenship rather than the United States of America; and

WHEREAS, the request of the Board of Directors of the APIL was predicated both on the often overlooked sacrifices of the Micronesian people who suffered severely from the ravages of World War II as American soldiers, sailors and marines campaigned to defeat the foes of liberty occupying the Central Pacific Islands during the worst phases of World War II, and upon the valiant sacrifices made by the modern warriors of Micronesia who have risked life and limb in defense of the ideals of liberty and freedom in America's stand against the recent struggles of the
peoples of the Middle East, Asia and Africa in their own desperate and often futile battles against radical extremism in their corners of the world; and

WHEREAS, despite the urgent pleas of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures and despite the continuing sacrifices being made by young Micronesian men and women in the defense of liberty across the vast domain of the world scene, the urgent cries of our young warriors and the desperate pleas of their mothers and fathers for the Government of America to provide their sons and daughters with at least some of the basic care and relief that is readily extended by the American Government, without question, to their fellow warriors who are residents of the USA, have gone unheeded in the corridors of the government offices of Washington, DC; and,

WHEREAS, despite the apparent indifference of those who claim they are committed to meeting all of the needs of the military service men and women, the Legislature of the State of Hawaii has alone, among the all of the governments of all the states who have been joined together in a union called America, stepped forward with the introduction of HCR No. 176, attached hereto for reference, which, if adopted, would call upon Hawaii’s representatives in the United States Congress to take up the bold challenge of doing what is right for those who hail from the islands of Micronesia and who have joined ranks with the their brothers and sisters who hail from the states, commonwealths and territories of the USA and have participated in America’s own, long standing policy and continuing resolve to defend and promote freedom and democracy in all corners of the world; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the 58th Board of Directors meeting of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, Republic of Palau, December 6-7, 2017, that this organization of the makers of
law and public policy representing the broad swath of free and democratic countries, states, territories and commonwealth covering the entire breadth of the Central Pacific do hereby respectfully call upon the United States Government and its elected officials and public servants to finally recognize their moral and ethical obligations and to do what is right and proper for those courageous warriors of the Freely Associated States of Micronesia who have been sacrificing their lives and their limbs in the defense of freedom around the world by extending to these valiant souls who hail from the islands of Micronesia the same care and benefits that the Government of the United States of America readily extends to its own veteran soldiers who hail from the cities of America; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that in furtherance of this resolve, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures hereby respectfully calls on both Houses of the Hawaii State Legislature to fulfill the vision of the introducers of HCR No. 176 by adopting their resolution and promptly transmitting it to the Hawaii Delegation representing that state in the Congress of the United States of America; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Board of Directors further respectfully calls upon the Legislative Assemblies of American Samoa, Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to carry the message further by requesting their representatives in the Congress of the United States of America to join the Congressional delegation from the island state of Hawaii in pressing for fair treatment for the warriors of Micronesia committed to the defense of America’s efforts to promote peace and security throughout the world; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that that the APIL President shall certify, and the APIL
Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same, along with copies of APIL Resolution No. 56-BOD-03, be transmitted to the President of the United States of America, to the President of the Senate and to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America, to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Defense, to the Secretary of the U.S. Department of Veteran Affairs, to the Governors and Presiding Legislative Officers of the State of Hawaii, the Territory of American Samoa, the Territory of Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and to the Chief Executives and Presiding Legislative Officers of the other Member Jurisdictions of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 7th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2017.

ROBERT I. Taulung
PRESIDENT

NELSON STEPHEN
SECRETARY