



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-07

“Expressing the deep appreciation of the members of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures for the courage and inspiration that the Polynesian Voyaging Society has provided to the world at large with its ocean voyaging programs, and to the master navigators and many crews members of the *Hōkūle‘a* who participated over the course of four decades of open ocean voyaging in demonstrating to the world at large and providing historical remembrances to our island societies of what it means to be a Pacific Islander.”

1 **WHEREAS**, the Polynesian, double-hulled, open ocean voyaging canoe *Hōkūle‘a* returned to
2 Hawaii on Saturday, the 17th of June, 2017, after completing an arduous, yet awe inspiring three-year
3 sailing journey around the world; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the *Hōkūle‘a* is a performance-accurate full-scale replica of a *wa‘a kaulua*, a
5 Polynesian double-hulled voyaging canoe which was first launched on the 8th day of March, 1975, by
6 the Polynesian Voyaging Society; and

7 **WHEREAS**, before her circumnavigation of the world, the *Hōkūle‘a* completed ten open
8 ocean passages to ports in Tahiti, Micronesia, Polynesia, Japan, Canada and the mainland United
9 States, all using ancient navigation techniques utilizing the stars above and the waves and ocean
10 currents below to find the way; and

11 **WHEREAS**, on May 18, 2014, *Hōkūle‘a* embarked from Oahu for “*Malama Honua*”, her
12 three-year circumnavigation of the earth; and

13 **WHEREAS**, on the nineteen-leg *Mālama Honua* Worldwide Voyage, the *Hōkūle‘a* hosted
14 245 crew members who sailed in groups of twelve to thirteen which were alternated at assigned ports
15 of call along the navigated route of the traditional sailing canoe; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the *Hōkūle‘a* returned to port in Hawaii to a huge gathering of cheering
2 enthusiasts and a joyous celebration on June 17, 2017, having navigated over 47,000 nautical miles
3 with stops at eighty-five ports of call in twenty-six countries; and

4 **WHEREAS**, celebrated as a triumph of Oceanic voyaging skills, the success of the *Hōkūle‘a*
5 would not have been possible without the expert teaching and hands-on demonstrations by the master
6 navigators of Micronesia, skilled in *Pwo*, the ancient ways of steerage between the limitless horizons
7 of the greatest and most awesome ocean in the world; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the Polynesian Voyaging Society fully recognizes and embraces the ocean
9 heritage of all of our islands and is fully cognizant of the importance of the navigators of *Hōkūle‘a*’s
10 many voyages, for in the teachings of *Pwo*, master navigators are the true leaders of our Pacific trans-
11 oceanic voyages in that:

- 12 • If there are conflicts, the navigator must resolve them;
- 13 • If there is sickness, the navigator’s responsibility is to heal;
- 14 • If there is damage, the navigator must repair it; and
- 15 • It is the navigator’s *kuleana* to sail the canoe and bring back gifts to his home island;

16 and

17 **WHEREAS**, as the *Hōkūle‘a* traveled to destinations all across the world, the voyaging canoe
18 and its crews carried an inspiring message to the many peoples they met along the way of the proud
19 heritage of our ancient and legendary forefathers and foremothers, the earliest sailors and explorers of
20 the Pacific, who purposely conquered the challenges of the sea, deliberately landed on the shores of its
21 islands and consciously established communities in its island habitats; and

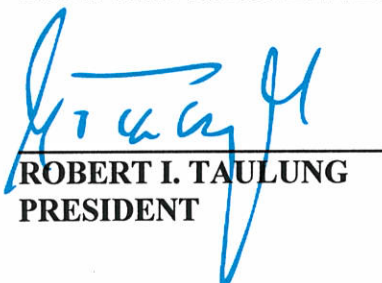
22 **WHEREAS**, even more important messages were carried by the crews of the *Hōkūle‘a* to the
23 peoples of the world of the fragility of our island environments and the perils of global warming and
24 consequent sea rise --- but perhaps the most important message of all was not expressed in words, but

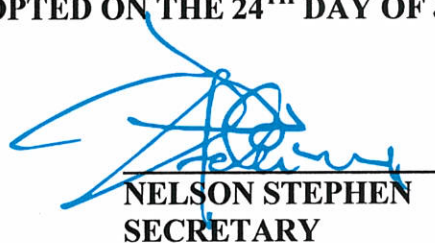
1 in the very act of navigating around the entire world --- that is the message of the resiliency of our
2 Pacific Island peoples and our determination, born out of ancient customs and traditions, to plot a
3 determined course of purpose and design that will ultimately bring us to the shores of enlightenment
4 and understanding as to who we are, how we have come to be, and where we, as Pacific peoples,
5 should be voyaging into the future; now, therefore,

6 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 36th General Assembly,
7 Christmas Island, Republic of Kiribati, June 22-24, 2017, that this Assembly hereby expresses our
8 deep appreciation for the courage and inspiration that the Polynesian Voyaging Society has provided
9 to the world at large with its ocean voyaging programs, and to the master navigators and many crew
10 members of the *Hōkūle‘a* who participated over the course of four decades of open ocean voyaging,
11 in demonstrating to the world at large and providing historical remembrances to our island societies of
12 what it means to be a Pacific Islander; and

13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify and the APIL Secretary
14 shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall be transmitted to the Presiding
15 Officials of the Polynesian Voyaging Society to share among the master navigators and crews of the
16 *Hōkūle‘a*, and to the Legislative Presiding Officers and Chief Executives of each member jurisdiction
17 of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

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


ROBERT I. TAULUNG
PRESIDENT


NELSON STEPHEN
SECRETARY

