



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. 38-GA-06

“Relative to reaffirming its support and continuing to endorse the conservation goals of the Micronesia Challenge and calling on all Members to support these commitments to the greatest extent practical.”

1 **WHEREAS**, the people of Micronesia are stewards for 2,150 islands and 6.7 million
2 square kilometers of ocean; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Micronesia itself is home to 66 threatened species and at least 64 Key
4 Biodiversity Areas; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Micronesia contains 10% of the earth's total reef area, with more than 480
6 coral species (58% of total recorded corals), and over 1,300 species of fish; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the region is home to over 1,400 plant species, 200 of which are endemic
8 and 85 species of birds, nearly half of which are endemic; and

9 **WHEREAS**, threats to the phenomenally rich biodiversity of the region include a
10 growing population, rapid economic development, over-harvesting of fish and wildlife,
11 inadequate waste disposal, widespread land conversion, invasive species, and climate change;
12 and

13 **WHEREAS**, these resources must be shared and sustained to support the livelihoods of
14 over 650,000 people; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the "Micronesia Challenge" was launched by the leaders of the Republic of
16 Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Island of
17 Guam, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands at the Eighth Conference of the
18 Convention on Biological Diversity in March 2006, recognizing both the serious threats
19 degrading the marine and terrestrial environments upon which the future economic, cultural and
20 political health of these islands depend, and the tremendous opportunities to work together to
21 address the environmental and sustainable development issues confronting this region; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the commitment of the Micronesian region to conservation includes the
2 sustainability of the region's unique biodiversity, ensuring a healthy future for the people of
3 Micronesia and the protection of our unique island cultures; and

4 **WHEREAS**, this lasting covenant requires that we safeguard our pristine island
5 environments and defend the ability of every person willing to work for it to earn a living from
6 the ocean or on our lands; and

7 **WHEREAS**, by 2020, the leaders of the Micronesia Challenge will have made the
8 visionary commitment to effectively conserve 30 percent of near-shore marine resources and 20
9 percent of terrestrial resources; and

10 **WHEREAS**, after these goals have been realized, the Micronesia Challenge will
11 continue to fight to protect the phenomenally rich biodiversity found in Micronesia; now,
12 therefore,

13 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 38th General
14 Assembly, Republic of the Marshall Islands, July 23 -26, 2019, that the Association of Pacific
15 Island Legislatures hereby reaffirms its support and continually endorses the commitments of the
16 "Micronesia Challenge" and calls on all Member Jurisdictions to further the goals of these
17 commitments to the greatest extent practical; and

18 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify, and the APIL
19 Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall be transmitted to
20 the President of the Micronesian Challenge and to the Chief Executive and the Legislative
21 Presiding Officers of each Member Jurisdiction of the Association of the Pacific Island
22 Legislatures.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 26TH DAY OF JULY, 2019.


NELSON STEPHEN
ACTING PRESIDENT


IVAN A. BLANCO
SECRETARY

