



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-07

“Relative to reaffirming its support and continuing to endorse the conservation goals of the Micronesia Challenge and calling on all APIL member jurisdictions to support these commitments to the greatest extent practical.”

1 **WHEREAS**, the people of Micronesia are stewards for 2,150 islands and 6.7
2 million square kilometers of ocean; and

3 **WHEREAS**, Micronesia itself is home to 66 threatened species and at least 64
4 Key Biodiversity Areas; and

5 **WHEREAS**, Micronesia contains 10% of the earth's total reef area, with more
6 than 480 coral species (58% of total recorded corals), and over 1,300 species of fish; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the region is home to over 1,400 plant species, 200 of which are
8 endemic and 85 species of birds, nearly half of which are endemic; and

9 **WHEREAS**, threats to the phenomenally rich biodiversity of the region include a
10 growing population, rapid economic development, over-harvesting of fish and wildlife,
11 inadequate waste disposal, widespread land conversion, invasive species, and climate
12 change; and

13 **WHEREAS**, these resources must be shared and sustained to support the
14 livelihoods of over 650,000 people; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the "Micronesia Challenge" was launched by the leaders of the
16 Republic of Palau, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall
17 Islands, the Island of Guam, and the Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands at the

1 Eighth Conference of the Convention on Biological Diversity in March 2006,
2 recognizing both the serious threats degrading the marine and terrestrial environments
3 upon which the future economic, cultural and political health of these islands depend, and
4 the tremendous opportunities to work together to address the environmental and
5 sustainable development issues confronting this region; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the commitment of the Micronesian region to conservation includes
7 the sustainability of the region's unique biodiversity, ensuring a healthy future for the
8 people of Micronesia and the protection of our unique island cultures; and

9 **WHEREAS**, this lasting covenant requires that we safeguard our pristine island
10 environments and defend the ability of every person willing to work for it to earn a living
11 from the ocean or on our lands; and

12 **WHEREAS**, by 2020, the leaders of the Micronesia Challenge have made the
13 visionary commitment to effectively conserve 30 percent of near-shore marine resources
14 and 20 percent of terrestrial resources; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the Micronesia Challenge continues to fight to protect the
16 phenomenally rich biodiversity found in Micronesia; 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 reaffirms its support and continually endorses the commitments of the
21 "Micronesia Challenge" and calls on all APIL member jurisdictions to further the goals
22 of these commitments to the greatest extent practical; and

- 1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify, and the APIL
2 Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall be transmitted to the
3 Chief Executives and the Legislative Presiding Officers of each member jurisdiction of the
4 Association of the Pacific Island Legislatures.

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



EDGAR LICKANETH
PRESIDENT



IVAN A. BLANCO
SECRETARY

