



# 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-10

**“Relative to expressing the Association of Pacific Island Legislature’s support of and advocacy for full implementation of the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver program to include Russia and China.”**

1       **WHEREAS**, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) is an assembly of  
2 representatives of the people of the Pacific Islands who meet periodically to consider matters of  
3 mutual interest in areas where regional cooperation, coordination, exchange and assistance would  
4 help individual governments achieve their goals through collective action, and to address in  
5 depth the substantive regional and international issues facing the emerging Pacific governments;  
6 and

7       **WHEREAS**, APIL acknowledges that Guam and the Commonwealth of Northern  
8 Marianas are experiencing severe economic challenges; and

9       **WHEREAS**, as a result of Guam and the Commonwealth of Northern Marianas  
10 geographic location, their respective island economies are greatly influenced by a few key  
11 markets, one of the most important being tourism; and

12       **WHEREAS**, APIL acknowledges and appreciates that the Guam-CNMI Visa Waiver  
13 program is an excellent opportunity to “test market” the Russia and China markets for future  
14 consideration under the broader Visa Waiver program of the United States; and

1       **WHEREAS**, according to the World Tourism Organization, the outlook for international  
2 tourist arrivals remains promising thereby providing an optimistic outlook for Chinese and  
3 Russian travel markets; and

4       **WHEREAS**, to reinvigorate the economies of Guam and the CNMI both the United  
5 States Congress and the Obama Administration must continue in their path to create and  
6 implement a 21<sup>st</sup> century regulatory framework that will allow Guam and the CNMI to pursue a  
7 bold opportunity for the American people, and other People of the Pacific; and

8       **WHEREAS**, the APIL's unified support of the Guam-NMI Visa-Waiver program  
9 validates the importance of such a program for the economies of Guam, the Commonwealth of  
10 the Northern Mariana Islands, and neighboring island economies affiliated with such activities;  
11 now, therefore,

12       **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 31st General  
13 Assembly, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, June 20 - 23, 2012, that the Association  
14 of Pacific Island Legislatures hereby expresses its support for the Guam-NMI Visa-Waiver  
15 program; and

16       **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures  
17 hereby appeals to Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, Hon. Janet Napolitano to  
18 grant parole status for the admission of Russia and China tourists to Guam and the  
19 Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands; and

1        **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify, and the APIL  
2 Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be transmitted to the  
3 Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the Senate, 112<sup>th</sup> United States Congress; Honorable  
4 John Boehner, Speaker of the House, 112<sup>th</sup> United States Congress; Honorable Doc Hastings,  
5 Chairman of the Committee on Natural Resources, United States House of Representatives;  
6 Honorable John C. Fleming, M.D., Chairman - Subcommittee on Fisheries, Wildlife, Oceans &  
7 Insular Affairs, United States House of Representatives; Honorable Madeleine Z. Bordallo,  
8 Guam Delegate to the United States Congress; Honorable Gregorio Sablan "Kilili," CNMI  
9 Delegate to the United States Congress; Honorable Janet Napolitano, Secretary, United States  
10 Department of Homeland Security; and to the Presiding Legislative Officers and the Chief  
11 Executive Officers of all members of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

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



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



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

