



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-06

“Supporting the efforts of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands for active membership in the Western Interstate Commission for Higher Education.”

1 **WHEREAS**, the Western Interstate Commission for Higher
2 Education (WICHE) is a regional non-profit organization created by the
3 Western Regional Education Compact, adopted in the 1950s by western
4 states of the United States of America; and

5 **WHEREAS**, WICHE was created to facilitate resource sharing
6 among the higher education systems of the West; and

7 **WHEREAS**, WICHE commenced its operations in 1953 in Eugene,
8 Oregon and subsequently moved its operations to its present location in
9 Boulder, Colorado in 1955; and

10 **WHEREAS**, WICHE is governed by three gubernatorally-appointed
11 Commissioners from each component jurisdiction; and

12 **WHEREAS**, under terms of the Compact, each jurisdiction commits
13 to support WICHE’s basic operations through annual dues established by
14 the full Commission; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the sixteen western jurisdictions which comprise the
16 membership of WICHE are: New Mexico, Montana, Arizona, Utah,
17 Oregon, Colorado, Wyoming, Idaho, Alaska, Washington, California,
18 Nevada, Hawaii, North Dakota, South Dakota, and the U.S. Pacific

1 Territories & Freely Associated States (FAS) of which the Territory of
2 Guam and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands are currently
3 active members; and

4 **WHEREAS**, WICHE and its 16-member jurisdictions work to
5 improve access to higher education and ensure student success; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the student exchange programs, regional initiatives, and
7 its research and policy work allow the organization to assist constituents
8 throughout the West and beyond; and

9 **WHEREAS**, formerly referred to as components of the U.N. Trust
10 Territory of the Pacific Islands which was under the administrative authority
11 of the United States Government, the newly formed entities of the Federated
12 States of Micronesia (FSM), the Republic of Palau (ROP), and the Republic
13 of the Marshall Islands (RMI) have now entered into a new relationship
14 with the United States of America under the Compact of Free Association
15 and are now referred to as the Freely Associated States (FAS); and

16 **WHEREAS**, the FSM, ROP and RMI lack many educational
17 resources available to U.S. states, territories and commonwealths because of
18 their isolated geographic locations and small populations; however, the
19 students in the FSM, ROP and RMI are just as eager and determined to get a
20 higher education as their counterparts on the U.S. mainland; and

1 **WHEREAS**, becoming active members of WICHE will greatly
2 benefit the Freely Associated States of the FSM, the ROP and the RMI; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the College of Micronesia-FSM, the Palau Community
4 College and the College of the Marshall Islands are the only post-secondary
5 educational institutions in the FSM, ROP and RMI which offer mostly two-
6 year degrees in limited fields of study; and

7 **WHEREAS**, because the FSM, ROP and RMI do not have four-year
8 universities, many students must leave the FSM, ROP and RMI to travel
9 thousands of miles to other educational institutions in the United States
10 where they are required to pay thousands of dollars in out-of-state tuition;
11 and

12 **WHEREAS**, with active membership in the WICHE, undergraduate
13 students from the FSM, ROP and RMI will be eligible for reduced tuition at
14 more than 145 participating WICHE institutions; and

15 **WHEREAS**, more specifically, instead of paying the out-of-state
16 tuition – which is sometimes double or more of the resident tuition for many
17 states – the FSM, ROP and RMI students will be able to pay 150% of the
18 resident tuition rate when they attend the WICHE institution; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the FSM, ROP and RMI can also benefit from WICHE
20 resources in policy development, workforce development, technology,
21 health and other areas; and

1 **WHEREAS**, similarly, students from WICHE states on the U.S.
2 mainland may want a change of scenery and move to a beautiful tropical
3 island, and attend the College of Micronesia-FSM, the Palau Community
4 College or the College of the Marshall Islands without having to pay non-
5 resident tuition; and

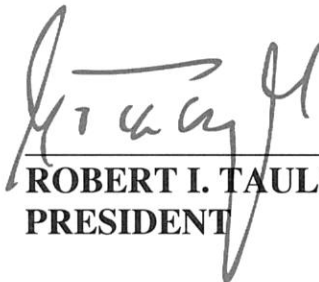
6 **WHEREAS**, the FSM, ROP and RMI stand to gain economically if
7 students from the WICHE mainland states enroll at post-secondary
8 institutions in these Freely Associated States and pay tuition and fees to
9 those institutions; furthermore these students will also contribute to the local
10 economy by paying for housing, food and leisure activities; and

11 **WHEREAS**, in summary, active membership in the Western
12 Interstate Commission for Higher Education will greatly assist FSM, ROP
13 and RMI and their students in continuing to strive for a higher education
14 during these great difficult economic times; now, therefore,

15 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island
16 Legislatures, 37th General Assembly, FSM State of Pohnpei, June 26-29,
17 2018, that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures hereby expresses
18 support for the efforts of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of
19 Palau, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands to work with WICHE to
20 find reasonable solutions to address the requirements of active membership
21 and the requisite membership dues which are currently the standard for all
22 sixteen member states; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall
2 certify and the APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that
3 copies of the same shall be transmitted to the Presidents of the Federated
4 States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall
5 Islands, to the Chief Executive Officers of the College of Micronesia-FSM,
6 the Palau Community College, and the College of the Marshall Islands and to
7 the Presiding Legislative Officers and Chief Executives of each of the
8 member jurisdictions of the APIL.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 28TH DAY OF JUNE, 2018.



ROBERT I. TAULUNG
PRESIDENT



NELSON STEPHEN
SECRETARY

