



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-04

“Expressing the strong opposition to Japan’s recent decision to discharge wastewater, contaminated with radioactive material, from its Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant into the Pacific Ocean.”

1 **WHEREAS**, on April 13, 2021, Japan announced that it will release
2 approximately 1.25 million tons of water contaminated by the Fukushima
3 Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant disaster into the open waters of the Pacific
4 Ocean; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant, located in
6 the town of Okuma within the Fukushima Prefecture, is situated on the
7 eastern-most coastline of the main island of Honshu, Japan, facing out upon
8 the vast expanses of the Pacific Ocean; and

9 **WHEREAS**, on March 11, 2011, an earthquake and tsunami
10 devastated this coastal town, flooding the massively built power plant, and
11 triggering a catastrophic meltdown of its nuclear reactors; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the Fukushima nuclear disaster registered a Level 7 on
13 the International Nuclear and Radiological Event Scale (indicating a major
14 release of radioactive material, with widespread health and environmental
15 ramifications), a rating which was only given one other time – to the 1986
16 Chernobyl nuclear disaster that resulted in an eventual death toll of upwards
17 of 27,000 people; and

1 **WHEREAS**, tens of thousands of people chose to flee the area around
2 this plant or were forcefully evacuated, and government officials even
3 considered evacuating Tokyo (Japan's capital and the world's most populous
4 metropolitan area) some 140 miles away; and

5 **WHEREAS**, in the wake of the cataclysmic natural disaster brought
6 about by the massive tsunami and the almost total destruction of the plant's
7 nuclear facilities, the plant's management estimated an intense cleanup
8 program to decontaminate affected areas would take from 30 to 40 years;
9 however

10 **WHEREAS**, a mere 10 years later, Japan has now decided to release
11 radioactive contaminated waters from this facility directly into the Pacific
12 Ocean, claiming that the storage containers on the Fukushima site are reaching
13 maximum capacity; and

14 **WHEREAS**, unfortunately, the Fukushima Coast of Japan has some of
15 the world's strongest ocean currents which are capable of transporting these
16 contaminated waters far into the Pacific Ocean; thereby resulting in a
17 widespread dispersion of radioactive elements; and

18 **WHEREAS**, both the Basel Convention Treaty and the Waigani
19 Convention Treaty exist to control the release of toxic wastes into the world's
20 oceans; moreover

21 **WHEREAS**, marine scientists and environmental groups from around
22 the world have expressed deep concerns and serious misgivings about the
23 possible adverse impact of this intended discharge of radioactive
24 contamination on marine life and the ocean's ecosystem; and

1 **WHEREAS**, Greenpeace has specifically denounced the dispersion of
2 these contaminated waters into the Pacific Ocean, noting that “it ignores
3 human rights and maritime law,” and warning that the Japanese Government
4 has “discounted the radiation risks,” further adding that “rather than using the
5 best available technology to minimize radiation hazard by storing and
6 processing these waters over the long term, they have opted for the cheapest
7 option – dumping the nuclear wastewater into the Pacific Ocean;” and

8 **WHEREAS**, other prominent environmental groups, the fisheries
9 industry and neighboring countries have additionally condemned Japan’s
10 unilateral decision, citing the vast amount of radioactive water involved; and

11 **WHEREAS**, China, in particular, has criticized Japan’s subject
12 decision as “extremely irresponsible,” adding it has not considered the health
13 concerns of neighboring countries; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the Pacific Rim countries of South Korea and Taiwan
15 have similarly expressed “serious regret” and “grave concerns” with Japan’s
16 unilateral decision in this regard; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the legislative assemblies of our own APIL jurisdictions
18 along with public figures throughout the APIL Pacific are also voicing deep
19 concern and opposition to the dumping by Japan of contaminated nuclear
20 wastes into ocean waters of our region of the world; now, therefore,

21 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Association
22 of Pacific Island Legislatures, 61st Board Meeting, February 17-18, 2022,
23 via ZOOM Conferencing, that the Board of Directors on behalf
24 of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures hereby voices our strong
25 opposition to Japan’s unilateral decision to discharge nuclear wastewater

1 from the Fukushima Daiichi Nuclear Power Plant into the Pacific Ocean since
2 it will have the potential to seriously damage the public health and safety our
3 peoples, the marine environment of our region of the world, and the vital
4 interests of the APIL Pacific; and

5 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that APIL President shall certify, and
6 the APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same
7 shall be thereafter transmitted to the Honorable Yoshihide Suga, Prime Minister
8 of Japan; the Honorable Toshimitsu Motegi, Japan's Minister of Foreign Affairs;
9 the Honorable Shinjiro Koizumi, Japan's Minister of the Environment; His
10 Excellency Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States of America; the
11 Honorable Richard W. Spinrad, Administrator of the U.S. National Oceanic and
12 Atmospheric Administration; the Honorable Nazhat Shameem Khan; United
13 Nations Human Rights Council President; and the Chief Executive and
14 Legislative Presiding Officers of each Member Jurisdiction of the APIL.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 18th DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2022.



NELSON STEPHEN
ACTING PRESIDENT



VINNIE SABLEN
ACTING SECRETARY

