



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-08

“Respectfully calling upon the executive leaders of United Airlines, in recognition of the partnership that was forged between the airline industry and the governments of Micronesia so many years ago, to join hands with the elected leaders of the State of Yap in finding ways to retain the vital air services that exist today between the airport destinations of Yap and Palau and onto Manila, Philippines that are so necessary for the protection of the health of the Yapese people and the growth of the economy of that Micronesian State.”

1 **WHEREAS**, ever since the earliest days of self-government, the forefathers of our
2 countries, states, territories and commonwealth acknowledged the vital importance of air
3 transportation for the health and welfare of our citizens and the development of our islands; and

4 **WHEREAS**, with the introduction of the first commercial seaplanes capable of
5 transversing the vast distances of the Pacific Ocean, first Pan American Airways and then
6 Continental Airlines began servicing the islands of Micronesia, transporting government oversight
7 officials, courageous missionaries and urgently needed cargo to and from the islands; and

8 **WHEREAS**, in the early days of the Trust Territory, the newly elected Micronesian
9 representatives of our emerging legislative assemblies began working with their counterparts in
10 Continental Airlines to strengthen air services throughout the Micronesian network of coral topped
11 airstrips, utilizing the advanced airports of Hawaii and Guam as the portals into the Micronesian
12 islands; and

13 **WHEREAS**, as Continental’s visions of corporate growth evolved into seeking access to
14 the valuable, but yet untapped air travel markets of the major cities of Japan, the unique
15 partnership forged between the elected leaders of the Micronesian governments and the executive
16 leaders of the airline industry in our region of the Pacific grew and matured as well, and with the
17 combined efforts of both the Micronesian leaders and the airline executives, new routes into Japan

1 were approved and mass tourism began to gain momentum throughout our region of the world; and

2 **WHEREAS**, while the airline industry continued to invest in this region of the world by
3 bringing bigger, newer and more reliable airplanes into service in the islands, the Micronesian
4 governments were likewise seeking to ever improve our airport facilities to accommodate the
5 improvements in airline services; and

6 **WHEREAS**, when financial hardships and employment problems began to affect the
7 operations of Continental Airlines in the U.S. Mainland, the partnership that had been forged so
8 many years ago between the peoples of Micronesia and the airline company showed its strength
9 and vitality insofar as the airplanes traveling to the Micronesian airports continued to fly on a
10 regular basis because the pilots and crews of these airplanes knew in their minds and in their hearts
11 how essential continued air service was to the health and welfare of the Micronesian people; and

12 **WHEREAS**, in 2010, when Continental Airlines joined United Airlines to become one of
13 the largest commercial airline companies in the world, this merger was seen by Micronesians as a
14 boon for air service in the region as the newly merged airline company, branded as United Airlines
15 but still carrying logos of Continental on the tails of its air ships, represented a marketing force that
16 could truly bring needed tourists and other benefits of expanded air service to all of our islands; yet

17 **WHEREAS**, unfortunately, this has not always been the case; because recently

18 **WHEREAS**, United Airlines has announced that beginning next month, which is January
19 of 2018, the airline will discontinue its service between Yap and Palau; and

20 **WHEREAS**, when the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures first learned of the
21 unfortunate turn of events for the State of Yap back in 2014, a resolution emanated out of the
22 Board of Directors of this regional organization of legislative assemblies urgently requesting
23 United Airlines to increase its services for the State of Yap; but

24 **WHEREAS**, unfortunately, this call for increased air service to one of our revered
25 members of the APIL has gone unanswered; now, therefore,

26 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Association of Pacific Island
27 Legislatures, in its 58th Board meeting, Republic of Palau, December 6-7, 2017, that the Board of
28 Directors of APIL, in recognition of the partnership that was forged between the airline industry

1 and the governments of Micronesia so many years ago, respectfully calls upon the executive
2 leaders of United Airlines to join hands with the elected leaders of the State of Yap in finding ways
3 to retain the vital air services that exist today between the airport destinations of Yap and Palau and
4 onward to Manila, Philippines that are so necessary for the protection of the health of the Yapese
5 people and the growth of the economy of that Micronesia State; and

6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify, and the APIL
7 Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof, and that copies of the same, as well as copies of
8 APIL Resolution No. 55-BOD-12 adopted by the APIL Board of Directors on December 5, 2014,
9 be transmitted to the Chief Executive Officer and to the Chairman of the Board of Directors of
10 United Airlines, Inc., to the Governor of Yap State, to the Speaker of the Yap State Legislature,
11 and to the Chief Executive Officers and Presiding Legislative Officers of the Member Jurisdictions
12 of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

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



ROBERT I. TAULUNG
PRESIDENT



NELSON STEPHEN
SECRETARY

