



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-11, CD1

“Recognizing and expressing profound gratitude to our allied countries and international associations who have partnered with the Member Jurisdictions of the APIL for their very valuable assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic; and urgently beseeching these very trusted and important partners to continue their vital support for our islands and our peoples as we continue to address and seek to overcome the devastating effects and almost insurmountable threats of the COVID-19 pandemic.”

1 **WHEREAS**, in 2020, COVID-19 swept the globe sparing no country
2 or person from feeling its impact or suffering hardship, whether that be
3 economic, with joblessness and lockdowns, or related to health, with the
4 disease leading to infirmity and death, and has since become one of the
5 greatest health challenges that our world has ever faced; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the Pacific Islands are particularly vulnerable to the
7 negative impacts of the COVID-19 pandemic, with economies that are
8 highly dependent on tourism revenues and health care infrastructure
9 unprepared to prevent and respond to a widespread COVID-19 outbreak;
10 and

11 **WHEREAS**, despite its best efforts, the Republic of Kiribati was
12 especially challenged when an outbreak of COVID-19 occurred on January
13 14, 2022, on the first passenger plane for 10 months, in which two-thirds of
14 the passengers tested positive and set off community transmission in
15 Kiribati; and

1 **WHEREAS**, as of 16th of February, there has been 2737 positive
2 cases, with nine deaths and so far, Covid-19 has spread to three other outer
3 islands of the Republic of Kiribati, apart from main island of Tarawa; and

4 **WHEREAS**, in contrast, the Republic of Palau has been a bright star
5 on the APIL horizon since it is reporting that it has been able to fully
6 vaccinate 98% of its population, one of the highest vaccination rates in the
7 world; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the Republic of Palau, through its testing, has been able
9 to identify and respond to over 3,200 cases of COVID-19 and thereby
10 mitigate further transmission of the disease in its communities, and
11 additionally, the direct support and COVID-19 medications provided to
12 Palau's hospital has resulted in a decreased rate of hospitalizations and a low
13 COVID-19 fatality rate, as compared with other countries; and

14 **WHEREAS**, moreover, the Republic of Palau has been able to open
15 its borders to tourism again and the ability to do this can be attributed to the
16 United States of America's provision of personnel training, public health
17 messaging that provides the public reliable and up to date information,
18 technical support, and supplies for COVID-19 testing; to date, there have
19 been almost 30,000 tests administered in Palau; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the 2020 Census of the Commonwealth of the Northern
21 Marianas (CNMI) indicates a population of 47,329. Of this number, 43,385
22 reside on the island of Saipan, 2,044 on the island of Tinian, 1,893 on the
23 island of Rota, and 7 on the Northern Islands; and

24 **WHEREAS**, to date, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
25 Islands has been able to fully vaccinate 46,202 or 97.62% of its population,
26 like the Republic of Palau, it is amongst one of the highest vaccination rates
27 in the world, with 20,616 or 44.63% of these people having already received

1 a booster shot, and this percentage is rising daily; the United States of
2 America can be credited for this accomplishment, without the United States
3 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention (CDC), along with United States
4 Public Health Service (USPHS) personnel, this rate of vaccination would be
5 nearly impossible to achieve; and

6 **WHEREAS**, moreover, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
7 Islands has opened its borders to tourism and the ability to do this can be
8 attributed to the United States of America's provision of personnel training,
9 public health messaging that provides the public reliable and up to date
10 information, technical support, and supplies for COVID-19 testing; to date,
11 there have been 114,528 PCR tests administered in the CNMI; and

12 **WHEREAS**, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands,
13 through its testing, has been able to identify and respond to over 8,711 cases
14 of COVID-19 since March 26, 2020, and thereby mitigate further
15 transmission of the disease in our community, and additionally, the direct
16 support and COVID-19 medications provided to the CNMI's hospitals has
17 resulted in a decreased rate of hospitalizations and a low COVID-19 fatality
18 rate, as compared with other countries; and

19 **WHEREAS**, the assistance of the United States of America to the
20 Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands does not end at addressing
21 the health crisis, the United States has also provided assistance to address the
22 socioeconomic impacts that COVID-19 has had for the CNMI, such as the
23 CNMI's inclusion in the Coronavirus Aid, Relief, and Economic Security
24 (CARES) Act; this inclusion provided financial assistance to those in the
25 CNMI's community that were most in need and reduced the fiscal burden on
26 the CNMI Government in a time when revenues from tourism have
27 plummeted; and

1 **WHEREAS**, the United States of America, through inclusive
2 legislation and with the assistance of its embassies, the United States
3 Agency for International Development (USAID), and other agencies, and
4 through its partnerships with the United Nations Children’s Fund (UNICEF)
5 and the World Health Organization (WHO), has taken action and
6 empowered our islands to combat COVID-19 and protect the health and
7 livelihood of members of our FAS communities; and

8 **WHEREAS**, Australia, New Zealand, the People's Republic of China,
9 India, the World Health Organization (WHO), UNICEF and SPC have been
10 particularly instrumental in assisting the Republic of the Kiribati in their
11 COVID-19 prevention and response initiatives; and

12 **WHEREAS**, these genuinely concerned countries and international
13 associations have continued to provide the Pacific Islands with assistance,
14 such as immunization and public health messaging and hygiene campaigns,
15 preparedness and response planning, and technical support and supplies,
16 including COVID-19 test kits, oxygen concentrators, personal protective
17 equipment, immunization supplies, and cold chain equipment; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the support and assistance from these benefactors have
19 been vital to mitigating the spread and effects of COVID-19 within our
20 Pacific Island communities for they have boosted our resilience, placed us in
21 a better position to respond to the disease, and has helped to set our
22 economies on a path to recovery and to further sustainable development;
23 now, therefore,

24 **BE IT RESOLVED**, by the Board of Directors of the Association of
25 Pacific Island Legislatures, 61st Board Meeting, February 17-18, 2022, via
26 ZOOM Conferencing, that the Board of Directors, on behalf of the
27 Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, hereby recognizes and expresses

1 our profound gratitude to the allied countries and international associations
2 who have partnered with the Member Jurisdictions of the APIL for their
3 very valuable assistance during the COVID-19 pandemic; and

4 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that we urgently beseech these very
5 trusted partners to continue their support for our islands and our peoples as
6 we continue to address and seek to overcome the devastating effects and
7 almost insurmountable threats of the COVID-19 pandemic; and

8 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the Association of Pacific
9 Island Legislatures President shall certify, and the Secretary shall attest to
10 the adoption of this Resolution and that copies of the same shall be
11 transmitted by the Office of the APIL President to the chief executives of
12 our allied countries and international partners in our shared fight against the
13 ravages of COVID-19 and to the Chief Executives and the Presiding
14 Legislative Officers of the Member Jurisdictions of the Association of
15 Pacific Island Legislatures.

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



NELSON STEPHEN
ACTING PRESIDENT



VINNIE SABLEN
ACTING SECRETARY

