



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. 42-GA-05

“Heightening concerns regarding the prevalence of invasive species in the CNMI, Guam, and our Micronesian region to the U.S. Department of War and requesting APIL to collaborate with the Department of War to address the invasive species concern in Micronesia.”

1 **WHEREAS**, invasive species are described as non-native to the island’s
2 ecosystem. It is critical to eradicate initial invasive species infestations before they spread
3 and cause harm. With its introduction, it can cause economic losses, environmental
4 hardship or harm to human health; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the CNMI continues to be threatened by invasive species which have
6 the potential to impact our natural environment, native species, and wipe out our entire
7 food crops, pets, livestock, culture, and the quality of life of our residents, as well as our
8 tourism industry; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the Invasive Species Program under the CNMI Department of Lands
10 and Natural Resources, has two active high-priority projects, the Mucuna Pruriens (velvet
11 beans) Eradication Project in Saipan and the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle (CRB) Detection,
12 Prevention, and Eradication Program in Rota. The rhino beetles are causing damage on
13 Rota, consuming palm trees — including coconuts — which are an important food source
14 for the island’s coconut crabs; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the CNMI Division of Customs & Biosecurity (DCB) is also stepping
16 up efforts to prevent invasive species from entering the CNMI and emphasizes the
17 importance of intercepting invasive species — especially those not yet present on the
18 islands — at ports of entry. Between August and September 2025, DCB inspectors have

1 intercepted two black widow spiders aboard vessels docked at the Port of Saipan and fire
2 ants in containers at the Ports of Saipan and Tinian; and

3 **WHEREAS**, these invasive species detections are very concerning and the CNMI
4 is taking serious precautions to ensure the CNMI remains free of invasive species by
5 rigorously inspecting all incoming shipments at every port of entry. Depending on the type,
6 invasive species can severely impact plants and the environment. Little fire ants can harm
7 native birds and even pose risks to infants and toddlers due to their swarming attacks.
8 Regarding black widow spiders is not present on any CNMI island and cannot be allowed
9 to establish a population; and

10 **WHEREAS**, in addition to the CNMI, our sister island of Guam has been battling
11 the infestation of invasive species. The brown tree snake caused the most extensive damage
12 so far to the island. The brown tree snake (*Boiga irregularis*) can reach lengths of 8 feet or
13 more and weigh up to 5 pounds. The snake was said to have hitchhiked across the ocean to
14 the island during the mid-20th century. The invasive snake caused the loss of native bird
15 species on island, such as the Mariana fruit dove, Guam flycatcher, Micronesian myzomela
16 and the rufous fantail; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Guam's invasive species also include, among others, (1) the coconut
18 rhinoceros beetle, which has been attacking coconut trees on Guam since 2007. The
19 invasive beetle has four life stages: egg, grub, pupa and adult. Only the adult stage causes
20 damage; (2) fire ants, which are considered the greatest invasive ant threat to the Pacific
21 region. The little fire ants spread from north to south through various means – from the
22 movement of green waste to the trading of plants; and (3) the Asian cycad scale has almost
23 decimated Guam's endemic cycad or fadang plant. With the introduction of the Asian
24 cycad scale, the number of fadang trees on island has dropped in just a few years; and

25 **WHEREAS**, invasive species exist throughout the Pacific region including the
26 Republic of Palau, which has aggressive plants like the climbing vine (*Merremia peltate*)

1 and the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), which has the *Mikania micrantha* in parts
2 of the FSM, as well as invasive species like the little brown tree snake, little fire ant, black
3 rats, and coconut rhinoceros beetle; and

4 **WHEREAS**, invasive species have significant ecological and social impacts
5 including, but not limited to, (1) biodiversity loss: invasive species can outcompete,
6 smother, or eat native species, leading to local extinctions. This is particularly devastating
7 on islands, which are often biodiversity hotspots; (2) habitat degradation: they can degrade
8 habitats by altering water quality, increasing fire risk, or changing the composition of plant
9 communities; (3) displacement of native species: Invasive animals can harm native
10 populations; (4) human health and well-being: invasive species can cause direct harm
11 through stings or bites and indirectly through the spread of diseases; and (5) threat to
12 livelihoods: impacts on agriculture, forestry, and fisheries can lead to significant income
13 loss for communities that rely on these industries; and

14 **WHEREAS**, in addition to fighting the negative ecological and social impacts
15 caused by the invasive species assaulting our island communities, the CNMI, Guam and
16 our sister islands in Micronesia have limited financial resources in attempt to eradicate the
17 existing invasive species in our islands and prevent the influx of more invasive species;
18 and

19 **WHEREAS**, additionally, with the substantial expansion and construction of the
20 United States Department of War forces and facilities in the Pacific region including the
21 CNMI, Guam, Palau, and other places in Micronesia, there is heightened concern about the
22 possible influx of more invasive species to our islands from the overflowing construction
23 materials shipped to our islands, which may be carrying invasive species; and

24 **WHEREAS**, APIL should collaborate with the U.S. Department of War to
25 establish an invasive species prevention and management plan to prevent more invasive
26 species entering our ports and destroying our island communities; now, therefore,


1 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 42nd
2 General Assembly on Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, October
3 28-29, 2025, that the members of the Association of the Pacific Island Legislatures, hereby
4 heightens the concerns regarding the prevalence of invasive species in the CNMI, Guam,
5 and our Micronesian region to the U.S. Department of War and requests APIL to
6 collaborate with the Department of War to address the invasive species concern in our
7 islands and Micronesia; and

8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify, and the APIL
9 Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall thereafter be
10 transmitted to Rear Admiral Brett Mietus, Commander of Joint Region Marianas and U.S.
11 Naval Forces Marianas; and to the Chief Executives and Presiding Legislative Officers of
12 each member jurisdiction of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 29TH DAY OF OCTOBER, 2025.



EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ
PRESIDENT



VICTOR BAMOG
SECRETARY

