



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-20

“Strongly opposing the intent of Bill No. 257-34 of the Guam Legislature which would tax the transshipment of fuels passing through the Port of Guam to the islands of Micronesia and respectfully requesting the Guam Legislature not enact the bill.”

1 **WHEREAS**, the 23rd Micronesian Islands Forum 2018, consisting of the
2 Presidents and Governors of the island jurisdictions of Micronesia, issued a letter to
3 the Guam Speaker Benjamin J.F. Cruz relative to the proposed Bill No. 257-34
4 pending in the Guam Legislature, which would impose taxes on transshipment of fuel
5 passing through the Port of Guam; and

6 **WHEREAS**, it is the position of the Chief Executives of the island
7 governments that these taxes would have a “direct and deep impact” on the
8 economies of Palau, FSM, Marshall Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern
9 Mariana Islands as shipments of fuel first go through Guam before reaching the other
10 islands; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the mission of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures is to
12 promote regional cooperation, exchange and assistance in areas such as economic
13 development, commerce and trade and to help our governments achieve their goals
14 through collective action; and

15 **WHEREAS**, it is the sense of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures
16 that the development of the economies of our Region is of paramount importance to

1 our mutual goals of economic development and that the taxing of the transshipment of
2 fuels through Guam to the islands of Micronesia would definitely have a profound
3 negative impact on the economies of our islands; and

4 **WHEREAS**, it is the further sense of the Association of Pacific Island
5 Legislatures that the enactment of Bill No. 257-34 into law would have a profound
6 financial impact by raising costs in areas of transportation, utilities, business,
7 contributing to higher cost of living for our peoples; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the passage of such legislation is inconsistent with the
9 Association of Pacific Island Legislatures core mission to promote regional
10 cooperation and to support actions that would improve the economic and social
11 livelihood of our people; and

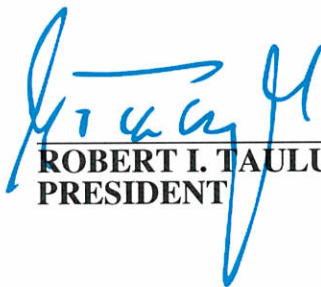
12 **WHEREAS**, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures supports the
13 position of the Micronesian Chief Executives as expressed in their letter to Speaker
14 B.J. Cruz of the Guam Legislature that when faced with obstacles, we strive to work
15 together with the goal of reaching a solution that is beneficial, or not harmful, to any
16 of our jurisdictions and as such, if this bill were to pass, the negative effects would be
17 detrimental; now, therefore,

18 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 37th
19 General Assembly, FSM State of Pohnpei, June 26-29, 2018, that the APIL strongly
20 opposes the intent of Bill No. 257-34 and hereby respectfully requests the Guam
21 Legislature not to enact the bill; and

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that all members of the Association of
23 Pacific Island Legislatures are urged to pass resolutions opposing the passage of
24 Guam Legislature Bill No. 257-34; and

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- 1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify and the
2 APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same shall be
3 thereafter transmitted to the Speaker of the Guam Legislature and to the Chief
4 Executives and Presiding Legislative Officers of the member jurisdictions of the
5 Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

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


ROBERT I. TAULUNG
PRESIDENT


NELSON SEPTEHN
SECRETARY

