



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-16

“Whole heartedly commending the U.S. Peace Corps program for the fifty-two years of devoted service provided by around 4,800 Peace Corps volunteers and numerous Peace Corps administrative staff to the islands and peoples of the APIL Pacific.”

1 **WHEREAS**, rising up from the hopeful expressions of youthful idealism on
2 college and university campuses way back in the early 1950’s, U.S. President John
3 Fitzgerald Kennedy, by an executive order issued on the first day of March, 1961,
4 gave birth to a brand new and exciting program which the President came to refer to
5 as the “Peace Corps”; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the President’s executive order was soon followed by the
7 enactment by the U.S. Congress of the “Peace Corps Act” which stated as its purpose:

8 “To promote world peace and friendship through a Peace Corps,
9 which shall make available to interested countries and areas men
10 and women of the United States qualified and willing to serve, under
11 the conditions of hardship if necessary, to help the peoples of such
12 countries and areas in meeting their needs for trained manpower.”; and

13 **WHEREAS**, just five years after its initiation, President Lyndon Baynes
14 Johnson, the successor to JFK, extended the Peace Corps program to the Trust
15 Territory of the Pacific Islands; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the birth of Peace Corps in the Trust Territory came at a point in
17 Micronesia’s history when the United States Government was just beginning to wake
18 up to its own responsibilities as the administering authority of a United Nations

1 Trusteeship which were to promote the political, economic, social and educational
2 advancement of the peoples of Micronesia; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in its very first year of operations within the islands of
4 Micronesia, Peace Corps recruited and brought into the islands a total of 458
5 volunteers; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the yearly number of Peace Corps volunteers reached its all time
7 high in the second year of the program's involvement in Micronesia with a total of
8 689 volunteers; and

9 **WHEREAS**, while the first training programs for Peace Corps volunteers
10 occurred in Key West, Florida, these training programs were quickly moved to the
11 state of Hawaii and then to the very islands in Micronesia where the Peace Corps
12 volunteers would be assigned for their two-year terms of service; and

13 **WHEREAS**, as the training programs migrated to sites within Micronesia,
14 many islanders were enlisted to help U.S. trainers in preparing the volunteers for the
15 rigors of their new assignments; and

16 **WHEREAS**, having successfully completed their training programs, the
17 volunteers were paired with local families and most of the early volunteers were
18 assigned to teach in island elementary schools; and

19 **WHEREAS**, in the next two decades, the presence of the Peace Corps
20 program in Micronesia evolved; the program was brought to a close in the Northern
21 Mariana Islands when those islands transitioned to a Commonwealth status with the
22 United States and the program was brought to a close in the Republic of the Marshall
23 Islands roughly twenty years later; and

1 **WHEREAS**, in the rest of Micronesia, the Peace Corps program shifted its
2 emphasis from just education to other areas like water sanitation, forestry, small
3 business development and legal services; and

4 **WHEREAS**, in 1986, the character of volunteer placements was streamlined
5 through a policy labeled as “Strategy 86”, in which volunteers were given dual
6 assignments, the first in teaching English as a second language coupled with a second
7 assignment directed towards a specific project in such areas as small business, health,
8 youth affairs or community development; and

9 **WHEREAS**, as Peace Corps Micronesia entered the twenty-first century, the
10 focus of the program continued to evolve with more and more emphasis being placed
11 on singular, specific projects in such areas as: (1) meeting the needs of islanders
12 facing the consequences of natural disasters, (2) desalination of water sources on the
13 outer islands, (3) utilizing alternate sources of energy, (4) recycling of discarded cans,
14 (5) preservation of endangered species, (6) keeping traditional customs and traditions
15 alive, and (7) encouraging the development of young children through innovative
16 public library programs; and

17 **WHEREAS**, as Peace Corps entered its fourth decade in Micronesia, the
18 numbers of volunteers assigned to both the Federated States of Micronesia and the
19 Republic of Palau entered an era of considerable reduction, and by the time that Peace
20 Corps Micronesia reached its fiftieth birthday of service in the islands of Micronesia,
21 a decision was made by the Peace Corps administrators in Washington DC to bring
22 the program to a close, which is occurring this month, June, 2018; and

23 **WHEREAS**, while vast numbers of Peace Corps volunteers entered the
24 islands of Micronesia that lay above the equator in the 1960’s, the coming of Peace

