



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-08

“Expressing deep appreciation for the courage and foresight of the Hawaii State Legislature in its landmark passage of Public Act 35(2017), by which the State of Hawaii became the first State in the USA to codify its continuing commitment to climate change strategies aligned with the Paris Climate Accord.”

1 **WHEREAS**, in a historic event, supported by all the nations of the world but two, the world
2 leadership joined together in signing the Paris Climate Accord through which a world-wide effort has
3 been launched to address and to mitigate the adverse affects of climate change and its consequent rise
4 in the levels of the sea; and

5 **WHEREAS**, while the leaders of the small island states, including the jurisdictions of the
6 APIL Pacific participating in the Paris discussions, pressed for much more pro-active strategies and
7 more ambitious goals to address the challenges of global warming, we were pleased to see that the
8 most advanced and most environmentally polluting countries of the world added their support for the
9 Paris Climate Accord and pledged their assistance to help the countries most vulnerable to sea level
10 rise to cope with the challenges facing their peoples, both now and in the future; but

11 **WHEREAS**, the newly elected President of the United States of America recently announced
12 his Administration’s intentions to withdraw from America’s commitment and active participation in
13 the goals and strategies of the Paris Climate Accord and, although he denied it by rhetorical
14 commentary, his actions signaled a return of his country to the harmful environmental practices of the
15 past, including a return to reliance on CO₂ emitting energy production, labor intensive industrial
16 manufacturing and wide-scale, consumer consumption; and

17 **WHEREAS**, this sad and distressing fall of the American Government from its leadership role
18 in international circles in championing causes committed to combating the grievous damages of

1 climate change has distressed the whole of the international community of nations, but most especially
2 the most vulnerable island countries and jurisdictions of the Pacific; and

3 **WHEREAS**, as this dramatic fall from international consciousness and responsibility was
4 unfolding before us, the members of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures have been most
5 encouraged to find that the Hawaii State Legislature has stepped forward to firmly and resolutely
6 decree that the State of Hawaii is not in agreement with the distressing policies of the Federal
7 Government; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the State of Hawaii's honest assessment that global warming and consequent sea
9 rise are realities of our times and its commitment to promote a statewide response to climate change
10 has been heralded by the Legislature's calling for Hawaii's strategies to be aligned in collaboration
11 with those of the 2016 Paris Agreement; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the State of Hawaii's commitment to uphold the principles and to forward the
13 goals and strategies of the Paris Climate Accord is forcefully set forth in Public Act No. 35(2017)
14 which establishes the Hawaii Climate Change Mitigation and Adaptation Commission that will be
15 responsible for providing policy direction, facilitation, coordination and planning among state and
16 county agencies, federal agencies and appropriate partners in areas relating to climate change; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the members of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures are very comforted
18 by the fact that this landmark legislation was introduced into the Hawaii State Legislature by our very
19 own Senator J. Kalani English, present Board member and former President of the APIL itself; and

20 **WHEREAS**, on Wednesday, June 7, 2017, Hawaii State Governor David Ige signed this
21 landmark legislation into law, making the State of Hawaii the first State in the USA committing that
22 State to upholding the tenets of the Paris Climate Accord; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Hawaii is one of more than 10 states that have joined the US Climate Alliance, a
2 coalition of State Governments in the USA that are committed to upholding the Paris Climate Accord,
3 despite the US Administration declaration of withdrawal from the international agreement; now,
4 therefore,

5 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 36th General Assembly,
6 Christmas Island, Republic of Kiribati, June 22-24, 2017, that this Assembly hereby expresses our
7 deep appreciation for the courage and foresight of the Hawaii State Legislature for its landmark
8 passage of Public Act No. 35(2017) by which the State of Hawaii became the first State in the USA to
9 codify its continuing commitment to climate change strategies aligned with the Paris Climate Accord
10 and applauds the State of Hawaii in joining with other informed and concerned US states in the
11 Climate Alliance which advocates for environmental responsibility at all levels of government in the
12 USA; and

13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Assembly especially applauds the foresight and
14 understanding of the introducer of this landmark legislation, our own Senator J. Kalani English, and
15 we wish to assure our good Senator that each of our jurisdictions shares in the concerns of the
16 Honorable Senator and his fellow Hawaiian Legislators for the protection and preservation of our
17 island homes and environments; and

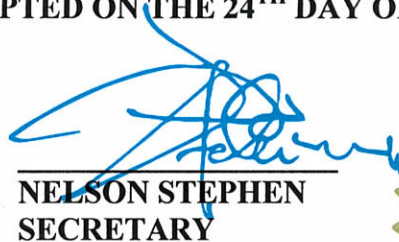
18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures humbly,
19 but urgently, beseeches the members of the Hawaii State Legislature to use their newly found
20 leadership role in the US Climate Alliance to turn the attitudes of the US Administration back to
21 accepting its responsibilities and regaining its central role in leading the world in a collective and
22 shared commitment to combating the damages of climate change and to mitigating its destructive

1 affects on the most vulnerable peoples of the world, especially the peoples of the low lying atolls of
2 the member jurisdictions of the APIL Pacific; and

3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify and the APIL Secretary
4 shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall be transmitted to the President of
5 the Senate and the Speaker of the House of the Hawaii State Legislature, to the Governor of the State
6 of Hawaii, to the President of the United States of America, to the Presiding Officers of the US
7 Congress, to the Presiding Officer of the US Climate Alliance, and to the Legislative Presiding
8 Officers and Chief Executives of each member jurisdiction of the Association of Pacific Island
9 Legislatures.

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


ROBERT I. TAULUNG
PRESIDENT


NELSON STEPHEN
SECRETARY

