



# 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. 37-GA-05

**“Commending the efforts of Ms. Yolanda Joab for her tireless efforts, both here and abroad, to address the needs of those who are most vulnerable to the damaging effects of climate change through programs that are changing attitudes about the sources and effects of climate change, and through projects directly designed for climate change adaptation and mitigation.”**

1           **WHEREAS**, climate change in Micronesia is real, and its damaging effects  
2   are becoming ever more noticeable; and

3           **WHEREAS**, elder Micronesian statesmen such as the late Honorable Tony  
4   A. deBrum have brought the fear and suffering of the Micronesian island peoples to  
5   the forefront of international attention, but as the destiny of Micronesia is delivered  
6   into the hands of younger generations of Micronesians as we begin to actually  
7   confront the realities of climate change, what will become of our islands and our  
8   ways of life; and

9           **WHEREAS**, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures is proud to say  
10   that the fate of our islands and of our people is already passing into capable hands,  
11   and some of those capable hands belong to the women of our societies; and

12          **WHEREAS**, the Fifty-fifth Board of Directors meeting of this Association  
13   gave recognition to the work of Marshallese poet Kathy Jetnil-Kijiner who in 2014  
14   took center stage at the U.N. Climate Leaders Summit in New York where she  
15   recited a poem of her own authorship telling the tale of her experiences with climate  
16   change on her home atoll and of over-coming the threats of climate change for the  
17   future of her baby daughter; and

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1           **WHEREAS**, while Ms. Jetnil-Kijiner was rallying the pundits of climate  
2 change in New York City, Ms. Yolanda Joab of Pohnpei State was just as vocally  
3 and forcefully carrying the message of climate change to the most basic and  
4 fundamental levels of Micronesian society, the schools and community centers of our  
5 islands; and

6           **WHEREAS**, commencing in 2011, Ms. Yolanda Joab took on a leading role  
7 in running one of IOM's flagship programs, the "Climate Change Adaptation,  
8 Disaster Risk Reduction and Education Program, (CADRE)"; and

9           **WHEREAS**, when Ms. Yolanda Joab began this program seven years ago,  
10 there was very little knowledge at the community level of just what global warming  
11 was all about and how it was affecting the islands of Micronesia; and

12           **WHEREAS**, from the initiation of a pilot project involving just six schools in  
13 2011, the program has now grown to involve more than 50 schools and numerous  
14 communities across the vast expanses of Micronesia, with the training of over 300  
15 teachers in the fields of climate change, adaptation and mitigation who in turn have  
16 educated over 10,000 students in mechanisms to cope with climate change and to  
17 prepare for natural emergencies and disasters; and

18           **WHEREAS**, the efforts of Ms. Yolanda Joab and her fellow team members  
19 have not been limited to just preaching and teaching about climate change, but they  
20 are also engaging in real time projects to build seawalls, erect potable water tanks  
21 and install solar panel systems, all designed to adapt to climate change and hardened  
22 island infrastructures to survive natural disasters; and

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1           **WHEREAS**, as her reputation in administering and promoting the Climate  
2 Change Adaptation, Disaster Risk Reduction and Education Program in Micronesia  
3 grew, climate change experts from abroad began to request Ms. Yolanda Joab to  
4 address larger and larger international audiences on her work in Micronesia and her  
5 dedication to combating the damaging effects of climate change, not only here in the  
6 APIL Pacific, but also in other vulnerable parts of the world; and

7           **WHEREAS**, in 2016, Ms. Yolanda Joab was a Guest Youth Speaker at the  
8 IUCN World Conservation Congress in Honolulu, Hawaii and a Delegate Speaker at  
9 the One World Summit in Ottawa, Canada; and

10           **WHEREAS**, in 2017, Ms. Yolanda Joab was invited as an International  
11 Guest Speaker at the German Green Party Convention in Berlin, Germany and an  
12 International Guest Speaker at the World Forum on Natural Capital in Edinburgh,  
13 Scotland; and

14           **WHEREAS**, with the strength of her voice, the compassionate nature of her  
15 delivery, and the urgent content of her message, it is the sense of the Association of  
16 Pacific Island Legislatures that the presence of Ms. Yolanda Joab and her story of  
17 how she has taken the message of climate change into the very homes and villages of  
18 the island peoples who are being most affected by climate change will continue to  
19 reverberate for many years to come, both within the local communities of Micronesia  
20 and at important climate change events around the world; now, therefore,



1           **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 37<sup>th</sup>  
2   General Assembly, FSM State of Pohnpei, June 26-29, 2018, that the Association of  
3   Pacific Island Legislature hereby sincerely commends the efforts of Ms. Yolanda  
4   Joab for her tireless efforts, both here and abroad, to address the needs of those who  
5   are most vulnerable to the damaging effects of climate change through programs that  
6   are changing attitudes about the sources and effects of climate change, and through  
7   projects directly designed for climate change adaptation and mitigation; and

8           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify and the  
9   APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same shall  
10   be thereafter transmitted to Ms. Yolanda Joab, to the Chief of Mission of IOM for the  
11   FSM, and to the Chief Executives and Presiding Legislative Officers of the member  
12   jurisdictions of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 28<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF JUNE, 2018.**

  
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**ROBERT I. TAULUNG**  
**PRESIDENT**

  
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**NELSON STEPHEN**  
**SECRETARY**

