



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. 35-GA-06, CD1

“Encouraging the member entities of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures to develop and implement a regional plan of action in response to a state of emergency due to natural disasters.”

1 **WHEREAS**, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL), 35th General
2 Assembly Meeting in *Hagåtña*, Guam, June 1-3, 2016, finds that it is important for the member
3 entities of APIL to assist other islands and nations within the “Blue Continent” during a state of
4 emergency due to natural disasters; and

5 **WHEREAS**, in the past few years, our region, or “Blue Continent,” has been ravaged
6 by catastrophic typhoons and storms—specifically, Palau, Yap, Chuuk, American Samoa, and
7 CNMI; and

8 **WHEREAS**, on August 1, 2015, Saipan was devastated by Typhoon Soudelor, the
9 strongest typhoon to hit Saipan since Typhoon Jean in 1968. Typhoon Soudelor tore through
10 many buildings, houses, schools, restaurants, and other structures. Hundreds of power and
11 telephone poles toppled over, broke in half, or were damaged. Water tanks and drainages were
12 also damaged. Thousands of trees, shrubs, plants, and flowers fell down, flew away or were
13 severely damaged by the typhoon; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Saipan experienced a blackout for many weeks. Power, water, telephone,
15 mobile phones, cable television, and the Internet were down and the people lost communication
16 with the outside world for a few days. Thousands of people suffered some kind of loss or
17 damage, including losing their homes, clothing, and belongings. Businesses shut down for many

1 months and people were without work for many months; and

2 **WHEREAS**, with faith, perseverance, hard work, and the help of the governments,
3 community organizations, and individuals from member APIL islands and nations, Saipan was
4 able to pick up the pieces and bounce back from the total devastation of Typhoon Soudelor; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the CNMI's devastating experience with Typhoon Soudelor in August
6 2015 and the natural disasters experienced by some of the other APIL member islands and
7 nations in the past few years warrant consideration of establishing a coordinated APIL "regional
8 plan of action in response to a state of emergency due to natural disasters"; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the theme for the APIL 35th General Assembly meeting, "Strengthening
10 Our Past and Uniting our Blue Continent," is a great way to remember the lessons of our past
11 experiences and struggles, and to share our expertise and resources to improve our experiences,
12 our government, and our communities, as well as to forge stronger relationships amongst
13 ourselves; and

14 **WHEREAS**, Pacific Disaster Center of Hawaii (PDC) has delivered comprehensive
15 information, assessments, tools, and services with the goal of reducing disaster risk; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the PDC is dedicated to improving disaster mitigation, preparedness,
17 response, and recovery through innovative, global multi-hazard disaster monitoring, early
18 warning, and decision support systems, as well as risk and vulnerability assessment, modeling
19 and visualization, exercise support, and capacity enhancement services; now, therefore,

20 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 35th General
21 Assembly, Island of Guam, June 1-3, 2016, that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures,
22 with the available assistance of Hawaii's Pacific Disaster Center, shall coordinate a
23 comprehensive state of emergency regional plan that would, among other things, enumerate

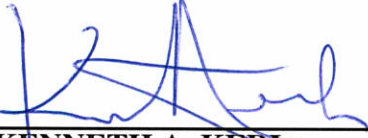
1 each island or nation's general support, cooperation, contribution and resources to present or
2 offer to an island or nation devastated by a natural disaster; and


3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL take the lead in collecting, distributing,
4 and sharing information regarding a member's state of emergency following a natural disaster
5 to expedite support and provide resources to such island or nation; and

6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the 35th General Assembly of Association of
7 Pacific Island Legislatures does hereby encourage the member governments of the Association of
8 Pacific Island Legislatures to submit to the Central Secretariat of the APIL their respective
9 disaster plans for the purpose of developing and implementing, with the assistance of the PDC,
10 a comprehensive regional plan of action in response to a state of emergency due to natural
11 disasters; and

12 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify and the APIL
13 Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same shall be transmitted to
14 the Chief Executives and Legislative Presiding Officers of each member jurisdiction of the
15 Association of the Pacific Island Legislatures and to the Executive Director of Pacific Disaster
16 Center with a request for continued technical support.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 3RD DAY OF JUNE, 2016.


KENNETH A. KEDI
PRESIDENT


FERNANDO SCALIEM
SECRETARY

