



**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

Resolution No. 38-GA-16

“Encouraging all APIL Member Jurisdictions to join together in an effort to advocate through various meaningful and effective dialogs, well researched, factually founded and truly safe solutions to the continuing dangers facing the Marshallese people and the peoples of the downwind islands of the APIL Pacific, which dangers have been brought about by the dramatic under-estimation of the radiation levels caused by the testing of nuclear bombs conducted by the United States and the defective storage of nuclear wastes in the atolls and islands of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.”

1 **WHEREAS**, sixty-seven nuclear tests were conducted on two atolls in the Northern
2 Marshall Islands between 1946 and 1958, involving Enewetak and Bikini Atolls; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the first-ever hydrogen bomb test, with the code name “Ivy Mike”, was
4 tested on Enewetak in 1951; and

5 **WHEREAS**, in 1954 the U.S. conducted its largest hydrogen bomb test on Bikini Atoll -
6 labeled “Castle Bravo” which was more than 1,000 times more powerful than “Little Boy”, the
7 uranium weapon that decimated Hiroshima; and

8 **WHEREAS**, in 2016, a team of researchers from Columbia University in New York
9 published a study in the journal “Proceedings of the National Academy of Services” (PNAS) on
10 the background gamma radiation in three of the northern Marshall atolls: Enewetak (Enjebi
11 Island), Bikini and Rongelap (Naen Island); and

12 **WHEREAS**, the Columbia University study found that the actual background gamma
13 radiation levels on Bikini were significantly higher than previously reported; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the islands of Runit and Enjebi in Enewetak Atoll, as well as on Bikini
15 Atoll and the Naen Island, Rongelap Atoll had high concentrations of certain radioactive isotopes
16 in the soil, and in comparison with more recent nuclear catastrophes, these four islands had
17 radioactive plutonium levels that were higher even than those found in Fukushima and
18 Chernobyl; and

1 **WHEREAS**, accordingly, Naen Island of Rongelap Atoll contained higher radioactive
2 isotopes in the soil resulting to higher contamination than the Enewetak Atoll and Bikini and
3 was used as a nuclear dumping ground; and

4 **WHEREAS**, in the late 1970s, in an effort to clean up the radioactive debris left by the
5 nuclear tests and explosions, the United States Government dug up 111,000 cubic yards of
6 contaminated soils from the Bikini and Rongelap atolls and deposited those contaminated soils
7 on Runit Island where their dumping place would be in a 350-foot wide crater that had been
8 created two decades earlier by an 18-kiloton nuclear test code-named “Cactus”, later to be
9 labeled the “Runit Dome”; and

10 **WHEREAS**, today, there are growing concerns that the temporary containment of the
11 nuclear waste resulting from those tests in the poorly designed and constructed Runit Dome is
12 leaking into the Pacific Ocean and could be cracked wide open by the next storm that rolls
13 through the Marshall Islands; now, therefore,

14 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of the Pacific Islands Legislatures, 38th General
15 Assembly, Republic of the Marshall Islands, July 23-26, 2019, that this Association hereby
16 encourages all APIL Member Jurisdictions to join together in an effort to advocate through
17 various meaningful and effective dialogs, a well researched, factually founded and truly safe
18 solution to the continuing dangers facing the Marshallese people and the peoples of the
19 downwind islands of the APIL Pacific that have been brought about by, or are the result of,
20 serious underestimates of radiation exposure surrounding the numerous American tests of ever
21 larger nuclear bomb explosions over the lands and waters of the Marshall Islands; and

22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Association hereby encourages all APIL
23 Member Jurisdictions to also join together in an effort to advocate through various meaningful
24 and effective dialogs with the United States Government, a well researched, factually founded
25 and truly safe solution to the real and present dangers facing the Marshallese people and the
26 peoples of the downwind islands of the APIL Pacific that are probably being brought to the
27 surface and leaking down into the sea of saturated subsoils of Runit Island brought about by the
28 presence of the poorly engineered and constructed, likely cracking, nuclear hazardous Runit
29 Dome; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that APIL President shall certify and the APIL
2 Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall be transmitted to
3 Chief Executive and the Presiding Legislative Officers of each Member Jurisdiction of the
4 Association of the Pacific Island Legislatures for the perusal of our respective government
5 branches and sharing with the CEO's of entities respectively charged with the subject matter.

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



NELSON STEPHEN
ACTING PRESIDENT



IVAN A. BLANCO
SECRETARY

