



# 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

Resolution No. 55-BOD-02, CD1

## A RESOLUTION

**“Expressing the support of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures to the newly formed Micronesian Council of Culture, Art and Tourism (MCCAT) and paying special tribute and recognition to this historic effort in encouraging and strengthening regional cooperation in promoting the welfare and advancement of tradition, culture, art and tourism among the people of the islands of Micronesia.”**

1       **WHEREAS**, it is the sense of the APIL to acknowledge and unequivocally support sub-regional  
2 efforts to encourage and strengthen cooperation among fellow Micronesians in promoting the welfare  
3 and advancement of culture, art and tourism among our people of common heritage; and

4       **WHEREAS**, Micronesia, with its four main archipelagos comprising approximately 2,100  
5 islands, constitutes a unique sub-region in its combination of breathtaking natural physical environment,  
6 its indigenous people and their vibrant island spirit, and its varied ethnic groups, cultures, religions and  
7 lifestyles dating back millennia; and

8       **WHEREAS**, these facets of beauty and regard are not only the basis for tourism but also for a  
9 friendly interchange of ideas, as well as commercial and social bonds within Micronesia; and

10       **WHEREAS**, as the Pacific region becomes increasingly competitive in the marketing of assets  
11 and attractions, and as Micronesia in turn develops its visitor industry, Micronesian cultures have come  
12 under threat from cultural influences from outside of the area, thereby presenting a clear and urgent need  
13 to preserve, protect and promote the sub-region’s traditional cultures and to develop its contemporary  
14 cultures; and

1       **WHEREAS**, Micronesian peoples, whose common heritage transcends political boundaries and  
2 differences, in turn must look to each other for support and assurance to maintain and promote their arts  
3 and cultures; and

4       **WHEREAS**, established with the enactment of Public Law 19-7 by Governor Joseph F. Ada on  
5 August 26, 1987, the Guam Micronesia Island Festival (GMIF) was created to form closer economic ties  
6 between Guam and its neighbors and to ensure success in tourism and commerce for all islands in  
7 Micronesia; and

8       **WHEREAS**, inaugurated in 1988, the GMIF began as a cultural and commercial event for the  
9 display of handicrafts, artisanal works and live performances, and the exhibition of manufactured goods,  
10 agricultural products and livestock from industrial and agricultural developers; twenty-seven (27) years  
11 later, the GMIF has since evolved into the annual signature cultural event of the Guam Visitors Bureau  
12 and the largest cultural event of the sub-region, showcasing Micronesia's carvers, blacksmiths, traditional  
13 fishing experts, jewelers, weavers, dancers, musicians and culinary masters; and

14       **WHEREAS**, despite regular annual participation of island states and governments of the  
15 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota; the Federated States of  
16 Micronesia States of Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk and Yap; the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and the  
17 Republic of Palau over the last quarter century (invitations to the Republic of Kiribati and the Republic  
18 of Nauru continue despite cognizance of the prohibitive cost of participation), delegation heads met  
19 formally for the first time in 2011 at the 24th GMIF and agreed to continue the exchange of information  
20 on cultural and art activities and events within jurisdictions; and

21       **WHEREAS**, in 2013 at the 26th GMIF, delegation representatives reached a consensus to  
22 organize a sub-regional council on culture, art and tourism to facilitate activities such as cultural  
23 exchanges of artifacts, information and personnel, and joint cultural workshops and seminars, in support  
24 of the GMIF, and tasked Guam to draft the resolution and foundation agreement; and




1       **WHEREAS**, the island states and governments of the Federated States of Micronesia States of  
2 Chuuk and Pohnpei; the U.S. Territory of Guam; the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and the Republic  
3 of Palau have, through their duly authorized representatives, met together in Guam for the 27th Guam  
4 Micronesian Island Fair on Saturday, April 26th in 2014, and made an agreement to form the  
5 Micronesian Council of Culture, Art and Tourism (MCCAT); the Commonwealth of the Northern  
6 Mariana Islands of Saipan, Tinian, and Rota at a later date had also joined this laudable inter-island  
7 partnership of commerce, conservation and culture; now, therefore,

8       **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, Fifty-fifth Board of  
9 Directors Meeting, State of Yap, December 3-5, 2014, that the Board of Directors of the Association of  
10 Pacific Island Legislatures, for and on behalf of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, hereby  
11 express its acknowledgement and support to the Micronesian Council of Culture, Arts and Tourism  
12 (MCCAT) following its momentous founding; and

13       **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the APIL President shall certify, and the APIL Secretary  
14 shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall thereafter be transmitted to the Chief  
15 Executives and Presiding Legislative Officers of each member jurisdiction of the Association of Pacific  
16 Island Legislatures.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 5<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF DECEMBER, 2014

  
JUDITH T. WON PAT, ED. D.  
ACTING PRESIDENT

  
CHANG B. WILLIAM  
SECRETARY

