



# 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-16, CD1

**“Relative to expressing opposition to any and all proposed military use of the Northern Mariana Islands of Pagan and any increase in military activities on Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands.”**

1       **WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (“CNMI”)  
2       contributes to the defense of the United States by being a valuable strategic military  
3       defense asset in the Pacific region and by leasing its scarce real property including,  
4       but not limited to, more than two-thirds of Tinian island, valuable portions of  
5       Tanapag, Saipan, and the entire island of Farallon de Medinilla (“FDM”) for military  
6       trainings, maneuvers, and live-fire bombings and other exercises; and

7       **WHEREAS**, more than forty (40) years after signing the Covenant to  
8       Establish a Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands in Political Union with  
9       the United States of America (“Covenant”), which sets forth not only the scope and  
10      parameters of the political relationship between the CNMI and the U.S., including  
11      identifying those specific parcels of real property deemed necessary for national  
12      defense purposes, scarce land in the CNMI is once again being slated for increased  
13      militarization, namely manned and unmanned live-fire bombing and related military  
14      trainings and maneuvers by land, sea, and air extending far beyond FDM; and

15      **WHEREAS**, given the significant land, sea, and airspace that the military has  
16      already taken for national defense purposes, the people of the CNMI, through several

1 public hearings, together with the 18<sup>th</sup> House of Representatives via House Joint  
2 Resolution 18-14 and the 19<sup>th</sup> CNMI Legislatures via House Joint Resolution 19-3,  
3 have opposed the military's proposed Pagan plan for combined-unit live-fire trainings  
4 and maneuvers, which entails the impermissible continuous use and occupation of the  
5 entire island of Pagan for warfare functional areas ("WFA") not limited to  
6 amphibious warfare, anti-submarine warfare, mine warfare, strike warfare, air  
7 warfare, surface warfare, electronic warfare, and Naval special warfare, among others;  
8 and

9       **WHEREAS**, the CNMI Joint Military Training Proposal would also expand  
10 military operations in the CNMI by introducing unit-level training on leased lands on  
11 Tinian – a plan opposed by Tinian's residents and because of consequent adverse  
12 impacts on access to areas of cultural and historic significance as well as access to  
13 natural resources critical for subsistence, and additionally because said plans would  
14 result in the destruction of their lands and the long term contamination and ultimate  
15 degradation of their environment; and

16       **WHEREAS**, the jurisdictions that constitute the membership of the  
17 Association of Pacific Island Legislatures ("APIL") function essentially as one "Blue  
18 Continent" such that the "re-pivot" or "re-balance" of U.S. military presence in the  
19 Pacific must be managed in a comprehensive manner, especially in light of the fact  
20 that the Mariana Islands Training and Testing seeks to nearly double the ocean space  
21 that has been already taken and controlled by the military per the Mariana Islands  
22 Range Complex ("MIRC"), i.e. increasing it from 501,873 square nautical miles to  
23 984,469 square nautical miles – making the combined ocean area occupied for  
24 military training equal to the combined sizes of the states of Washington, Oregon,  
25 California, Idaho, Nevada, Arizona, Montana and New Mexico combined; and



1       **WHEREAS**, Dentons US LLP, the contracted team of experts reviewing the  
2     Draft Environmental Impact Statement (“DEIS”) on behalf of the CNMI government,  
3     has concluded, based on its initial findings, that the DEIS is non-compliant with the  
4     basic principles of the National Environmental Policy Act (“NEPA”); and

5       **WHEREAS**, the CNMI, for its own sake as well as that of the Blue Continent  
6     as a whole, hereby respectfully requests that the APIL takes all necessary measures to  
7     oppose the proposed military exercises on Tinian and Pagan and further oppose the  
8     increased military exercises within the Northern Islands, as there is an urgent need to  
9     collaborate with the members of the APIL on these issues, and for said members to  
10    participate meaningfully in the process of developing a comprehensive strategy to  
11    protect our land, sea, and air from ecologically destructive bombing and other military  
12    activities; now, therefore,

13       **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 34<sup>th</sup>  
14    General Assembly, July 7-10, 2015, Island of Pohnpei, FSM, that the Association of  
15    Pacific Island Legislatures hereby expresses its opposition to any and all proposed  
16    military use of the Northern Mariana Islands of Pagan and any increase in military  
17    activities on Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and

18       **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify and the  
19    APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same shall  
20    thereafter be transmitted to the Chief Executives and the Legislative Presiding  
21    Officers of each member jurisdiction of the Association of the Pacific Island  
22    Legislatures and shall transmit copies to His Excellency Barack Obama, President of  
23    the United States, the Honorable Eloy S. Inos, Governor of the CNMI, the Honorable  
24    Representative Mac Thornberry, Chairman of the U.S. House Armed Forces  
25    Committee, the Honorable Senator John McCain, Chairman of the U.S. Senate Armed

1 Services Committee, the Honorable Ash Carter, U. S. Secretary of Defense, the  
2 Honorable Ray Mabus, Secretary of the Navy, General Joseph F. Dunford, Jr.,  
3 Commandant of the Marine Corp, the Honorable Gregorio C. Kilili Sablan, U. S.  
4 Congress Delegate of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Honorable Madeleine  
5 Bordallo, U. S. Congress Delegate of Guam and the Mayors of Rota, Tinian and  
6 Aguigan, Saipan, and the islands north of Saipan.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 9<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JULY, 2015.**



**KENNETH A. KEDI**  
**PRESIDENT**



**FERNANDO SCALIEM**  
**SECRETARY**

