



# 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

APIL Resolution No. 30-GA-08

**“Requesting that the member island jurisdictions of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures increase their focus on addressing behavioral health issues, including but not limited to alcohol abuse and dependence, tobacco consumption, illicit drug use, and violence against children and women, and in so doing thereby contribute to the reduction of Non-Communicable Diseases as well as the pain and suffering by individuals, families and communities within the APIL region.”**

1           **WHEREAS**, the Pacific Behavioral Health Coordinating Council (PBHCC) is an  
2 organization of health and other leaders from most of the APIL countries, organized in 2000 with  
3 a Vision of Pacific Island Communities, Families and Individuals with Optimal Health and Free  
4 from Substance Abuse; and

5           **WHEREAS**, PBHCC's stated mission is to promote sustainable, culturally appropriate  
6 services and capacity building systems that address issues of mental health and substance abuse  
7 prevention and treatment; and

8           **WHEREAS**, PBHCC advocates for behavioral health policies and systems improvement  
9 that will enhance the physical and mental health of Pacific island communities; and

10          **WHEREAS**, among the major contributing factors to behavioral illnesses and  
11 dysfunctions that PBHCC works to address include alcohol abuse and dependence, tobacco  
12 consumption and addiction, and other forms of drug abuse; and

1       **WHEREAS**, the recent epidemiological reports developed among PBHCC member  
2 countries show that the health and social consequences of alcohol abuse are significant and are  
3 correlated to suicides and suicide attempts among Pacific islanders; and

4       **WHEREAS**, it has been established that suicide rates, especially among youth, are  
5 consistently higher in the Pacific than in the continental U.S. and tobacco use is a leading cause  
6 of preventable death and disease in the Pacific, with heart disease, cancer and stroke being  
7 among the top five leading causes of death; and

8       **WHEREAS**, alcohol abuse, in addition to being a major behavioral risk factor for  
9 persons at high risk dysfunctional families and communities, is also a major risk factor for Non-  
10 Communicable Diseases; and

11       **WHEREAS**, APIL has taken exemplary action to address the issue of alcohol abuse  
12 within the APIL communities through the adoption of APIL Resolution No. 49-BOD-07, CDI in  
13 Majuro in December, 2004; and

14       **WHEREAS**, APIL Resolution No. 49-BOD-07, CDI resulted in the following: (1)  
15 Budweiser Company no longer advertises its product with the “Bud Nation Guam, Saipan, Palau,  
16 Yap, Chunk, Pohnpei, Kosrae and Marshall Islands” slogan; (2) various APIL Legislatures have  
17 passed local resolutions supporting and reinforcing the APIL resolution; and (3) the APIL  
18 resolution provided impetus for the development of Guam's “One Nation Alcohol-Free”  
19 campaign; and

20       **WHEREAS**, the PBHCC believes the “One Nation Alcohol-Free” campaign is a Pacific  
21 island model that is culturally appropriate, relevant and timely, can be replicated in other APIL  
22 jurisdictions to prevent underage drinking and alcohol abuse among adults, and can be designed

1 to also address tobacco and illicit drug use prevention towards building stronger and healthier  
2 APIL communities; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the PBHCC acknowledges the facts that alcohol abuse and tobacco  
4 consumption are major risk factors for development of Non-Communicable Diseases; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the PBHCC believes that alcohol and other forms of drug abuse, tobacco  
6 consumption, as well as untreated mental illnesses, contribute to personal, family and community  
7 consequences and are still inadequately addressed within the APIL jurisdictions; now, therefore,

8 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 30<sup>th</sup> General  
9 Assembly, Republic of Palau, June 15-17, 2011, that the Association of Pacific Island  
10 Legislatures hereby requests that the member island jurisdictions of the APIL unite and support  
11 PBHCC's mission and findings that alcohol abuse and tobacco consumption are major risk  
12 factors for development of Non-Communicable Diseases; and

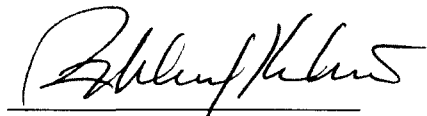
13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures  
14 hereby requests that the member island jurisdictions of the APIL increase their focus on  
15 addressing behavioral health issues, including but not limited to alcohol abuse and dependence,  
16 tobacco consumption, illicit drug use, and violence against children and women, and in so doing  
17 thereby contribute to the reduction of Non-Communicable Diseases, as well as the alleviation of  
18 pain and suffering by individuals, families and communities within the APIL region; and

19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures  
20 hereby requests that the member island jurisdictions of APIL unite and support the "One Nation  
21 Alcohol-Free" campaign as a Pacific island model that is culturally appropriate to prevent  
22 underage drinking and alcohol abuse among adults; and

1        **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures  
2 hereby requests that the member island jurisdictions of APIL utilize known effective  
3 international, national, regional and local declarations, strategies, initiatives and frameworks,  
4 such as the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control (FCTC) and the Strategic Prevention  
5 Framework for substance abuse prevention in the development of their legislative agendas and  
6 work; and

7        **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify, and the APIL  
8 Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall be transmitted to  
9 the Chief Executives and Legislative Presiding Officers of each member jurisdiction of the  
10 Association of the Pacific Island Legislatures.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 17<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2011**

  
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**REBLUUD KESOLEI**  
**APIL PRESIDENT**

  
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**ALIK J. ALIK**  
**APIL SECRETARY**

