



# 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-09

**“To endorse, as the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, the proposed designation of Ant Atoll ‘a protected turtle sanctuary,’ in order to promote and facilitate sea turtle life.”**

1           **WHEREAS**, Pohnpei State is home to various species of sea turtle, namely:  
2 the green turtle, hawksbill and leatherback; and

3           **WHEREAS**, nearly all species of sea turtles are classified as “endangered”,  
4 since they suffer from poaching, habitat destruction, accidental capture in fishing  
5 gear and the impact of climate change on their nesting sites; and

6           **WHEREAS**, it generally takes 30 years for a sea turtle to mature from a  
7 hatchling to an adult capable of reproducing, this further compounds the dwindling  
8 population of our sea turtles; and

9           **WHEREAS**, although sea turtles lay many eggs, beyond digging a nest into  
10 which their eggs are deposited, mothers do not care for the hatchlings; and

11           **WHEREAS**, following a 60 day incubation period, these hatchlings must fend  
12 for themselves and after climbing their way out of the nest through about two feet of  
13 sand, scramble down the beach toward the water, guided by light; and

14           **WHEREAS**, on undeveloped beaches, the moon or starlight reflecting off the  
15 ocean is the brightest thing visible to these hatchlings in their perilous journey to  
16 the water’s edge and given the fact that numerous nesting sites for sea turtles have  
17 been identified in Ant Atoll, it constitutes an ideal location for advancing  
18 conservation efforts aimed at increasing this especially vulnerable population; and

19           **WHEREAS**, tracking information recently gathered by researchers,  
20 concerning an adult sea turtle which had been tagged, revealed it had traveled a

1 remarkable 2,118 kilometers (or 1316 miles) in order to reach Ant Atoll,  
2 presumably to nest; and


3 **WHEREAS**, information on the status of sea turtles in Pohnpei is currently in  
4 short supply, the prime location of Ant Atoll, as evidenced by these numerous  
5 nesting sites, makes it an ideal location for monitoring sea turtle nesting, gathering  
6 data for conservation researchers and preventing predators from getting at the eggs  
7 and the removal of sea turtles themselves and/or their eggs will also be safeguarded  
8 in this environment; and

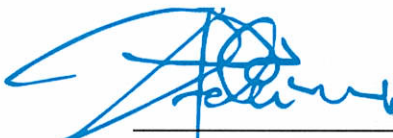
9 **WHEREAS**, as the collective body of Pacific Island Legislatures, we affirm our  
10 support and commitment to the designation of Ant Atoll as a turtle sanctuary to  
11 promote and facilitate sea turtle life by increasing their number and thereby  
12 avoiding extinction of these species; now, therefore,

13 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 37<sup>th</sup>  
14 General Assembly, FSM State of Pohnpei, June 26-29, 2018, that this Assembly  
15 hereby fully endorses the designation of Ant Atoll as a protected turtle sanctuary, as  
16 proposed by Traditional Leader Rohsa of Ant Atoll and expresses its sincere  
17 gratitude for his initiative, in terms of furthering the conservation efforts of  
18 Micronesia; and

19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify and APIL  
20 Secretary attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same be transmitted to  
21 the Chief Executives and Legislative Presiding Officers of each member jurisdiction  
22 of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures and the Traditional Leader of Ant  
23 Atoll, Rohsa.

**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**

