



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

Resolution No. 58-BOD-03

“Endorsing and supporting the Digital Society Foundation’s submission to the Pacific Islands Forum Secretariat’s 2017 Regional Policy Consultations Program entitled “Connect the Blue Continent-Harnessing digital technologies for a sustainable and prosperous Pacific.”

1 **WHEREAS**, Pacific Island jurisdictions are at risk of following behind in the
2 digital age in social economic development; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the nature of our small populations over vast distances creates
4 unique challenges for our ability to harness digital technologies effectively; and

5 **WHEREAS**, operating in the modern social and economic system requires the
6 extensive use of digital technologies; and

7 **WHEREAS**, with the internet broadband services to commence in the Republic
8 of Palau this month and broadband services soon to be introduced in the FSM states of
9 Yap and Kosrae, digital infrastructure such as submarine fiber optic cables and national
10 networks is continuing to spread throughout the region, but digital literacy in the Pacific
11 is lagging behind all other regions; and

12 **WHEREAS**, education, health care, and other systems throughout the Pacific,
13 among others, are not yet effectively harnessing the value of digital technology; and

14 **WHEREAS**, APIL member jurisdictions have been strengthening their
15 understanding of these complex challenges facing the region through the joint initiative
16 “Connect the Blue Continent”; and

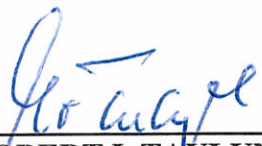
17 **WHEREAS**, APIL recognizes the value of the Digital Society Foundation’s
18 submission for all our member jurisdictions and endorses the call for (1) national master
19 planning for universal connectivity and affordability throughout the Pacific; (2) a vibrant
20 digital technologies industry across the Pacific; and (3) the establishment of a Pacific
21 Digital Adaptation Fund to enable Pacific Island jurisdictions to take an empowered and

1 self-determined pathway to digital age sustainability and prosperity throughout our
2 region; now, therefore,

3 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Association of Pacific
4 Island Legislatures, 58th Board Meeting, December 6–7, 2017, Republic of Palau, that the
5 Board of Directors on behalf of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures hereby
6 endorses and supports the Digital Society Foundation’s submission to the Pacific Islands
7 Forum Secretariat’s 2017 Regional Policy Consultations Program entitled “Connect the
8 Blue Continent-Harnessing digital technologies for a sustainable and prosperous Pacific”;
9 and

10 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify, and the
11 APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall be
12 thereafter transmitted to the Founder of the Digital Society Foundation; and to the Chief
13 Executives and Legislative Presiding Officers of the member jurisdictions of the
14 Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 7th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2017.



ROBERT I. TAULUNG
PRESIDENT



NELSON STEPHEN
SECRETARY

