



**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. 40-GA-13

“Voicing the strong resolve of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures to combat the invasion of the coconut rhinoceros beetle and requesting the legislative and parliamentary assemblies of all of the APIL jurisdictions to join together in forming an intergovernmental approach and regional program to once and for all eradicate this destructive invader from the natural environments of our islands.”

1 **WHEREAS**, on October 2, 2023, following a finding that the coconut
2 rhinoceros beetle is an invasive pest and that neighboring Pacific Island countries,
3 territories and states, such as Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon Islands,
4 Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Fiji, Samoa, Hawaii, Guam and the Northern Marianas,
5 have been battling the spread of the destructive beetle for years, the President of
6 the Republic of the Marshall Islands declared a State of Emergency; and

7 **WHEREAS**, this National State of Emergency calls upon all Government
8 Ministries, Departments, Agencies, Private Sector and Stakeholders of the
9 Republic of the Marshall Islands to work in unison, to plan and coordinate a
10 national preparedness and immediate response plan through the National Disaster
11 Committee along with the Ministry of Natural Resources and Commerce as the
12 technical advisor, with reference to the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle Emergency
13 Response Plan; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the Declaration of the State of Emergency then goes on to
15 lay out a decisive course of action to be taken within the Republic of the Marshall
16 Islands to combat and then to eradicate this menace to its coconut industry which
17 constitutes one of the basic pillars of the nation’s cultural roots and its modern
18 economy; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the members of the Association of Pacific Island
20 Legislatures share in the concerns of the Marshall Islands President and join in
21 the RMI Government’s resolve to combat, through decisive action, this

1 destructive pest that has been invading all of our island environments; now,
2 therefore,

3 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures,
4 40th General Assembly, October 18-20, 2023, that this Association hereby voices
5 our strong resolve to combat the invasion of the coconut rhinoceros beetle within
6 the APIL Pacific and requests the legislative and parliamentary assemblies of all
7 of our APIL jurisdictions to join together in forming an inter-governmental
8 approach and regional program to once and for all eradicate this destructive
9 invader from the natural environments of our islands; and

10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that APIL President shall certify and the
11 APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same
12 shall be thereafter transmitted to the Chief Executive and Legislative Presiding
13 Officers of each member jurisdiction of the APIL and to the managing officers of
14 the customs, environmental protection and other concerned agencies of the APIL
15 member governments.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 19TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023.



NELSON STEPHEN
PRESIDENT



TESSIE ERIA LAMBOURNE
SECRETARY

