



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-20

“To recognize the devastating effects of climate change, especially on our island nations and our coral reefs, and commit to take positive action as law and policy makers to effect positive change on the local, regional, and international levels to combat these devastating effects.”

1 **WHEREAS**, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) recognizes that the
2 ocean and our associated coral reefs provide resources of economic, cultural and ecological
3 value that are essential to our quality of life and very existence; and

4 **WHEREAS**, there is overwhelming scientific evidence that coral reefs worldwide are
5 declining due to a variety of human-induced disturbances, including runoff and sedimentation
6 from poor land-use practices, coastal development and pollution, unsustainable fishing
7 practices that affect coral reef ecosystem stability, and the devastating impacts of global
8 climate change responsible for extensive coral bleaching and death events and ocean
9 acidification; and

10 **WHEREAS**, without serious and effective global-level actions to reduce greenhouse
11 gas emissions and the associated problem of ocean acidification, coral reefs will be decimated
12 by the end of the century and all of their value to future generations of islanders will be lost,
13 and many of the low lying islands and insular areas will become uninhabitable producing
14 thousands of Pacific Islander environmental refugees; and

1 **WHEREAS**, controlling local level stressors will support coral reef recovery and will
2 enhance coral reef resilience to climate change; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures finds that the presentations
4 of Drs. Richmond and Caldwell during this APIL 31st General Assembly Conference further
5 confirm APIL's position that climate change is a continuing serious threat to coral reefs and
6 island nations; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures members are the lawmakers
8 and policy makers responsible for the present and future state of our island homes and, as such,
9 must act in this capacity to lead these Pacific nations to ensure a sound legacy for future
10 generations, including prioritizing the protection of coral reefs; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures recognizes the meaningful
12 steps member entities have taken locally and internationally to combat climate change and
13 specifically to protect coral reefs, such as local efforts to protect watersheds and establish
14 marine protected area networks, the Micronesia Challenge commitment to conserve 30% of
15 near shore marine resources and 20% of terrestrial resources, Kiribati's establishment of the
16 Phoenix Islands Protected Area, American Samoa's climate change action plan, and
17 resolutions to the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force; now, therefore,

18 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 31st General
19 Assembly, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, June 20 – 23, 2012, that the APIL
20 member states hereby commit to create laws and policies on the local, regional, and
21 international levels to combat both local and global threats to coral reefs, especially climate
22 change; 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 the Chief Executives and Legislative Presiding Officers of each member legislature of the
4 Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

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



REBLUUD KESOLEI
APIL PRESIDENT



CHANG WILLIAM
ACTING SECRETARY

