



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. 34-GA-04

“Gratefully and humbly acknowledging, embracing and commending the Seventy-eighth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon for unanimously supporting the rights of Compact of Free Association islanders residing in their State.”

1 **WHEREAS**, during its Regular Session in May of this year, the 78th Oregon
2 Legislative Assembly unanimously adopted House Concurrent Resolution 21
3 expressing support for and gratitude for citizens of Compact of Free Association
4 nations residing in their State; and

5 **WHEREAS**, House Concurrent Resolution 21 begins with a historical analysis
6 of the changing relations between the United States of America and the Micronesian
7 Islands from the conclusion of World War II until the present day, inclusive of the era
8 of the Trust Territory Administration and the events leading up to the treaties known
9 as the Compacts of Free Association for the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the
10 Republic of Palau and the Federated States of Micronesia; and

11 **WHEREAS**, in analyzing these historical events, House Concurrent
12 Resolution 21 places special emphasis on the suffering of the people of the Marshall
13 Islands as a result of the United States Government’s testing on their islands of 67
14 atmospheric nuclear weapons between 1946 and 1958; and

15 **WHEREAS**, House Concurrent Resolution 21 astutely recognizes the balances
16 in the Compacts of Free Association with respect to the provisions of the Compacts
17 allowing COFA island citizens to enter the United States without visas to study, live

1 and work, which allowances co-exist with the provisions of the Compacts subjecting
2 the COFA countries to U.S. military presence; and

3 **WHEREAS**, House Concurrent Resolution 21 makes special mention of the
4 admiration of the Oregon Legislative Assembly for COFA island citizens who
5 volunteer to serve in the United States Armed Forces at a higher per capita rate than
6 United States citizens; and

7 **WHEREAS**, House Concurrent Resolution 21 then goes on, however, to
8 lament the fact that while the United States retains a strong military and economic
9 presence in the islands, Congress and some state governments have reduced some
10 benefits, including access to medical coverage and driver licenses, for which COFA
11 islanders residing in the United States have historically been eligible; and

12 **WHEREAS**, House Concurrent Resolution 21 then boldly declares that COFA
13 islanders and their children who are residing legally in the United States should be
14 fairly treated in recognition of the unique relationship between the United States and
15 the COFA islands; and

16 **WHEREAS**, House Concurrent Resolution 21 concludes with the resounding
17 language that:

18 ***“Be It Resolved by the Legislative Assembly of the State of***
19 ***Oregon:** That we, the members of the Seventy-eighth Legislative*
20 *Assembly, support the rights of Compact of Free Association*
21 *islanders residing in Oregon to live freely among us; and be it*
22 *further Resolved, That we express our deepest appreciation for*
23 *their extraordinary commitment to the service and defense of our*
24 *nation.”;*

25 now, therefore,

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 34th
2 General Assembly, July 7-10, 2015, Island of Pohnpei, FSM, that the Association of
3 Pacific Island Legislatures hereby gratefully and humbly acknowledges, embraces and
4 commends the Seventy-eighth Legislative Assembly of the State of Oregon, not only
5 for unanimously supporting the rights of Compact of Free Association islanders
6 residing in their State to live freely among the kind and caring citizens of that State,
7 but also for expressing their appreciation for the COFA citizens who are residing in
8 their State and who are serving in the U.S. Armed Forces in such a forthright,
9 understanding and compassionate manner; and

10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Association of Pacific Island
11 Legislatures sincerely hopes and prays that other American legislative assemblies,
12 when they hear of the adoption of House Concurrent Resolution 21 by the Legislative
13 Assembly of Oregon and when they take the time to internalize the message that the
14 Oregon Legislature is conveying to the public, these legislative assemblies will also
15 speak up for the rights of COFA citizens living in their jurisdictions; and

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Association of Pacific Island
17 Legislatures most sincerely hopes and prays that the message of House Concurrent
18 Resolution 21 of the Legislative Assembly of Oregon will ultimately reach the ears of
19 the members of the United States Congress where the message of House Concurrent
20 Resolution 21 is most needed to be heard; and

21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify and the
22 APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same shall
23 thereafter be transmitted to the Presiding Officers of the Seventy-eighth Legislative
24 Assembly of the State of Oregon, to the Chairperson of the U.S. Congressional Asian
25 Pacific American Caucus, to the Executive Director of the White House Initiative on

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- 1 Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders; and to the Chief Executives and Legislative
 - 2 Presiding Officers of each member jurisdiction of the Association of Pacific Island
 - 3 Legislatures.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 9TH DAY OF JULY, 2015.

KENNETH A. KEDI
PRESIDENT

FERNANDO SCALIEM
SECRETARY

