



# 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-12

**“Requesting contributions by the APIL jurisdictions to the Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge Scholarship Endowment Fund.”**

1       **WHEREAS**, the establishment of the Bill Raynor Micronesia  
2 Challenge (BRMC) Scholarship Fund was inspired by the work of one of  
3 Micronesia’s conservation pioneers, William (Bill) Charles Raynor (Feb. 22,  
4 1957-Sept. 1, 2015), former Director of The Nature Conservancy’s  
5 Micronesia Program; and

6       **WHEREAS**, the Scholarship Fund aims to contribute to the  
7 development of effective conservation of Micronesia’s biodiversity and the  
8 promotion of sustainable livelihoods across the region; and

9       **WHEREAS**, this scholarship program provides an opportunity for  
10 individuals from Micronesia to undertake either a Master’s or Doctorate  
11 degree in any resource management/conservation field at various institutions  
12 within the Pacific Region, including universities in Guam, the US, Hawaii,  
13 Fiji, Japan, New Zealand and Australia; and

14       **WHEREAS**, the selected scholars focus on leadership and technical  
15 skills and/or majors that enhance their ability to carry out work in  
16 conservation, climate adaptation and sustainable development in Micronesia;  
17 and

1       **WHEREAS**, the Micronesia Conservation Trust (MCT) launched the  
2 Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge Scholarship Program, supported by an  
3 endowment fund, in 2017; and

4       **WHEREAS**, MCT and partners of the Micronesia Challenge are fully  
5 committed to supporting young Micronesians to pursue graduate degrees  
6 under the BRMC and to return home to work after they graduate as a way to  
7 give back to their home islands; and

8       **WHEREAS**, since its inception, the BRMC Scholarship Program has  
9 supported twenty-one talented young Micronesians through their graduate  
10 studies; and

11       **WHEREAS**, of these twenty-one scholars, fifteen have graduated and  
12 six are continuing with their studies; and

13       **WHEREAS**, twelve of the graduates are currently in Micronesia  
14 leading important work in agencies and organizations supporting the goals  
15 and targets of the Micronesia Challenge; and

16       **WHEREAS**, the Micronesia Conservation Trust has received a  
17 “Challenge Grant” award, whereby a U.S. based donor will contribute  
18 US\$200,000 to the BRMC Scholarship Endowment Fund upon demonstration  
19 of US\$100,000 in contributions raised in Micronesia; and


20       **WHEREAS**, MCT and partners have begun fundraising efforts to meet  
21 this challenge and to reach the endowment goal of \$1.2M; now, therefore,


22       **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific  
23 Island Legislatures, 39<sup>th</sup> General Assembly, FSM State of Pohnpei, October  
24 12-14, 2022, that this Assembly hereby fully endorses and supports the  
25 aims and purposes of the Bill Raynor Micronesia Challenge Scholarship  
26 Program and of its graduates, and current and future scholars; and

1           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that this Assembly hereby calls  
2 upon the APIL Member Governments to commit to making contributions to  
3 the BRMC Scholarship Endowment Fund, toward the achievement of the  
4 terms of the “Challenge Grant” of \$100,000 to bring the additional \$200,000  
5 and, ultimately, towards the achievement of the targets, endorsed by this  
6 Assembly and the Micronesia Challenge; and

7           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify  
8 and the APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of  
9 the same shall be transmitted to the Executive Director of the Micronesia  
10 Conservation Trust and to the Chief Executive and Presiding Legislative  
11 Officers of each member jurisdiction of the Association of Pacific Island  
12 Legislatures.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 13<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2022.**

  
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**SHELTEN G. NETH**  
**PRESIDENT**

  
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**VINNIE V. F. SABLAN**  
**SECRETARY**

