



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-15

“Recognizing Mr. Nikolao Pula for being the Keynote speaker for the 31st APIL General Assembly and for all his contributions to the people of the member states of the APIL; 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 finds that Mr. Nikolao Pula has honored the APIL and each and every one of the delegates by
4 accepting our invitation to be our Keynote speaker for the 31st APIL General Assembly and
5 maintaining the lines of communication between the member states of the APIL and the Office of
6 Insular Affairs; and

7 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Nikolao Pula is the youngest son of Tofa Nikolao Pula Sr. (later
8 Tuitelepaga Nikolao), one of the founders of the public school system in American Samoa; and

9 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Nikolao Pula graduated of the Marist Brothers' School in American
10 Samoa and Menlo College in Atherton California and continued his studies at Brigham Young
11 University in Provo, Utah and George Mason University in Fairfax, Virginia; and

12 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Nikolao Pula is the first Pacific islander of Samoan ancestry ever to
13 serve as the Director of the office of Insular Affairs of the Department of Interior in Washington,
14 DC; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Nikolao Pula joined the Department of Interior in 1993 where he
2 served as OIA director of policy from February 2000 to January 2001 prior to assuming the
3 directorship; and

4 **WHEREAS**, Mr. Nikolao Pula during his tenure with OIA, also served as a policy desk
5 officer from August 1993 to July 2000 and acting director from January 2001 to June 2002; and

6 **WHEREAS**, as the OIA Director, Mr. Nikolao Pula advises the Secretary of the Interior
7 on operational and administrative matters involving federal policy in the insular areas; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the OIA is the Executive Branch's liaison organization with four of the five
9 principle US Insular areas, namely, Guam, American Samoa, the CNMI, and Virgin Islands in
10 addition to the three freely associated states of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of
11 Micronesia, and Palau; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the OIA also exercises certain responsibilities in two of the nine smaller US
13 insular areas, namely, Palmyra and Wake Atolls; now, therefore,

14 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 31st General
15 Assembly, Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands, June 20 - 23, 2012, that the Association
16 of Pacific Island Legislatures hereby recognizes that Mr. Nikolao Pula has honored each of the
17 members of the APIL by accepting our invitation where he delivered an informative, insightful,
18 and enlightening keynote speech which was greatly appreciated by the members of the APIL and
19 all who attended the 31st General Assembly Conference; 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 shall be transmitted to
3 Mr. Nikolao Pula, Director, Office of Insular Affairs and to the Chief Executives and Legislative
4 Presiding Officers of each member jurisdiction of the Association of the Pacific Island
5 Legislatures.

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



REBLUUD KESOLEI
APIL PRESIDENT



CHANG WILLIAM
ACTING SECRETARY

