



# 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-14

**“Expressing support for the passage of the “Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2023” through U.S. Senate S. 1751 and United States House H.R. 4426 introduced during the 118<sup>th</sup> Congress or through passage by amendment through the National Defense Authorization Act of 2024.”**

1       **WHEREAS**, on May 18, 2023, U.S. Senate Bill S. 1751, cited as the  
2       *“Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2023”*, was introduced by  
3       New Mexico Senator Ben Ray Luján with the co-sponsorship of sixteen other  
4       Senators thus far, and similarly on June 30, 2023, U.S. House of Representatives  
5       Bill H.R. 4426 was introduced by New Mexico Representative Teresa Leger  
6       Fernández with the co-sponsorship of Guam Delegate James C. Moylan and thirty-  
7       one other representatives thus far; and

8       **WHEREAS**, S. 1751 and H.R. 4426 would include Guam as  
9       “Downwinders” of U.S. Pacific test sites, increase RECA awards for  
10      “downwinders” from Fifty Thousand Dollars (\$50,000) to One Hundred Fifty  
11      Thousand Dollars (\$150,000); and expand coverage to other forms of cancer,  
12      leaving the claims period open for nineteen more years; and

13      **WHEREAS**, on July 27, 2023, S.2226, the National Defense Authorization  
14      Act of Fiscal Year 2024, was passed in the Senate which contained the RECA  
15      amendments that would include Guam as “downwinders”; and

1       **WHEREAS**, a similar amendment was included in H.R. 2670, the National  
2   Defense Act of Fiscal Year 2024, but is still awaiting action from the United  
3   States Congress; and

4       **WHEREAS**, ships present in the Marshall Islands during the radioactive  
5   testing were decontaminated on Guam, where runoff from the operation affected  
6   the marine life; and

7       **WHEREAS**, in the sworn testimony of retired U.S. Navy Lieutenant Charles  
8   Bert Schreiber on the fallout of the first hydrogen bomb test, the detonation of  
9   Operation Ivy's Mike, he states, "I was the Radiological Safety Officer for the  
10   Headquarters Command Guam. On or about November 3, 1952, I was making my  
11   monthly check sitting at the desk in that office that was about five (5) feet from the  
12   window screens that covered the wall all the way down to about a couple of inches  
13   from the floor. I took out the metal calibration rod (about as big as a normal soda  
14   straw and about six (6) inches long) stored in the instrument that has a small  
15   radioactive source on its end. I put the counter on the low setting (it has three (3);  
16   low, medium, and high) and was ready to place the rod near the detection windows  
17   (two (2) of them), but the dial needle was way over on the scale and the audible  
18   signal was clicking like mad, or almost a continuous sound; sounds like constant  
19   static on a radio. My original thought was that the counter was malfunctioning, but  
20   when I raised it up and put it nearer the screen window, the dial needle swung  
21   even further over and the sound increased still further. I then put it close to the  
22   screen near the floor and the needle went off the scale (as far as it could swing  
23   right). I knew it was not the counter, but that there was some radioactivity outside.  
24   I panicked. My first thought was that Guam had been subjected to some  
25   radioactive dust attack"; and

26       **WHEREAS**, Guam's local residents were never warned or informed by the  
27   U.S. Navy of an increase in radioactivity, and documents with this information  
28   were classified until 1994; now, therefore,

1        **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 40<sup>th</sup>  
2        General Assembly, FSM State of Chuuk, October 16-20, 2023, that this  
3        Assembly hereby fully expresses support for the passage of the “Radiation  
4        Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2023” through U.S. Senate S. 1751  
5        and United States House H.R. 4426 introduced during the 118th Congress or  
6        through passage by amendment through the National Defense Authorization Act  
7        of 2024; 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 thereafter transmitted to the President of the Senate of the U.S. Congress,  
11       to the Speaker of the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress, to the  
12       sponsors of “the Radiation Exposure Compensation Act Amendments of 2023” and  
13       the “National Defense Authorization Act of Fiscal Year 2024” and to the Chief  
14       Executive and Legislative Presiding Officers of each member jurisdiction of the  
15       APIL.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 19<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF OCTOBER, 2023.**



**NELSON STEPHEN**  
**PRESIDENT**



**TESSIE ERIA LAMBOURNE**  
**SECRETARY**

