



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. 41-GA-08

“Respectfully requesting the Micronesian Shipping Commission (MSC) and the Association of Terminal Operators Stevedoring and Shipping Companies of Micronesia (ATOSSCOM) to work closely with the sea transportation departments and agencies of the APIL member governments and with the trade-oriented entrepreneurs of the Micronesian region to research the feasibility and to develop programs taking advantage of the movement of empty shipping containers between the ports of Micronesia and to ports abroad in order to promote economic security.”

1 **WHEREAS**, since the inception of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures,
2 this organization has consistently sought to improve transportation services that are
3 necessary to move cargo and people by sea and by air to, from, and within the “Blue
4 Continent” of the APIL Pacific; and

5 **WHEREAS**, in the 17th General Assembly of the APIL, our membership adopted
6 Resolution No. 17-GA-21, requesting our Association’s Committee on Trade and
7 Commerce to research, evaluate, and recommend to the Association of Pacific Island
8 Legislatures a method for establishing a harmonized shipping system within the region;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, in the 39th Board of Directors meeting, our Board adopted Resolution
11 No. 39-BOD-05 advocating the formation of a Micronesian Shipping Commission, which
12 has now been established and is actively managing the movement of ships through the seas
13 of the APIL Pacific and supervising their calling at the sea ports of our island homes; and

14 **WHEREAS**, along with our efforts to develop and improve upon the movement of
15 ships and cargos to, from, and within the APIL jurisdictions, our Association has also been
16 instrumental in promoting the research and development of standards for exportable
17 products through the formation of Pacific Island trade associations to establish uniform
18 standards for exportable products in order to promote the export businesses of our islands;
19 and

1 **WHEREAS**, in the 62nd Board meeting of the APIL, which convened in the FSM
2 State of Kosrae on April 5 and 6, 2023, our Board of Directors adopted APIL Resolution
3 No. 62-BOD-08, requesting the member entities of the Association of Pacific Island
4 Legislatures to explore the feasibility of the member entities engaging in open free trade of
5 agricultural and marine produce among and within the APIL membership; and

6 **WHEREAS**, it is the sense of this General Assembly of the Association of Pacific
7 Island Legislatures that in order for the intent of APIL Resolution No. 62-BOD-08 and
8 former resolutions adopted by our Association to become a reality, we must first identify
9 the shipping challenges and thereafter take advantage of the shipping opportunities that are
10 present in the APIL Pacific; and

11 **WHEREAS**, it should be noted that due to our heavy reliance on the importation of
12 commercial items in the present business environment of our island communities, many
13 sea containers that bring these imported items to our islands are cycled out of our region
14 of the Pacific without any contents at all, *i.e.* they leave our ports empty of any products or
15 commodities; and

16 **WHEREAS**, it is the further sense of the APIL that the prevalence of empty cargo
17 containers being cycled on the ships and through the ports of the APIL Pacific presents us
18 with a unique opportunity to utilize this sea transportation challenge to effectively promote
19 the exchange of APIL agricultural and marine commodities and locally produced products
20 between our island destinations and to export these internationally consumed commodities
21 and uniquely branded Micronesian products to destinations abroad; now, therefore,

22 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 41st General
23 Assembly, Republic of Palau, August 12-13, 2024, that members of the Association of
24 Pacific Island Legislatures hereby respectfully request that the Micronesian Shipping
25 Commission (MSC) and the Association of Terminal Operators Stevedoring and Shipping
26 Companies of Micronesia (ATOSSCOM) work closely with the sea transportation
27 departments and agencies of the APIL member governments and with the trade oriented
28 entrepreneurs of the Micronesian region to research the feasibility and to develop programs
29 taking advantage of the movement of empty shipping containers between the ports of
30 Micronesia and to ports abroad in order to promote the trade of Micronesian commodities

1 and products among our islands and to encourage the export of Micronesian commodities
2 and products to destinations abroad; and
3 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify and the APIL
4 Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same shall be transmitted
5 to the Micronesian Shipping Commission (MSC), to the Association of Terminal Operators
6 Stevedoring and Shipping Companies of Micronesia (ATOSSCOM), to the Chambers of
7 Commerce of the APIL member jurisdictions, and to the Chief Executives and Legislative
8 Presiding Officers of each member jurisdiction of the Association of the Pacific Island
9 Legislatures for the sharing thereof with the sea transport departments and agencies of the
10 member jurisdiction governments.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 13TH DAY OF AUGUST, 2024.


EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ
ACTING PRESIDENT


VICTOR BAMOG
ACTING SECRETARY

