



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-07

“Calling upon each member jurisdiction of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) to recognize the vital need to prioritize high speed-broadband internet access for our citizens and further respectfully soliciting the support of each of our respective executive branches of government to help our island legislative assemblies promote a joint initiative entitled: *Connecting the Blue Continent*.”

1 **WHEREAS**, it is commonly known and widely acclaimed that the world is now living in
2 the digital age of information and technology; and

3 **WHEREAS**, while once the remote and distant islands of the Pacific were isolated from
4 the advances in modern technology that had been spreading across the globe since the early days
5 of the industrial revolution, and

6 **WHEREAS**, the advent of the modern modes of sea and air transportation and now the
7 invention of the internet are providing us, as Pacific Islanders, with the exciting opportunities and
8 electrifying prospects of becoming, for the first time in remembered history, fully active and vital
9 members of today’s global information society allowing economic, social and environmental
10 participation; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the advantages of these advances in technology have not only been
12 beneficial in connecting the islands of our Pacific Ocean region with the global community at
13 large, these innovations have also allowed us to interact and strengthen our friendships among
14 and between our own islands in what we have come to call the *Blue Continent*; and

1 **WHEREAS**, with the introduction of high-speed broadband internet to our region of
2 Pacific Ocean island nations and communities, the linkages we can now form among and
3 between our islands can be measured in milliseconds, rather than in the days, or in the weeks or
4 sometimes even in the months of the pre-internet era, even though the distances between the
5 islands of our *Blue Continent* must still be measured in the thousands of miles of the blue waters
6 of the vast central Pacific; and

7 **WHEREAS**, through the interconnection of our *Blue Continent* with high speed-
8 broadband internet services, it is both the aspiration and expectation of the Association of Pacific
9 Island Legislature that this vital service will be able to vastly improve and enhance economic,
10 social, and environmental aspects of our communities by establishing telemedicine programs for
11 our isolated island hospitals, providing sophisticated medical diagnoses and advanced care for
12 our patients; providing for the introduction of interactive educational programs for all levels of
13 schooling and facilitating distance learning for adults who want to further their careers; enabling
14 the introduction of interactive public services for our governments and for the people we serve;
15 vastly improving communications and conferencing for our businesses communities; facilitating
16 social networking between those of us in the islands and our distant families and friends who live
17 abroad; and by providing for a whole host of other important informational needs for the
18 communities and populace of our islands; and

19 **WHEREAS**, some of the larger islands of the APIL members have already been blessed
20 with oceanic cables allowing for the installation of high speed-broadband internet services,
21 unfortunately, there are still many island jurisdictions of the APIL which must rely on the
22 primitive and very limited capacities of satellite phone linkages or must contend with no internet
23 linkages at all; and

1 **WHEREAS**, while much good work has been done by the various Telecommunications
2 authorities in our region in preparing our communities for internet connectivity through
3 establishment of local infrastructure and some individual and bilateral connectivity initiatives,
4 the major challenge is providing the necessary connectivity to the broader internet and between
5 our island communities through the laying of fiber optic cables; and

6 **WHEREAS**, a Framework for Action on ICT for Development in the Pacific has been
7 developed with a number of our APIL jurisdictions through the good offices of regional
8 organizations such as the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat, Secretariat of the Pacific Community
9 and the Pacific Islands Applied Geoscience Commission and broader international organizations
10 such as the International Telecommunications Union; and

11 **WHEREAS**, other regions of the world are becoming connected and adopting digital
12 economic and social infrastructures at a fast pace which is creating a risk that our region will not
13 be able to participate and our communities will be further impoverished through the so-called
14 *digital divide*; and

15 **WHEREAS**, our region has unique human cultures and precious environmental assets
16 which are at risk if we are left behind in the digital era; and

17 **WHEREAS**, it is the firm sense and the fervent desire of the Association of Pacific
18 Island Legislatures that all the islands of the APIL Pacific which form the *Blue Continent* should
19 be receiving the benefits of high speed-broadband internet services; now, therefore,

20 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 31st General
21 Assembly, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, June 20-23, 2012, that the APIL
22 hereby calls upon each member jurisdiction of APIL to recognize the vital need to prioritize high

1 speed-broadband internet access for their citizens, and hereby further respectfully solicits the
2 support of each of our respective executive branches of government to help our island legislative
3 assemblies promote a joint initiative entitled: *Connecting the Blue Continent* in association with
4 our sister organization, *Digital Society Foundation*; and

5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the APIL President shall certify, and the APIL
6 Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall be transmitted to the
7 Chief Executives and Legislative Presiding Officers of each member jurisdiction of the
8 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

