



# 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. 59-BOD-05

**“Supporting the land rights of the Native Chamorros of Guam, the mission of the Chamorro Land Trust Commission, and all efforts in protecting and preserving the land and all other natural resources in Guam.”**

1           **WHEREAS**, the Chamorro people or *I Taotao Tanó*, which means “people of the  
2 land”, have lived in Guam for 3,500 - 4,000 years or more, and their lands have long been  
3 a center point of their heritage, culture, and identity; and

4           **WHEREAS**, *I Taotao Tanó* share a special connection to the land in that it  
5 played a central role in the lives of their ancestors as it was the intersection of family,  
6 spirituality, and livelihood; and

7           **WHEREAS**, land has created family identity and has contributed to the economic  
8 well-being of *I Taotao Tanó* as it was and still is traditionally passed down from  
9 generation to generation; and

10          **WHEREAS**, though formerly claimed by Spanish and American colonial  
11 administrations, it must be recognized and accepted that land in Guam has always  
12 belonged to *I Taotao Tanó*; and

13          **WHEREAS**, during the reoccupation of Guam by the United States of America  
14 after WWII, lands were taken by the United States Government which led to many  
15 Native Chamorros being physically and economically displaced; and

16          **WHEREAS**, in recognition of our shared values of the essential importance of  
17 land in the traditions and customs of all of our island jurisdictions, the Association of  
18 Pacific Island Legislatures, acting by and through its Board of Directors, hereby  
19 recognizes and accepts the reality that native ownership of land on Guam is necessary to  
20 preserve culture and economic stability of that island; yet, land remains a scarce resource  
21 among today’s *I Taotao Tanó* that has necessitated legislative action by the  
22 *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* (Guam Legislature); and

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1           **WHEREAS**, the Chamorro Land Trust Act was enacted by Guam Public Law  
2   No. 12-226 in 1975 to provide for the disposition of public lands to facilitate the social,  
3   cultural, and economic well-being of the Native Chamorros of Guam; and

4           **WHEREAS**, Native Chamorro means any person who became a United States  
5   citizen by virtue of the authority and enactment of the Organic Act of Guam and his/her  
6   descendants; and

7           **WHEREAS**, in Public Law No. 12-226, the Chamorro Land Trust Commission,  
8   or *I Kumision Inangokkon Tanó Chamorro*, was authorized to lease to Native Chamorros  
9   the right to the use and occupancy of Chamorro homelands; and

10          **WHEREAS**, it is the mission of *I Kumision Inangokkon Tanó Chamorro* to hold  
11   and protect Chamorro homelands for the intended beneficiaries, Native Chamorros, in  
12   order to improve their lives—and, toward that end, to exercise all diligence; however

13          **WHEREAS**, unfortunately, the United States Department of Justice threatened  
14   the sovereign immunity of Guam in its lawsuit filed in 2017 against the Government of  
15   Guam and *I Kumision Inangokkon Tanó Chamorro*; now, therefore,

16          **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Association of Pacific  
17   Island Legislatures, 59<sup>th</sup> Board Meeting, January 30 to February 2, 2019, FSM State of  
18   Yap, that the Board of Directors, on behalf of the Association of Pacific Island  
19   Legislatures, hereby fully supports the land rights of the Native Chamorros of Guam, the  
20   mission of the Chamorro Land Trust Commission, and all efforts in protecting and  
21   preserving the land and all other natural resources of our cherished member jurisdiction,  
22   the Island of Guam; and

23          **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that APIL President shall certify and the APIL  
24   Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall be  
25   transmitted to the President of the United States of America, to the President of the  
26   United States Senate, to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, to the

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1 Guam Delegate to the United States House of Representatives, to the Acting Secretary of  
2 the United States Department of Justice, to the *I Maga'hågan Guåhan* (Governor of  
3 Guam), to the Speaker of the *I Liheslaturan Guåhan* (Guam Legislature), and to the Chief  
4 Executives and Presiding Legislative Officers of the member jurisdictions of the  
5 Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 1<sup>ST</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2019.**



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**FERNANDO SCALIEM**  
**PRESIDENT**



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**IVAN A. BLANCO**  
**SECRETARY**

