



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-04

“Expressing support towards the efforts of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Government and the private sector in seeking Congressional relief through amendments to U.S. Public Law 110-229 in order to continue the upward growth of the Commonwealth’s economy and the economic growth of the Pacific region.”

1 **WHEREAS**, APIL has consistently supported regional efforts to advance economic
2 growth in the Pacific, and understands that growth within one area of the region has rippling
3 effects for all Pacific states; and

4 **WHEREAS**, U.S. Public Law 110-229 (PL 110-229) amended the CNMI Covenant to
5 establish federal control of the CNMI’s immigration system starting in 2009, to provide a
6 CNMI-only temporary work permit program for foreign workers (CW), and to reduce the
7 number of permits issued annually until the end of 2019; and

8 **WHEREAS**, in May 2017, the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO)
9 issued a report analyzing the effects of PL 110-229 on the CNMI; and

10 **WHEREAS**, Members of Congress requested the GAO to review the implementation
11 and impact of federal immigration laws in the CNMI with a focus on the potential economic
12 impact, if any, due to the complete reduction of CW workers and the federal and CNMI
13 governments’ efforts to address the CNMI’s labor force challenges; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the GAO concluded that if no CW workers were available to supplement
2 the workforce, the CNMI's GDP growth rate may be negatively affected by up to 62%, and
3 such an effect would cause immense damage to the CNMI's economy and to the CNMI
4 government's revenues; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the GAO also concluded that ending the CW program would negatively
6 affect CNMI businesses, resulting in the loss of services and employment to CNMI residents;
7 and

8 **WHEREAS**, the GAO found that the federal and CNMI governments, as well as CNMI
9 businesses, have taken steps to train U.S. citizens and to reduce reliance on CW workers; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the CNMI's geographical location makes it extremely difficult to convince
11 U.S. citizens to relocate from the mainland to Saipan for employment; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the effects of ending the CW program will more than likely cause
13 irreversible damage to the CNMI economy, impacting the livelihood of every man, woman and
14 child; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the end of the CW program will more than likely result in the closure of
16 countless businesses in the CNMI, resulting in unemployment and a significant decrease of tax
17 payments to the federal and local governments; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the end of the CW program will more than likely result in the loss of basic
19 public services, such as medical care, public safety and reliable utilities; and

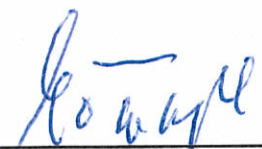
20 **WHEREAS**, APIL is dedicated to its partnership with CNMI and all its member
21 jurisdictions and is concerned for the future health and safety of the residents of CNMI; and

1 **WHEREAS**, APIL supports the amendment of PL 110-229 to extend the CW program in
2 order to continue the upward mobility of the CNMI economy and to support the economic
3 development of the entire region; now, therefore,

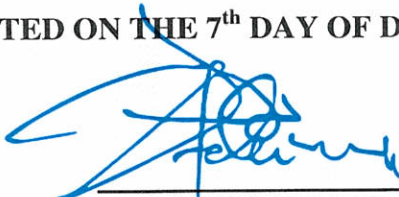
4 **BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Directors of the Association of Pacific Island
5 Legislatures, 58th Board Meeting, Republic of Palau, December 6-7, 2017, that this Board of
6 Directors of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures hereby expresses support towards
7 the efforts of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands Government and the private
8 sector in seeking Congressional relief through amendments to U.S. Public Law 110-229 in
9 order to continue the upward growth of the Commonwealth's economy and the economic
10 growth of the Pacific region; and

11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the APIL President shall certify and the APIL
12 Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall be transmitted to
13 the President of the United States of America, to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of
14 the House of Representatives of the U.S. Congress, to the Governor and Presiding Legislative
15 Officers of the Government of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and to the
16 Chief Executive and Presiding Legislative Officers of each member jurisdiction of the
17 Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

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



ROBERT I. TAULUNG
PRESIDENT



NELSON STEPHEN
SECRETARY

