



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. 60-BOD-03, CD 1

“Relative to calling upon member states to support and provide financial assistance to state agencies and community programs and events that preserve, develop, and perpetuate their indigenous cultures, languages, and arts.”

1 **WHEREAS**, each cultural group within the member jurisdictions of the
2 Association of Pacific Island Legislatures have deep and rich bodies of traditional
3 knowledge, expressions of culture, and lifeways that have developed over the millennia;
4 and

5 **WHEREAS**, however, over the centuries, much of our indigenous cultures and
6 traditions have been challenged or lost due to colonization, missionization,
7 modernization, and globalization; and

8 **WHEREAS**, contemporarily, issues such as suicide, drug abuse, and teenage
9 pregnancies, for some member states, are plaguing our communities at far higher levels
10 than other countries; and

11 **WHEREAS**, arts, culture, and community programs are important means of
12 safeguarding, maintaining, and transmitting traditional knowledge and expressions of
13 culture; further, they have the ability to lift up our communities and give them reasons to
14 dream and aspire; and

1 **WHEREAS**, cultural practitioners and artists share their knowledge and mentor
2 upcoming generations of youth to ensure that our indigenous cultures and arts are
3 transmitted to the next generation to survive and continue to be part of our lives; and

4 **WHEREAS**, cultural traditions, cultural events, and displays of indigenous art
5 make life in Oceania rich and meaningful and give us a sense of self and a sense of pride;
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, prioritizing the support of vibrant cultural and artistic events and
8 programs provide our community tools that equip them to make positive, productive, and
9 healthy choices; studies show that they are effective tools in combating the social ills that
10 challenge us; and

11 **WHEREAS**, communities in Oceania deserve lives rich in family who spend
12 time bonding in traditional ways, rich in opportunities to experience and learn indigenous
13 art forms such as dancing or chanting while gaining comradery and respect for each
14 other, and rich in being able to continue to be attended to by our traditional healers for
15 their treatments handed down through the millennia, using medicine still growing where
16 ancestors placed them; now, therefore,

17 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 60th
18 Meeting of the Board of Directors, Island of Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern
19 Mariana Islands, December 4-6, 2019, that the Board of Directors, for and on behalf of
20 the APIL, hereby calls upon the member states of the APIL: to support and provide
21 financial assistance to state agencies and community programs and events that preserve,
22 develop, and perpetuate their indigenous cultures, languages, and arts; 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 transmitted to the

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- 1 Chief Executives and Presiding Legislative Officers of the member jurisdictions of the
 - 2 Association of Pacific Island Legislatures.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 5th DAY OF DECEMBER, 2019.



**EDGAR LICKANETH
PRESIDENT**



**IVAN A. BLANCO
SECRETARY**

