



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-04

“To respectfully encourage APIL member entities to establish a Broadband Task Force to explore broadband equity for the underserved and unserved communities of the Blue Continent.”

1 **WHEREAS**, technological advances greatly influence and impact broadband
2 access critical to the modern day participation for societies worldwide; and

3 **WHEREAS**, despite the advancement in technology, there lies a significant
4 limitation imposed in underserved or unserved communities. The detrimental impacts on
5 a growing society in this modern world indicates a need to take action for digital equity
6 across all communities by ensuring access to internet connectivity is established; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the unforeseen impact of the COVID-19 pandemic has greatly shifted
8 the norm of modern day activities, resulting in an increased dependence to connect
9 remotely for the purposes of obtaining an education, building careers, social interaction,
10 and access to health care; and

11 **WHEREAS**, reliance on telehealth services and providers have increased
12 tremendously in recent years through the use of digital information and communication
13 technologies to provide access to and offer preventative healthcare services and manage an
14 individual’s health remotely; and

15 **WHEREAS**, many island governments work tirelessly to provide reasonable
16 healthcare services to the communities they serve through the resources readily available.
17 However, by building broadband capacity, underserved and unserved communities will
18 have the ability to deliver an array of adequate healthcare services and management, to
19 include tele-dentistry, counseling, and mental health services, through the support of
20 wireless connectivity; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the costs of telecommunications and broadband services are a
2 significant burden for nearly all hospitals and health care facilities in the region, which are
3 increasingly forced to choose between modern levels of connectivity and other expenses
4 directly related to caring for patients, maintaining facilities, and nurturing staff; and

5 **WHEREAS**, through the unified position of the APIL member entities to establish
6 a Broadband Task Force for the Blue Continent, island governments will have the ability
7 to explore and access available financial resources to assess current capacity of each
8 respective island government, identify resources to build fiber capacity, and formulate a
9 master plan to address the need for broadband infrastructure throughout the region; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the U.S. Treasury Department has identified a substantial amount in
11 funding for the purpose of broadband grants to expand access to internet services, digital
12 connectivity tools, and broadband infrastructure for the US Virgin Islands, Guam,
13 American Samoa, the Northern Mariana Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, the
14 Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau; and

15 **WHEREAS**, through the joint commitment of the Association of Pacific Island
16 Legislatures, it is incumbent upon each island government to identify its respective needs
17 to build broadband capacity for the development and enhancement of internet connectivity
18 for access to education, career development, social interaction, and health care services and
19 management; now, therefore,

20 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 39th
21 General Assembly, FSM State of Pohnpei, October 12-14, 2022, that this Assembly
22 calls upon its member entities to collaboratively work together to establish a Broadband
23 Task Force to explore broadband equity for the underserved and unserved communities of
24 the Blue Continent; and

- 1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify and
2 the APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same
3 shall be transmitted to the Chief Executive and Presiding Legislative Officers of each
4 member jurisdiction of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

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



SHELTON G. NETH
PRESIDENT



VINNIE V. F. SABLON
SECRETARY

