



Association of Pacific Island Legislatures

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 Nauru
Republic of Palau
State of Hawaii

A RESOLUTION

Resolution No. 28-GA-01, CD1

“Urging the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures Regional Governments to request that the Non-COFA Migrant spouses, children, and immediate relatives of COFA Migrants be allowed to enter, engage in occupations, and establish residence as non-immigrants in the United States and its territories.”

1 **WHEREAS**, the Compacts of Free Association (“COFA”) are joint
2 congressional-executive agreements between the United States and the Federated States
3 of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau;
4 and

5 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Census Bureau recently estimated that there are 2,100
6 COFA migrants or persons admitted or residing within the CNMI, to include their
7 children under the age of 18, pursuant to Section 141 of the Compacts of Free
8 Association; and

9 **WHEREAS**, pursuant to U.S. Public Law 110-229, the immigration laws of the
10 United States will apply to the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands
11 (“CNMI”); and

12 **WHEREAS**, as a result of the enforcement of U.S. Public Law 110-229, CNMI
13 immigration laws will cease to have legal force and effect such that the ability of Non-
14 COFA Migrant spouses and immediate relatives of COFA Migrants to enter, engage in
15 occupations, and establish residence as non-immigrants in the United States and its
16 territories will be called into serious doubt if not eliminated altogether subsequent to
17 November 28, 2009; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the CNMI has benefited substantially from the economic input of
19 COFA Migrants and their Non-COFA Migrant spouses; and

1 **WHEREAS**, on a humanitarian level, the spouses and other immediate relatives
2 of said migrants will suffer great emotional loss if their ability to remain within the CNMI
3 and live as they did prior to the implementation of U.S. Public Law 110-229; now,
4 therefore,

5 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 28th
6 General Assembly, FSM State of Pohnpei, June 9-12, 2009, that the Association of
7 Pacific Island Legislatures hereby urges all member governments to request that the
8 United States Department of Homeland Security together with the Office of Insular
9 Affairs, taking into consideration the welfare and social and economic benefit that the
10 Non-COFA Migrant spouses and immediate relatives of COFA Migrants have on the
11 CNMI, modify the rules and regulations applicable to the CNMI to allow for the Non-
12 COFA Migrant spouses and immediate relatives of COFA Migrants to enter, engage in
13 occupations, and establish residence as non-immigrants in the United States and its
14 territories just as they did prior to the implementation of U.S. Public Law 110-229; and

15 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the President of the Association of Pacific
16 Island Legislatures shall attest and the Secretary of the Association of Pacific Island
17 Legislatures shall certify to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall be
18 transmitted to the President of the Federated States of Micronesia; to the Speaker of the
19 Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia and to the Presiding Legislative Officers
20 and the Chief Executive Officers of all members of the Association of Pacific Island
21 Legislatures.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 11TH DAY OF JUNE, 2009.

J. Kalani English

J. KALANI ENGLISH
APIL PRESIDENT

Judith T. Won Pat

JUDITH T. WON PAT, ED.D.
APIL SECRETARY

