



# 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. 31-GA-03, CD1

**“Calling upon the Leadership of the APIL and the APIL Secretariat to seek out technical assistance and financial support to help the member governments of the APIL bridge the digital divides that are adversely affecting the *Blue Continent*.”**

1           **WHEREAS**, first found in only the most developed nations of the world, Information  
2   and Communication Technologies, or ICT, have now become a global phenomenon; and

3           **WHEREAS**, although ICT have become a global phenomenon, there still exists a digital  
4   divide between various regions of the world due to many factors that relate not only to access to  
5   ICT networks, but also to understandings of how ICT can be utilized as positive, interactive  
6   force in support of the economic development and social advancement of individuals,  
7   communities, states and nations; and

8           **WHEREAS**, because of the remoteness and vast distances between the islands which  
9   have joined together to form the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, our region of the  
10   world has been one of the last areas of the globe to begin to receive the benefits of ICT; and

11          **WHEREAS**, due to the sheer immensity of the largest ocean on our planet, it is much  
12   more difficult and much more expensive for the APIL governments, public telecommunications  
13   corporations and private telecommunications businesses to lay the necessary fiber-optic cable  
14   between our islands and to connect our communities to the worldwide internet highway; and

15          **WHEREAS**, because of the unique challenges facing the APIL Pacific with respect to  
16   this vital infrastructure for the digital age, our region is facing the risk of being left behind as the

1 rest of the world progresses towards an increasingly more knowledgeable, sophisticated and  
2 technologically savvy global information society; and

3       **WHEREAS**, even within the APIL Pacific itself, there exists a huge digital divide  
4 between islands which are blessed with broadband infrastructures, islands which must rely on  
5 slower and more expensive satellite bandwidths, and islands which are still dependant to this day  
6 on the World War II technology of shortwave radio communications; and

7       **WHEREAS**, to address both the external and internal digital divides of the central  
8 Pacific, APIL has begun the formulation of a program called "*Connecting the Blue Continent*";  
9 and

10       **WHEREAS**, this program has been created to highlight the major challenges we are  
11 facing and to bring together the collective efforts of all our governments; but

12       **WHEREAS**, it is the sense of the members of the Association of Pacific Island  
13 Legislatures as we meet together that the challenges of the digital divides that we are facing all  
14 across the *Blue Continent* are too great to be conquered on our own; we need to liaise our efforts  
15 with appropriate entities and individuals who can offer technical assistance and financial support;  
16 now, therefore,

17       **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 31<sup>st</sup> General  
18 Assembly, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, June 20-23, 2012, that the APIL  
19 hereby acknowledges that a digital divide exists between the APIL Pacific and the more  
20 developed areas of the world and furthermore acknowledges that a second digital divide exists  
21 between and among the islands of the APIL Pacific, and therefore the General Assembly calls  
22 upon the Leadership of the APIL and the APIL Secretariat to communicate with:



- 1 • International organizations such as the United Nations Development Program, the United
- 2 Nations Global Centre for Information and Communication Technologies in Parliament,
- 3 the World Bank, the Asian Development Bank, and other organizations;
- 4 • Donor countries such as the nations of the European Union, the United States, Japan,
- 5 Australia, New Zealand, South Korea and China, and Republic of China, Taiwan; and
- 6 • Concerned NGO's, charitable foundations, ICT societies and other friends of APIL;

7 to seek out technical assistance and financial support to help the governments of the APIL bridge  
8 the digital divides that so adversely affect our *Blue Continent*; and

9 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify, and the APIL  
10 Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies be transmitted to the Chief  
11 Executives and Legislative Presiding Officers of each member jurisdiction of the Association of  
12 Pacific Island Legislatures and to the World Bank; the Asia Development Bank and to such other  
13 international organizations, donor countries, and concerned NGO's, foundations, societies and  
14 individuals as the President of the APIL deems appropriate.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 22<sup>nd</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2012.**



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



**CHANG WILLIAM**  
**ACTING SECRETARY**

