



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-11, CD1

“Expressing the sincere congratulations of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures to Her Excellency, Dr. Hilda Cathy Heine on her election as the Eighth President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the first female head of state of any nation in our region of the world.”

1 **WHEREAS**, on January 26, 2016, the national parliament of the Republic of the
2 Marshall Islands, the *Nitijela*, which is a standing Member of the Association of Pacific Island
3 Legislatures, undertook a clearly landmark decision in electing Her Excellency, Dr. Hilda Cathy
4 Heine to serve as the Eighth President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the election of Madame President Dr. Hilda Cathy Heine marks the election
6 of the first female president in the history of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the first female
7 president in the history of Micronesia, and the first female head of state from throughout the
8 nations of the Pacific, with the exception of only Australia and New Zealand; and

9 **WHEREAS**, prior to becoming the President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands,
10 Her Excellency, Dr. Hilda Cathy Heine had already become a very respected leader of the
11 Marshalls and Micronesia in the field of education having obtained a Doctorate in Education and
12 Educational Leadership from the University of Southern California, having served as the
13 President of the College of the Marshall Islands, and having filled the post of the Secretary of the
14 Ministry of Education for the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and

15 **WHEREAS**, at the time of her election to the presidency, Her Excellency, Dr. Hilda
16 Cathy Heine was one of only three female members of the *Nitijela*; and

17 **WHEREAS**, in addition to her impressive careers in education and government, Her
18 Excellency, Dr. Hilda Cathy Heine is well known in Micronesian circles as the co-founder of the
19 women’s rights group “Women United Together Marshall Islands” (WUTMI), an organization
20 which has been a leading voice in breaking the silence on violence against women in the

1 Republic of the Marshall Islands; and which has served as a role model for similar women's
2 rights organizations throughout the APIL Pacific; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, which in its own right has
4 elected three women of legislative prominence to serve as the chief presiding officers of this
5 regional organization representing the legislative assemblies of the APIL Pacific and which has
6 over the years strongly advocated for legislation and NGO action against domestic violence and
7 other forms of sexual intolerance, is very thankful that a woman of this caliber has become the
8 first elected female head of state of the Republic of the Marshall Islands; now, therefore,

9 **BE IT RESOLVED** that the 35th General Assembly of the Association Pacific Island
10 Legislatures, Island of Guam, June 1-3, 2016, does hereby express sincere congratulations to Her
11 Excellency Dr. Hilda Cathy Heine on her election as the President of the Republic of the
12 Marshall Islands; and

13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in light of her monumental achievements in being
14 elected as the first female head of state in our region of the world, her impressive career in
15 government service, her contributions to the education of the youth of the Marshalls, and her
16 efforts in the defense of the rights of women in the Marshalls, the Association of Pacific Island
17 Legislatures trusts and looks forward to the time when Her Excellency, Dr. Hilda Cathy Heine
18 may soon become a member, and thereafter, a prominent spokeswoman for women in the Pacific
19 in the United Nations Foundation known as the "Council of Women World Leaders," which is
20 the international network of current and former women prime ministers and presidents who work
21 vigilantly for the rights of women and for human dignity in nations and in communities
22 anywhere and everywhere across the globe; and

23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President certify and the APIL Secretary
24 attest to the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same be thereafter transmitted to Her
25 Excellency, Dr. Hilda Cathy Heine, President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and to the
26 Chief Executives and Legislative Presiding Officers of each member jurisdiction of the
27 Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

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


KENNETH A. KEDI
PRESIDENT


FERNANDO SCALIEM
SECRETARY

