



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-08

“To address the rising cost of fuel in the Pacific region, to request and advocate for the assistance of the U.S. Department of War in working with the United States Government to reevaluate fuel supply routes to the islands throughout the Blue Continent.”

1 **WHEREAS**, the islands of the Pacific, including the Commonwealth of the
2 Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) and the broader Blue Continent, continue to
3 experience high fuel costs that significantly impact the cost of living, transportation,
4 power generation, and economic development; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the majority of fuel currently supplied to Hawaii and the
6 surrounding Pacific islands originates from Singapore and other foreign markets,
7 resulting in higher shipping and logistical costs; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the Trump Administration and subsequent U.S. policies have
9 emphasized the importance of American energy independence by promoting
10 domestic drilling and encouraging U.S. states and territories to play a greater role in
11 supplying fuel to the nation and its associated territories; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the CNMI and other U.S.-affiliated islands occupy a vital and
13 strategic location in the Pacific region, hosting key defense, economic, and
14 transportation activities essential to U.S. national security and regional stability; and

15 **WHEREAS**, it is both timely and in the national interest that the U.S.
16 Department of War (DOW) collaborate with the Department of Energy (DOE), the
17 Department of Transportation (DOT), and other relevant federal agencies to explore
18 alternative, cost-effective, and secure fuel supply chains for the Pacific territories;
19 and

1 **WHEREAS**, currently faces logistical challenges due to the constraints of
2 the Merchant Marine Act of 1920, also known as the Jones Act, which requires that
3 goods transported between U.S. ports be carried on U.S.-built, U.S.-flagged vessels
4 crewed by U.S. citizens, thereby limiting competition and contributing to higher
5 shipping costs; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) consists
7 of the legislative members from the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
8 Islands, Guam, Republic of Palau, Republic of the Marshalls, Republic of Kiribati,
9 Republic of Nauru, the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM State of Chuuk, FSM
10 State of Kosrae, FSM State of Pohnpei, FSM State of Yap), American Samoa, and
11 Hawaii; and

12 **WHEREAS**, APIL represents the people in the Blue Continent stretching
13 through a region separated by vast expanse of the open ocean, but unite
14 collaboratively in partnerships to find solutions of fuel cost as they all share the
15 same experiences and struggles; now, therefore,

16 **BE IT RESOLVED**, that the Association of Pacific Island Legislature
17 hereby requests and strongly urges the U.S. Department of War to take a leadership
18 role in advocating for and assisting Pacific territories, in efforts to reevaluate the
19 current fuel supply system and to develop strategies that promote cost reduction,
20 reliability, and energy security; and

21 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Association of Pacific Island
22 Legislatures respectfully requests that the United States to consider exploring
23 statutory and regulatory relief measures that would allow for more competitive and
24 affordable fuel shipping options; and

25 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the APIL President shall certify, and
26 the APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that certified copies of
27 this Resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Secretary of
28 Defense, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Transportation, the CNMI
29 Delegate to the U.S. Congress, to the Honorable Governors of the U.S. Pacific

1 Territories, and to the leadership of the United States Senate and House of
2 Representatives, to the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
3 Islands and the Presiding Officers of the NMC Legislature, and to the Chief
4 Executives and Presiding Legislative Officers of each member jurisdiction of the
5 Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

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



EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ
PRESIDENT



VICTOR BAMOG
SECRETARY

