A RESOLUTION

APIL Resolution No. 33-GA-01

“Endorsing the concept of initiating the first step in the establishment of the Blue Continent Free Trade Agreement through the adoption of specific free trade provisions, especially tailored for the inter-island trade of commodities that are caught, grown and produced within the private sector economies of our own, individual islands utilizing the human talents of our own people.”

WHEREAS, the primary mission of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures is to organize a permanent association of mutual assistance by representatives of the people of the Pacific Islands to consider matters of mutual interest in areas where regional cooperation, coordination, exchange and assistance would help individual governments achieve their goals through collective action; and

WHEREAS, since its inception over thirty years ago, the APIL has been consistently calling attention to the need to promote free trade and commerce among and between the member jurisdictions of the Association; and

WHEREAS, in the last four years, the APIL has adopted and further affirmed our united position in desiring to strengthen our Pacific peoples and governments through trade and economic accords that mutually benefit APIL member nations, states and territories through the passage of three resolutions that specifically call for member entities of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures to facilitate, encourage and promote free trade in the Pacific region through the establishment of what is now referred to as the Blue Continent Free Trade Agreement; and

WHEREAS, despite the repeated calls by the APIL for the establishment of this long awaited free trade agreement, the institution of a fully established system of free trade among and between the APIL jurisdictions has yet to become a reality; and

WHEREAS, it is the sense of the APIL Delegates assembled together in this month of July, 2014, that the establishment of such a free trade agreement may be
most effectively accomplished through the adoption of a phased program of
sequentially implemented free trade initiatives aimed at priority trade categories; and

WHEREAS, it is the further sense of the assembled Delegates that priority in
free trade amongst and between our islands is most needed in the categories of
commodities that are caught, grown and produced within the private sector economies
of our own, individual islands utilizing the human talents of our own people; now,
therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 33rd
General Assembly, July 15 through July 17, 2014, Island of Majuro in the Republic of
the Marshall Islands, that the APIL General Assembly hereby endorses the concept of
initiating the first step in the establishment of the Blue Continent Free Trade
Agreement through the adoption of specific free trade provisions especially tailored for
the inter-island trade of commodities that are caught, grown and produced within the
private sector economies of our own, individual islands utilizing the human talents of
our own people; 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 APIL.

DURY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 17th DAY OF JULY, 2014.

JUDITH T. WON PAT, ED.D.
PRESIDENT

CHANG WILLIAM
SECRETARY