



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-10

“Respectfully requesting the Micronesian Shipping Commission to review its regulatory policies in order to ameliorate the shipping situation and lessen the high cost of ocean freight services to, from, and between the island ports of the APIL Pacific.”

1 **WHEREAS**, the Association of the Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) recognizes
2 the importance of ocean shipping services throughout the APIL Pacific as essential to the
3 reliable transport of goods and necessities to the businesses and peoples of our region; and

4 **WHEREAS**, this Association is cognizant of the fact that the Micronesian
5 Shipping Commission has been established and is responsible for the regulation and
6 licensing of commercial shipping operations and shipping routes within the seas of the
7 Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of
8 Palau; and

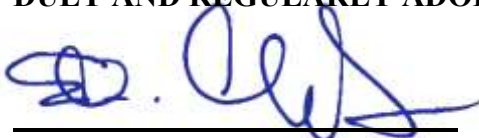
9 **WHEREAS**, it has come to the attention of the APIL that there is no current
10 westbound service from Pohnpei to Chuuk, Yap, Palau, or potential markets in Guam and
11 the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands without first transiting to Asia and
12 returning at significant cost and with extended transit times, which has contributed to limits
13 on regional trade and has hindered our jurisdictions’ ability to ship exports to those
14 markets; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the APIL is cognizant of the fact that Guam is governed by the Jones
16 Act, which requires the use of United States-flagged vessels for shipping from the United
17 States mainland, thereby increasing shipping costs dramatically, and because Guam serves
18 as the central hub for ocean freight in the region, those elevated costs are necessarily borne
19 by island jurisdictions throughout the APIL Pacific; now, therefore,


1 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 42nd
2 General Assembly, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, October 28-29, 2025,
3 that the members of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures hereby respectfully
4 request that the Micronesian Shipping Commission review its regulatory policies in order
5 to ameliorate the shipping situation and lessen the high cost of freight services to, from,
6 and between the island ports of the APIL Pacific; and

7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify, and the
8 APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same shall be
9 transmitted to the Chief Executive Officer of the Micronesian Shipping Commission and
10 to the Chief Executives and Presiding Legislative Officers of each member jurisdiction of
11 the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

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



EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ
PRESIDENT



VICTOR BAMOG
SECRETARY

