



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-07

A RESOLUTION

“Requesting all participating delegates of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures to introduce and advocate for the passage of local legislation that would serve to protect and promote the most vulnerable members of our pacific island communities in order to promote their well-being.”

1 **WHEREAS**, the people of the Pacific value the importance of all of its members of its families
2 especially those who are most vulnerable to harm; these members include our children, youth, elderly and
3 persons with disabilities, and that the cultures of our Pacific island communities embrace and hold dearly
4 those who are often not able to care for themselves or be protected from emotional, physical and
5 financial abuse and exploitation; and

6 **WHEREAS**, there are rising numbers of victims of abuse, neglect, and exploitation in our
7 islands causing family turmoil, cultural disintegration, decreased participation in our socio-economic
8 growth while increasing our exposure to human trafficking; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the short and long term effects of maltreatment of our people result in
10 maladjustment, increased health care for physical and behavioral treatment, low productivity in education
11 and employment, disruption in normal human development processes and in poor familial relationships
12 affecting traditional roles and responsibilities in our societies; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Payu-ta, Incorporated is an organization of nonprofit community based entities that
14 work with Guam and regional nonprofits to advocate for higher standards of supportive services to our
15 people and the Micronesian Youth Services Network (MYSN) is comprised of youth and service
16 providers who are committed to improving the lives of our young people; and

17 **WHEREAS**, Payu-ta, Incorporated and MYSN are both sister organizations of APIL who stand
18 ready to provide consultation to our member legislators in its plans to address these grave social
19 problems in the most culturally appropriate urgently; and

BE IT RESOLVED that the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures recognizes that the continuance of this harm against the most vulnerable members of our communities is not consistent with our cultural values, adversely impacts our most precious resource – our human capital, and is detrimental to our socio-economic sustainability; and


BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED by the Directors of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures at the Fifty-Fifth Board of Directors Meeting in the FSM State of Yap, December 3-6, 2014 that APIL wholeheartedly endorses the passage of legislation in all of its member jurisdiction that will serve to protect and promote the most vulnerable members of our island communities who are most at risk of abuse and neglect and encourages its members to initiate at least one (1) forum, summit or conference in each respective jurisdiction with its community leaders to gauge the prevalence of these serious problems and to craft policies to prevent further incidences and that a report of the progress of these efforts be transmitted to the President of APIL and the office of the Secretariat no later than Ninety (90) days after which the Secretariat shall make a written report to the membership within thirty (30) days thereafter; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the sister organizations of APIL, the Micronesian Youth Services Network (MYSN) and Payu-ta, Inc. be included in the advisories and utilized as consults in the planning of the community dialogues and in the development of the resultant policies; and

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

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 5TH DAY OF DECEMBER, 2014


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


CHANG B. WILLIAM
SECRETARY

