



# 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

APIL Resolution No. 32-GA-01, CD1

**“Relative to expressing support for the establishment of a Regional Health Care Network to function as a model for progressive multi-sectoral partnerships, that incorporate advanced medical care with holistic and indigenous systems of care for jurisdictions within the Blue Continent.”**

1       **WHEREAS**, the jurisdictions that constitute the membership and union of the  
2 Association of Pacific Islands Legislatures (APIL), although spread across more than 2.5 million  
3 nautical miles, have differing political relationships with the United States Government yet  
4 function as essentially one shared economy; and

5       **WHEREAS**, recognizing the Pacific region’s vast expanse of ocean that binds and unites  
6 the member states of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, its members affirm this  
7 union as part of the “Blue Continent”; and

8       **WHEREAS**, every island, village, and family throughout the Blue Continent knows the  
9 pain and suffering from the untimely death of a neighbor, family member, or loved one due to  
10 complications or illnesses arising from a Non-Communicable Disease (NCD); and

11       **WHEREAS**, the non communicable disease crisis is a drain on the economic progress  
12 and the financial resources of governments, businesses, and families; and

13       **WHEREAS**, in May 2008, the 193 Member States of the World Health Organization  
14 (WHO) approved a six-year plan to address non-communicable diseases, especially the rapidly  
15 increasing burden in low- and middle-income countries; and

16       **WHEREAS**, during the 64th session of the United Nations General Assembly in 2010, a  
17 resolution was passed to call for a high-level meeting of the General Assembly on the prevention  
18 and treatment NCDs with the participation of heads of state and government; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the resolution also encouraged United Nations Member States to address  
2 the issue of non-communicable diseases at the 2010 Review Summit for the Millennium  
3 Development Goals; and

4           **WHEREAS**, the Pacific Island Health Officers Association (PIHOA) passed resolution  
5 48-01 in May of 2010 which was entitled, “Declaring a Regional State of Health Emergency to  
6 the Epidemic of Non-Communicable Diseases in the United States-Affiliated Pacific Islands”;  
7 and

8           **WHEREAS**, at the 5th Micronesian Traditional Leaders Conference held in November  
9 of 2010 in the Republic of Palau, the members declared an NCD Emergency in Micronesia; and

10          **WHEREAS**, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures declared an NCD crises at its  
11 meeting in December of 2010; and

12          **WHEREAS**, the World Health Organization 2011 Country report on the NCD crisis  
13 provides that sixty to seventy percent of all deaths in Micronesia are caused by NCDs with only  
14 five percent caused by injury; and

15          **WHEREAS**, the seriousness of this issue alone has prompted the focus of the  
16 Association of Pacific Island Legislatures and utilization of its resources towards addressing the  
17 scope and depth of this crisis; and

18          **WHEREAS**, the lack of access to affordable health care and services in the region has  
19 led, in part, to anomalously high mortality rates over the past decade along with stagnant or  
20 declining quality of life for patients suffering from the effects non-communicable diseases; and

21          **WHEREAS**, the APIL recognizes that, amongst its member jurisdictions, concerted  
22 efforts are needed to usher in a period of action that focuses on providing access to affordable  
23 health care, constructing adequate medical facilities and clinics, institutionalizing programs to  
24 develop local medical professional capacities, and supporting community-based efforts to  
25 achieve greater comprehension of the benefits of a healthy lifestyle at all age levels; and

26          **WHEREAS**, such endeavors will be concrete steps towards raising the health and well-  
27 being of the island communities, providing optimum environments for longer and healthier  
28 lifestyles, and investing in the future generations of those who make the islands their homes; and



1       **WHEREAS**, these actions will also work toward incorporating the perpetuation of  
2 holistic medicinal practices and sacred knowledge from elders, both of which are values which  
3 are a part of pacific island traditions and customs; and

4       **WHEREAS**, the APIL believes that to address the current crisis, efforts by all  
5 stakeholders including those from the government, individual and federal sources, the private  
6 sector, non-governmental organizations, and the community must be coalesced if progress is to  
7 be made to bridge the gap caused by the lack of affordable health care, inadequate access to  
8 facilities and professionals, and insufficient programs to educate future generations about healthy  
9 lifestyle decisions; and

