



# 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-15, CD1

**“To request support for and participation in invasive species management and eradication efforts in Micronesia.”**

1           **WHEREAS**, during the Micronesia Islands Forum, held in Chuuk State, in  
2   2019, regional island leaders requested that the countries and territories of  
3   Micronesia provide adequate resources for, and emphasis on, invasive species  
4   management; and

5           **WHEREAS**, an invasive species is defined as an introduced (alien) species  
6   whose introduction does or is likely to cause economic or environmental harm or  
7   harm to animals and human health; and

8           **WHEREAS**, invasive species spread in many ways from one location to  
9   another, by deliberate introduction as ornamentals or accidentally by such means  
10   as contaminated seeds, in soil, sand or aggregates, on animal fur, in water, or by  
11   animals (birds, rats, goats) feeding on weed seed; and

12           **WHEREAS**, three methods of managing invasive species include:  
13   prevention, eradication and control, with prevention considered paramount and the  
14   least costly method; and

15           **WHEREAS**, managing invasive terrestrial species is more achievable on  
16   islands due to the confined areas and limited points of entry; and

17           **WHEREAS**, multiple terrestrial invasive species have been introduced,  
18   have been detected, and are spreading in Palau, Guam, CNMI, FSM and RMI at an  
19   alarming rate; and

1           **WHEREAS**, quarantine services and management efforts for all of the  
2 jurisdictions of Micronesia require considerable technical and financial resources  
3 to ensure management success; and

4           **WHEREAS**, the Regional Invasive Species Council (RISC) was  
5 formulated in 2006 to communicate and report to the Micronesia Islands Forum on  
6 Invasive Species on important matters and issues; and

7           **WHEREAS**, all the Micronesian countries and territories have established  
8 at least one local invasive species group or designated expert within the relevant  
9 government agency, including: (1) the Palau Invasive Species Task Force rests  
10 within the Department of Forestry, (2) the FSM groups include the Invasive  
11 Species Taskforce of Pohnpei, the Kosrae Invasive Species Taskforce, the Chuuk  
12 Invasive Species Taskforce, and the Yap Invasive Species Taskforce, (3) Guam  
13 invasive species issues are managed by Department of Agriculture and Forestry,  
14 (4) CNMI invasive species issues are under Department of Forestry, (5) while in  
15 the RMI invasive species issues are under purview of the Ministry of Natural  
16 Resources; and

17           **WHEREAS**, of urgent, immediate concern are, *Boiga irregularis*, or the  
18 brown tree snake, *Wasmannia auropunctat*, or little fire ant, and *Oryctes*  
19 *rhinoceros*, or coconut rhinoceros beetle, and *Passer montan*; and

20           **WHEREAS**, the coconut rhinoceros beetle, first documented as an invasive  
21 species in Guam in 2007, has devastated the island's once ubiquitous coconut trees  
22 and is now burrowing into Guam's endangered native cycad tree, *Cycas*  
23 *micronesica*, causing economic damage and threatening food security, and has now  
24 also established itself in Palau and on the island of Rota; and

25           **WHEREAS**, the little fire ant has been detected in Guam and Yap, causing  
26 severe ecological damage, most notably displacing native bird populations from  
27 their natural habitats and negatively impacting farming and food security; and

1           **WHEREAS**, the brown tree snake was first sighted on the island of Guam  
2 in the 1950s, probably after stowing away on cargo ships coming from New  
3 Guinea, and then was recognized by the Government of Guam and is now  
4 recognized as one of the most serious ecological issues faced by the Territory due  
5 the precipitous decline of native bird populations caused by the brown tree snake;  
6 and

7           **WHEREAS**, invasive species cause economic as well as ecological damage  
8 to Micronesian islands; and

9           **WHEREAS**, the millions of dollars lost in Guam, due to the cost of  
10 managing, controlling and eradicating the species along with damage done to the  
11 infrastructure, and power outages being prime examples of the economic costs; and

12           **WHEREAS**, all of the Micronesian jurisdictions have activities currently  
13 underway to manage, control or eradicate at least one of these invasive introduced  
14 species, per jurisdiction with limited resources; and

15           **WHEREAS**, some of the species being managed are nearing full  
16 eradication; and

17           **WHEREAS**, management, control and or eradication of invasive species is  
18 an ever-continuing process until sound management, sound control plans and full  
19 eradication are achieved; now, therefore,

20           **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 39<sup>th</sup>  
21 General Assembly, FSM State of Pohnpei, October 12-14, 2022, that this  
22 Assembly hereby fully endorses and supports the invasive species management,  
23 control and eradication work in all of Micronesia; and

24           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL member countries and  
25 territories are respectfully requested to cooperate and work diligently to stop the  
26 spread of the little fire ant, coconut rhinoceros beetle, and brown tree snake to  
27 neighboring islands and jurisdictions; and

1            **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL Member Governments are  
2 respectfully requested to commit to making contributions to or otherwise support  
3 the RISC and other Invasive species groups and their work in all the Micronesia  
4 countries and territories and, ultimately, towards the achievement of the targets as  
5 set forth by the Micronesia Challenge and endorsed by this Assembly; and

6            **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify and  
7 the APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same  
8 shall be thereafter transmitted to the Office of the Regional Invasive Species  
9 Council (RISC) and to the Chief Executives and the Legislative Presiding Officers  
10 of each member jurisdiction of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

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



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



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

