



# 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. 61-BOD-02

**“Expressing profound appreciation to the Members of the United States Congress for enacting the legislation which restored Medicaid eligibility for Micronesians living in America.”**

1           **WHEREAS**, the enactment of U.S. Public Law 104-193 many years  
2 ago deprived the citizens of the Freely Associated States of Micronesia (FAS  
3 citizens) living, studying and working in the United States of America of  
4 their existing benefits under an essential U.S. safety net federal program  
5 known as “Medicaid”; and

6           **WHEREAS**, because of the enactment of that law, Micronesians  
7 living in the United States of America were faced with serious medical  
8 challenges without the help or support of the U.S. Federal Government, too  
9 often with tragic results; but, fortunately,

10           **WHEREAS**, while Micronesians suffered, the Honorable Mazie  
11 Hirono, United States Senator representing the State of Hawaii, was  
12 tirelessly championing the needs of FAS citizens living in the United States  
13 of America through the repeated introduction of congressional legislation to  
14 reinstate Medicaid eligibility for FAS citizens; and

15           **WHEREAS**, as the COVID-19 pandemic began to appear in the  
16 United States of America, Senator Hirono heightened her efforts to assist our  
17 people and delivered an impassioned speech before the U.S. Senate  
18 emphasizing the urgent need for the U.S. Congress to address the health care  
19 needs of our people who are living in the United States; and

1           **WHEREAS**, in her address before the U.S. Congress, Senator Hirono  
2 spoke alarmingly of the very disconcerting reality of the disproportionate  
3 numbers of FAS citizens who are becoming victims of the COVID-19  
4 pandemic, not only in her home state of Hawaii, but all across the United  
5 States of America; and

6           **WHEREAS**, thankfully, Senator Hirono was joined in her efforts to  
7 assist our people residing in the United States by a number of caring  
8 Senators and Representatives from Hawaii, Guam, the Northern Mariana  
9 Islands and several U.S. Mainland states; and

10          **WHEREAS**, it was through the joint efforts of these knowledgeable  
11 and caring United States Senators and Representatives that Medicaid  
12 coverage has now been restored for medically distressed FAS citizens living  
13 in the United States; now, therefore,

14          **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the  
15 Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 61<sup>st</sup> Board Meeting, February 17-18,  
16 2022, via ZOOM Conferencing, that the Board of Directors  
17 on behalf of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures hereby expresses our  
18 most sincere gratitude and appreciation to the Members of the United States  
19 Congress who have courageously come to the aid of our FAS citizens residing in  
20 the U.S.A. by enacting legislation to restore their eligibility for MEDICAID  
21 coverage; and

22          **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we are especially grateful for  
23 the determined efforts of the Honorable Senator Mazie K. Hirono and her  
24 fellow colleagues in the U.S. Congress who while confronting the massive  
25 challenges of COVID-19 that were sweeping across their own country, took  
26 it upon themselves to include the peoples of Micronesia living in America in  
27 this vital medical assistance program; and

1           **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that APIL President shall certify  
2   and the APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of  
3   the same shall be transmitted to the Honorable Mazie K. Hirono, United  
4   States Senator representing the State of Hawaii; to the Honorable Bryan  
5   Shatz, United States Senator representing the State of Hawaii; to the  
6   Honorable Ron Wyden, United States Senator representing the State of  
7   Oregon; to the Honorable Tony Cardenas, United States Congressman  
8   representing the State of California; to the Honorable Michael F.Q. San  
9   Nicolas, United States Congressman representing the Territory of Guam; to  
10   the Honorable Gregorio Kilili Camacho Sablan, United States Congressman  
11   representing the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands; and to  
12   Chief Executives and the Presiding Legislative Officers of the Legislatures  
13   of each Member Jurisdiction of the Association of Pacific Island  
14   Legislatures.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 18<sup>th</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022.**



**NELSON STEPHEN  
ACTING PRESIDENT**



**VINNIE SABLEN  
ACTING SECRETARY**

