



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. 36-GA-03

“Urgently requesting the member entities of the APIL to collaborate on planning and implementing efforts to address the massive garbage patches in the Pacific and to find ways and means to mitigate their detrimental impact on member entities of the APIL and neighboring jurisdictions.”

1 **WHEREAS**, massive garbage patches floating in the Pacific were discovered as early as the
2 1980’s, with confirmed sightings over the past decades; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the North Pacific Gyre has enabled the convergence of massive amounts of trash and
4 garbage in the vicinities of most, if not all the member entities of the APIL and their surroundings, and
5 the Eastern Garbage Patch (aka Great Pacific Garbage Patch), which is usually found between the states
6 of Hawaii and California, should be addressed quickly and urgently, including calling for international
7 help in ensuring the Pacific Ocean remains pristine and clean; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the majority of the garbage found has been man-made in origin, most especially
9 plastics of all kinds which turn into micro-plastic compounds as they degrade and breakdown in the
10 ocean water; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the presence of such massive and dangerous amounts of trash in the ocean will be
12 detrimental to the Pacific way of life, including but not limited to, poisoning migratory fish stocks,
13 further deteriorating the status of endangered marine species, overwhelming the balanced environment
14 in the Pacific Ocean, and contributing to immense accumulations of trash on the islands, along the reefs
15 and in the lagoons throughout the Pacific; and

1 **WHEREAS**, it behooves the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures to educate itself and to
2 alert our respective governments, singularly and collectively, to the hazards of ignoring the impact of
3 garbage in the ocean: and

4 **WHEREAS**, it is incumbent on the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures to facilitate ways to
5 address the problem of the massive accumulations of ocean trash, including seeking assistance from
6 concerned organizations like the Micronesian Conservation Trust and the PEW Environment Group,
7 and requesting the support of developed countries such as the United States of America, the Republic
8 of Korea, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of China, and the Nation of Japan; now,
9 therefore,

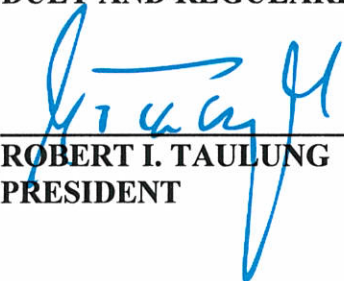
10 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 36th General Assembly,
11 Christmas Island, Republic of Kiribati, June 22-24, 2017, that this Assembly hereby fully affirms the
12 fundamental precept that the lives and the future of our peoples rely on the pristine resiliency of our
13 marine resources; and

14 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures agrees to
15 collaborate on planning and implementing efforts to address the massive garbage patches in the Pacific
16 and to find ways and means to mitigate their detrimental impact on member entities of APIL and
17 neighboring jurisdictions; and


18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify and the APIL Secretary
19 shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall be transmitted to the Chief
20 Executives and the Legislative Presiding Officers of each member jurisdiction of the Association of

- 1 Pacific Island Legislatures; to the Presiding Officers of the Micronesian Conservation Trust and the
2 PEW Environment Group, and to such other officials throughout the world-wide community of
3 environmentally concerned agencies, instrumentalities and organizations as the President of the
4 Association of Pacific Island Legislatures deems appropriate.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 24TH DAY OF JUNE, 2017.



ROBERT I. TAULUNG
PRESIDENT



NELSON STEPHEN
SECRETARY