1 Corps to the islands of Micronesia which are situated below the equator tells a very
2 different story; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in 1973, a single Peace Corps volunteer was assigned by the
4 Peace Corps office located in the Solomon Islands to the Republic of Kiribati, then a
5 Protectorate of the British Government and referred to as the Gilbert Islands; and

6 **WHEREAS**, with the advent of self-government in 1979, the Peace Corps
7 program experienced a limited expansion in the newly established nation of the
8 Republic of Kiribati with the yearly number of volunteers ranging between ten and
9 twenty individuals who were assigned to projects in water and sanitation; and

10 **WHEREAS**, in 1998, a Peace Corps office solely devoted to the Kiribati
11 islands was finally established and the number of volunteers rose to about forty
12 individuals per year; and

13 **WHEREAS**, during this period of country-based management, the nature of
14 Peace Corps assignments evolved in the direction of assigning volunteers to work in
15 the fields of education, health and community development with the outreach of the
16 program being extended to the remote atolls of the nation; and

17 **WHEREAS**, after thirty-five years of service to the islands of Kiribati, the
18 Peace Corps program was brought to a close in that country in 2008; and

19 **WHEREAS**, as Peace Corps finally leaves the remaining portions of
20 Micronesia after a half a century of devoted service to the peoples of the Micronesian
21 islands, over 4,300 volunteers above the equator and nearly 500 volunteers below the
22 equator can embrace their experiences in the islands of Micronesia and with the
23 peoples of Micronesia as part of their own individual legacies that they will be
24 passing on to their children and their children's children; and

1 **WHEREAS**, after thousands of shared experiences with American Peace
2 Corps volunteers over the last half-century, generations of our own people can also
3 refer to these special times as a part of their own individual legacies; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the impact of the presence of Peace Corps in Micronesia can be
5 measured in many ways in such diverse fields as education, health, environment,
6 economic development and social services, but on a personal level, the impact of the
7 presence of Peace Corps in Micronesia can best be measured by the depth of
8 understanding, the height of self-awareness and the strength of purpose that these
9 encounters between volunteers and islanders bestowed upon all of us, both American
10 and Micronesian; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the service of Peace Corps came to us at a vital point in our own
12 history when our islands were coming of age, when we first began to exert our own
13 talents of free expression and when we first began to embrace our own ideas of the
14 meaning of self-government; and

15 **WHEREAS**, many years after the legacy of the Peace Corps in Micronesia
16 will have passed from the memories of the living into the recordings of the past,
17 historians of the future will look to the origins of our legislative assemblies and to the
18 growth and development of the governments that sprang from the first laws enacted
19 by those early assemblies as prime indicators of the importance of Peace Corps in the
20 forming of our own sense of self-reliance and in forming our own understandings of
21 the ways in which we are and should be shaping the destiny of what we now have
22 come to refer to as the Blue Continent; and

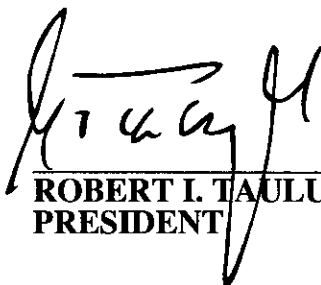
23 **WHEREAS**, the story of those early legislative assemblies in their struggling
24 attempts to forge a future filled with promise for the islands and peoples of the Blue
25 Continent, and the ways in which we who have followed in their footsteps are

1 addressing the new and pressing challenges of the Blue Continent constitute the very
2 essence of who and what we are today as the Association of Pacific Island
3 Legislatures; now, therefore,

4 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 37th
5 General Assembly, FSM State of Pohnpei, June 26-29, 2018, that the Association of
6 Pacific Island Legislatures hereby whole-heartedly commends the U.S. Peace Corps
7 program for the fifty-two years of devoted service provided by around 4,800 Peace
8 Corps volunteers and numerous Peace Corps administrative staff, to the islands and
9 peoples of the APIL Pacific; and

10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify and the
11 APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall be
12 thereafter transmitted to the President of the United States of America, to the Director
13 of the U.S. Peace Corps organization, to the President of the National Peace Corps
14 Association established for Returned Peace Corps Volunteers (RPCV), to the
15 departing Country Director for the Peace Corps program in Micronesia, and to the
16 Chief Executives and Presiding Legislative Officers of the member jurisdictions of
17 the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

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



ROBERT I. TAULUNG
PRESIDENT



NELSON SEPTEHN
SECRETARY

