



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-09

“Announcing the intention of the APIL Board of Directors to establish the Standing Committee on Environmental Legal Standards for which the APIL by-laws are to be amended to signify the formation of the new Committee and the members of which are to be appointed during the next General Assembly of the APIL.”

1 **WHEREAS**, the member jurisdictions of APIL recognize that climate change is the
2 greatest universal challenge facing humankind, and islands are particularly susceptible to the
3 adverse impacts of climate change; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the health of the Pacific Islands’ ocean ecosystems and the sustainability of
5 its resources, specifically its fisheries, is critical ecologically, economically, and culturally to the
6 region; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the member jurisdictions of APIL have been and continue to be proactive in
8 their response to the climate change crisis, but may be hindered by inadequate technical expertise,
9 funding, and resources to implement climate change mitigation efforts fully; and

10 **WHEREAS**, APIL provides an excellent platform from which to share our efforts, review
11 the latest research and data, and collaborate to bring the most impactful recommendations to
12 fruition; and

13 **WHEREAS**, Article VI of the by-laws of the APIL further provides that “The Board of
14 Directors may, from time to time, appoint standing or special committees, or task forces, as it may
15 deem advisable and shall provide for their powers and duties”; and

1 **WHEREAS**, APIL's previous attention to matters of conservation has had a significant
2 effect on the coordination of efforts in the region; for example, APIL's role influenced and assisted
3 in the creation of the largest and most comprehensive Shark Sanctuary in the world; and

4 **WHEREAS**, APIL has also assisted on matters of renewable and alternative energy
5 sources, food security, and natural disaster relief; and

6 **WHEREAS**, through Resolution No. 25-GA-07, CD1 and other related actions, APIL has
7 championed the cause of collaboration regarding environmental conservation; and

8 **WHEREAS**, these efforts display the power of mutual assistance and collaboration, and as
9 we face this global climate crisis, we should continue to rely upon our Pacific neighbors and share
10 the projects and plans that become best practices; and

11 **WHEREAS**, during the opening ceremonies of the 58th Board of Directors' Meeting of
12 APIL, His Excellency Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, spoke
13 compellingly regarding the need for collective engagement among our Pacific Island communities
14 to protect our oceans and urged all member jurisdictions of APIL to adopt the Port State Measures
15 Agreement; and

16 **WHEREAS**, the Port State Measures Agreement is an international treaty intended to
17 prevent vessels that fish illegally from landing their catch through harmonized port controls,
18 information sharing, and regional cooperation; and

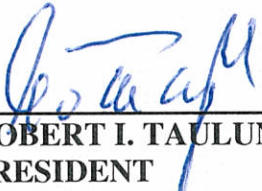
19 **WHEREAS**, creating a Standing Committee of the APIL will facilitate technical support
20 to all member jurisdictions of APIL and will guarantee progress to safeguard the Pacific Islands'
21 environment, especially our oceans and fisheries, both now and into the future; now, therefore,

1 **BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Directors of the Association of Pacific Island
2 Legislatures, 58th Board Meeting, Republic of Palau, December 6-7, 2017, that this Board of
3 Directors hereby announces our intention to establish the Standing Committee on Environmental
4 Legal Standards for which the APIL by-laws are to be amended to signify the formation of the new
5 Committee and the members of which are to be appointed during the next General Assembly of the
6 APIL; and

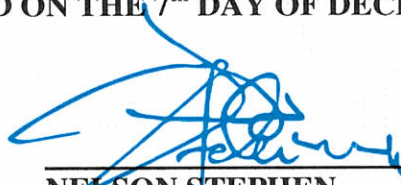
7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, the purpose of establishing the new Committee on
8 Environmental Legal Standards is for data collection, projects and plans that will become best
9 practices regarding climate change mitigation and protection of our natural resources; and

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

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



ROBERT I. TAULUNG
PRESIDENT



NELSON STEPHEN
SECRETARY

