



**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. 39-GA-03

“Calling upon United Airlines to work in cooperation with the governments of the APIL Pacific to reduce its air fare rates to, from and between destinations in the APIL Pacific to more realistically and more competitively price our Micronesian destinations with the costs charged by United Airlines for flights to destinations within the United States and around the world.”

1 **WHEREAS**, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, (APIL), is a
2 permanent organization composed of the elected representatives of the peoples from
3 throughout the central region of the Pacific Ocean, stretching from the islands of
4 Hawaii and American Samoa in the east to the islands of Palau, Guam and the
5 Northern Mariana Islands in the west and including the island groupings in between;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, the continuing mission of the APIL is to provide a forum for
8 the formalization of legislative policies and for the discussion of topics of mutual
9 concern between and among our island legislatures; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the existence of an affordable air transportation system to, from
11 and between the islands of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures has always
12 been one of the highest priorities of this Association and its member governments;
13 and

14 **WHEREAS**, with the advent of the pioneering efforts of Continental
15 Airlines and its regional corporate partner Air Micronesia in 1968 to commence air
16 services to our region of the world, the governments of the region have been very
17 supportive of the airline industry, as it not only carried the promise of economic
18 development through the introduction of tourism to our region, it also provided a

1 vital link between us islanders and the greater world, especially in times when we
2 have been in need of emergency medical referrals; and

3 **WHEREAS**, during our formative years, the island governments of
4 Micronesia worked hand-in-hand with Continental Airlines to build the region's
5 first commercial airports and to construct Micronesia's first modern hotels, while at
6 the same time, Continental Airlines was playing a premier role in tour development
7 in the region by arranging for special discounted Visit Micronesia airfares and
8 engaging in other tourism promotional endeavors; and

9 **WHEREAS**, as the airline industry matured in Micronesia, the partnership
10 between Continental Airlines and the regional governments took on a new role as
11 our governments began actively supporting the airline's strategies and efforts to
12 utilize its flights into our islands as an essential bargaining tool to expand its U.S.
13 based domestic services into Japan, the Philippines, China and other Asian-Pacific
14 destinations; and

15 **WHEREAS**, in turn, pilots and crews of Continental-Air Micronesia
16 exhibited an exceptional understanding of the importance of the role of airline
17 transportation for the safety and welfare of our island communities during these
18 challenging years by continuing to man flights into our islands despite the personnel
19 strikes and bankruptcy problems that were plaguing the airline on the airline's
20 domestic routes; and

21 **WHEREAS**, a decade ago, Continental Airlines joined with United Airlines
22 to form United Continental Holdings, thereby creating the largest globally
23 positioned airline in the world based upon the total number of passenger miles flown
24 and the destinations serviced; and

25 **WHEREAS**, while the insignia of its passenger planes and its advertising
26 campaigns have been modified to emphasize the United Airlines logo, the endeavors
27 of the new joint venture have reflected the spirit and enthusiasm of the pioneering

1 efforts of the original Continental Airlines in the development and servicing of
2 Micronesian destinations over a half a century ago; and

3 **WHEREAS**, as recently as December of 2019, the Board of Directors of
4 the APIL adopted Resolution No. 60-BOD-05, expressing sincere appreciation to
5 the United Airlines for their service in the APIL region, providing for the air
6 transportation of people and cargo to, from and between the island destinations of
7 our member jurisdictions; and

8 **WHEREAS**, in that resolution, the APIL welcomed the opportunity to
9 further collaborate with the United Airlines to further improve transportation within
10 the islands; but, unfortunately,

11 **WHEREAS**, it was not long after this resolution of appreciation was adopted
12 by the APIL that the entire region of the APIL Pacific was hit by the devastating
13 perils of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

14 **WHEREAS**, since the welfare of our people and the sustenance of our island
15 economies are so dependent on consistent and reliable air services, the adverse
16 effects of the COVID pandemic on air travel within the region have proven to be
17 especially challenging for the APIL member jurisdictions; yet, fortunately,

18 **WHEREAS**, in addressing these challenges, the APIL is especially thankful
19 to United Airlines which sought to the best of its abilities to continue to provide
20 desperately needed air services to the region throughout the worst times of the
21 pandemic, working closely with island leaders to keep individual island populations
22 as protected from the spread of this virus as possible; however,

23 **WHEREAS**, with the diminishment of the dangers of the COVID pandemic
24 to air travel came a new obstacle to the restoration of viable air service to, from and
25 among the island destinations of Micronesia, this time caused by the unsettling
26 decisions of the airline itself; and

1 **WHEREAS**, for that we are referring to the highly priced airfares
2 promulgated by United Airlines for travel to, from and between the islands of
3 Micronesia; and

4 **WHEREAS**, as an example, the cost of the purchase of an airline ticket on
5 United Airlines from Honolulu, Hawaii to Pohnpei, Micronesia, the site of this, the
6 39th General Assembly of the APIL, is twice and on some days as much as three
7 times the cost of a roundtrip ticket between Honolulu and the U.S. Capitol in
8 Washington D.C. even though the trip to Washington D.C. is over 1,700 miles
9 longer; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the cost of the purchase of an airline ticket on United Airlines
11 from either Guam, USA or Koror, Palau to Pohnpei, Micronesia is only about \$500
12 less than the cost of a trip between either of these destinations and Washington D.C.
13 even though the trips to Washington D.C. are many times the distance between
14 either of these two islands and Pohnpei, Micronesia; and

15 **WHEREAS**, even more disturbing is the quotation provided by the United
16 Airlines' web site that a roundtrip ticket from Majuro to its neighboring Island of
17 Pohnpei is \$200 more than a ticket from Honolulu all the way to Washington D.C.
18 even though the distance between these two Pacific islands is only 896 miles; and

19 **WHEREAS**, it is the sense of the delegates to the General Assembly of the
20 Association of Pacific Island Legislatures that while United Airlines has been
21 serving a very vital function in promoting the economic development of our islands
22 and securing the health and welfare of our people, recent internal decisions of the
23 airline to impose significantly higher airfares for flights to, from and between the
24 islands of the APIL are seriously jeopardizing the amazing accomplishments that
25 the airline industry has been providing to our people over the last fifty years; now,
26 therefore,

1 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 39th
2 General Assembly, FSM State of Pohnpei, October 12-14, 2022, that this Assembly
3 hereby calls upon United Airlines to work in cooperation with the governments of
4 the APIL Pacific to reduce its air fare rates to, from and between destinations in the
5 APIL Pacific to more realistically and more competitively price our Micronesian
6 destinations with the costs charged by United Airline for flights to destinations
7 within the United States and around the world; and

8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify and
9 the APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same
10 shall be transmitted to the President of United Continental Holdings, to the
11 Regional Manager for United Airlines for Micronesia, to the Chief Executive
12 Officer of the Pacific Asia Travel Association, and to the Chief Executive and
13 Presiding Legislative Officers of each member jurisdiction of the Association of
14 Pacific Island Legislatures.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 13TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2022.



SHELTEN G. NETH
PRESIDENT



VINNIE V. F. SABLAN
SECRETARY

