



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-04, CD1

“Requesting that the member island nations of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures join the CNMI and support driver’s license reciprocity between the CNMI and Island of Guam.”

1 **WHEREAS**, the National Highway Traffic and Safety Administration (“NHTSA”) and
2 the American Association of Motor Vehicle Administrators (“AAMVA”) developed an entry-
3 level driver licensing system consisting of three (3) distinct stages, named by the type of license
4 possessed at each stage: learner's permit, intermediate (provisional) license, and full license; and

5 **WHEREAS**, young drivers are required to demonstrate responsible driving behavior in
6 each stage of licensing before advancing to the next; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Guam Legislature, the *I Liheslaturan Guåhan*, enacted Public Law 25-
8 096 establishing a graduated drivers licensing system in Guam for all new drivers based on the
9 NHTSA and AAMVA model, which was implemented on June 30, 2000; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Guam Public Law 25-096, codified at 16 GCA 31A00 *et seq.*, provided for
11 exceptions to the mandated graduated drivers license system as follows: (1) driver’s license
12 holders that have completed all steps of graduated driver’s licensing in another state, territory or
13 country; (2) driver’s license holders that have at least five (5) years of driving experience by
14 another state, territory or country; or (3) driver’s license holders serving on active duty in any
15 branch of the United States Armed Forces from another state or territory of the United States; and

1 **WHEREAS**, many youth with CNMI drivers licenses are residing on Guam or attending
2 the University of Guam and other post-secondary and secondary schools; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Guam law, however, provides that the holder of a valid license issued by
4 another state territory, or other country may operate a vehicle on the highways of Guam for a
5 period not exceeding 30 days after the date upon which that person arrived on Guam; and

6 **WHEREAS**, as a result, CNMI drivers license holders that have less than five (5) years
7 of driving experience have been denied Guam drivers licenses because the CNMI does not have a
8 similar graduated drivers license system; and

9 **WHEREAS**, CNMI drivers license holders are told they have to take a Guam drivers
10 education class in order to obtain a Guam's drivers license; and

11 **WHEREAS**, while the CNMI respects Guam's desire to implement a graduated drivers
12 license system, Guam's policy adversely affects CNMI students temporarily residing on Guam to
13 obtain a college education; and

14 **WHEREAS**, CNMI students cannot afford to pay for a driver's education class and such
15 mandate is not warranted when they already possess a drivers license from the CNMI, which has
16 the same rules of the road; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the Island of Guam consistently refers to the CNMI as its sister island and
18 persistently invites its brothers and sisters from the CNMI to attend the University of Guam.
19 However, these same brothers and sisters are prohibited from obtaining a Guam drivers license
20 necessary to get to and from school; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the CNMI humbly requests the Government of Guam to consider
2 exempting the CNMI drivers license holders from the five (5) year restriction or drivers
3 education program requirement because of the negative financial impact on the students; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the CNMI pledges reciprocal treatment of Guam drivers license holders
5 residing in the CNMI; now, therefore

6 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 31st General
7 Assembly, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, June 20-23, 2012, that the
8 Association of Pacific Island Legislatures hereby requests that the Member island nations of the
9 Association of Pacific Island Legislatures join the CNMI and support driver's license reciprocity
10 between the CNMI and Island of Guam to the extent permissible under applicable federal and
11 local laws; and

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

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 22nd DAY OF JUNE, 2012.



REBLUUD KESOLEI
APIL PRESIDENT



CHANG WILLIAM
ACTING SECRETARY