10       **WHEREAS**, the APIL expresses its faith that Pacific Island communities will benefit  
11 and embrace a multidimensional approach that respects island culture, with candor and openness,  
12 using the tools of consensus and collaboration; through multi-sectoral partnerships involving  
13 supportive corporate partners, non-profit organizations, governments, health care providers,  
14 health insurance providers, community based, regional, and international foundations and  
15 organizations; and

16       **WHEREAS**, the Chief Executives and public policy makers of the Blue Continent have  
17 longed called for the establishment of a Regional Health Care Network to function as a model  
18 for progressive multi-sectoral partnerships, that incorporate advanced medical care with holistic  
19 and indigenous systems of care; and

20       **WHEREAS**, the members of the Blue Continent through the Association of the Pacific  
21 Island Legislatures appreciates President Barack Obama's efforts to "re-pivot" the U.S.  
22 Government's attention in the Pacific, an announcement the President made in 2011 during the  
23 Asian Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC) forum; and

24       **WHEREAS**, the APIL believes that the critical nature of our Pacific issues requires a  
25 serious and sustained effort in Washington, DC, to supplement the work of our elected  
26 representatives to the U.S. House of Representatives and our appointed representatives serving in  
27 the diplomatic corps; and

1       **WHEREAS**, the APIL considers that a sustained effort will further develop our  
2 relationships with U.S. decision makers in the executive and legislative branches of government,  
3 as the APIL pursues to advance solutions to address critical needs in the Pacific; and

4       **WHEREAS**, the President of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures will lead an  
5 effort to search for professional and technical assistance to represent the interests of APIL, to  
6 collaborate with our members on our critical issues, and to assist the APIL in developing a  
7 comprehensive strategy to effectuate positive change amongst APIL members; now, therefore,

8       **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 32nd General  
9 Assembly, Honolulu Hawaii, June 25-27, 2013, that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures  
10 hereby expresses support for the establishment of a Regional Health Care Network to function as  
11 a model for progressive partnerships, one that will incorporate advanced medical care with  
12 holistic and indigenous systems of care for jurisdictions within the Blue Continent, collect data,  
13 research best practices, identify and pursue partnership opportunities at the local and regional  
14 levels, establish and design programs to leverage partnerships, and consider developing and  
15 implementing pilot programs; and

16       **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL does hereby endorse the concept of  
17 greater regional cooperation and coordination among the island governments represented in the  
18 APIL for the provision of affordable and accessible quality health care to their respective  
19 constituents, based on the following principles: broad-based membership, utilizing a preferred  
20 provider network with strong local presence, rational utilization management, shared  
21 administrative costs, with emphasis on preventative care, promotive of individual accountability,  
22 and with incentives for better cost management and quality outcomes of care; and

23       **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the General Assembly calls upon the Leadership of  
24 the APIL and the APIL's Secretariat to communicate with the United States Department of  
25 Interior and other organizations, as appropriate, to seek out technical assistance and financial  
26 support for a study to develop a sustainable Regional Health Care Plan according to the  
27 abovementioned principles and a pilot project to create an Accountable Care Organization  
28 (ACO) modeled after such ACOs recognized by the United States Centers for Medicare and  
29 Medicaid Services in one of the Freely Associated States that is best situated to host the pilot;  
30 and



1       **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL respectfully requests and encourages its  
2 member entities to share with the APIL Secretariat the appropriate information and data that  
3 would be needed to complete the abovementioned study of the Regional Health Plan; and

4       **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL respectfully requests and encourages its  
5 member entities to partner with health care organizations in the private sector, particularly those  
6 with a strong presence in the Region, in planning and implementing the pilot ACO project, and  
7 in identifying and pursuing opportunities for similar collaboration to build local service delivery  
8 capacity in their jurisdictions; and

9       **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL Secretariat shall at the next APIL Board  
10 of Directors meeting consider presenting a Regional Health Care Network program design as  
11 indicated by the study and report on the preliminary results of the ACO pilot project; and

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

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 27<sup>th</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2013.**



**JUDITH T. WON PAT ED.D.**  
**PRESIDENT**



**CHANG B. WILLIAM**  
**SECRETARY**

