



# 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-14

**“Respectfully requesting and urging the United States Congress to recognize the longstanding rights of persons from the APIL member states with respect to their political agreements and relationships with the United States; and for other purposes.”**

1           **WHEREAS**, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 31st General Assembly  
2 Conference on the island of Saipan, Commonwealth of Northern Marianas on June 20 - 23, 2012  
3 respectfully urges the United States Congress to recognize the longstanding rights of persons  
4 from the APIL member states as set forth within their political agreements and relationships with  
5 the United States; and

6           **WHEREAS**, like the thirteen original colonies, the persons of Northern Marianas descent  
7 of the Northern Mariana Islands chose, voluntarily, to become part of the United States of  
8 America through the negotiated Covenant to Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana  
9 Islands in a Political Union with the United States of America (the Covenant), which was  
10 approved in 1975 by 78.8% of the voters in the Northern Marianas and by the U.S. Congress in  
11 1976, through the enactment of Pub. L. No. 94-241, 90 Stat. 263 (1976), codified at 48 U.S.C.  
12 §1801 establishing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in a Political Union with  
13 the United States of America; and

14           **WHEREAS**, the Covenant’s ten articles detail the political relationship between the  
15 United States and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI), and thus the

1 United States has only such power over the Northern Marianas Islands as is expressly recognized  
2 in the Covenant; and

3 **WHEREAS**, after most provisions of the Covenant became effective on January 9, 1978,  
4 the Northern Mariana Islands has been greatly affected by federal laws and regulations that failed  
5 to consider, honor and respect the intent, spirit, and principles on issues such as the submerged  
6 lands, the Marine Monument, the military buildup in the Pacific, the utilization of the CNMI's  
7 Northern Islands, and the dissemination of information; now, therefore,

8 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 31st General  
9 Assembly, Commonwealth of Northern Marianas Islands, June 20 - 23, 2012, that the United  
10 States Congress review and legislatively support the spirit and intent underlying the substantive  
11 provisions of the Covenant pertaining to economic development and the principles of self-  
12 determination that governed the Covenant negotiations between the CNMI and the United States;  
13 and

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

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



REBLUD KESOLEI  
APIL PRESIDENT



CHANG WILLIAM  
ACTING SECRETARY

