



# 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

### APIL Resolution No. 63-BOD-04, CD1

**“Relative to urging the U.S. Department of State grant requests from American Samoa, Guam and the CNMI to be admitted as voting members of the Pacific Islands Forum.”**

1           **WHEREAS**, since 1971, the Pacific Islands Forum has been an important  
2 organization for small nations to magnify their geopolitical interests and concerns, and with  
3 a collective voice advocate for much-needed solutions with ally nations like the United  
4 States, Canada, Japan and the Philippines; and

5           **WHEREAS**, according to the organization, the vision of the Pacific Islands Forum is  
6 a “region of peace, harmony, security, social inclusion and prosperity, so that all Pacific  
7 people can lead free, healthy, and productive lives.”; and

8           **WHEREAS**, now comprised of members including the Federated States of  
9 Micronesia, the Republic of Palau and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Pacific  
10 Islands Forum, now more than ever, is informed and driven by Micronesian leaders who  
11 also know the limitations and frustrations rooted in being an American non-self-governing  
12 territory; and

13           **WHEREAS**, following the admittance of overseas territories like French Polynesia  
14 and New Caledonia, Guam and American Samoa - American territories - have similarly  
15 sought full inclusion in the Pacific Islands Forum; and

16           **WHEREAS**, while Guam and American Samoa, along with the Commonwealth of  
17 the Northern Mariana Islands have been granted observer status since 2011, requests for

1 associate membership have been denied by the U.S. Department of State as recently as 2022;  
2 and

3 **WHEREAS**, although not sovereign nations, including America's non-self-governing  
4 territories in the Pacific in this critical group of island governments will undoubtedly enrich  
5 regional discussions, and advance the shared interests of these islands and the United States;  
6 and

7 **WHEREAS**, as reported in a recent article published in the Pacific Island Times, the  
8 U.S. State Department, according to a statement given to the Guam-based outlet, “carefully  
9 considers any requests from U.S. territories to participate in international organizations, and  
10 we support participation in appropriate settings and within appropriate boundaries,”; now,  
11 therefore,

12 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Board of Directors of the Association of Pacific Island  
13 Legislatures, 63<sup>rd</sup> Board Meeting, FSM State of Yap, February 25 – March 2, 2024, that this  
14 Board of Directors, on behalf of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, hereby fully  
15 endorses and affirms that associate membership for Guam, American Samoa, CNMI and  
16 indeed all of America's non-self-governing territories in the Pacific Islands Forum is both  
17 an appropriate setting and within the appropriate boundaries of their respective political  
18 status; and

19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that the members of APIL urge the U.S.  
20 Department of State grant requests from American Samoa, Guam and the CNMI to be  
21 admitted as voting members of the Pacific Islands Forum; and

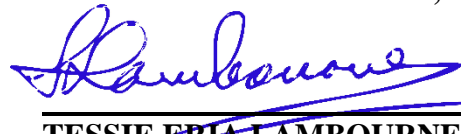
22 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify, and the APIL  
23 Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall be thereafter

- 1 transmitted to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States of America;
- 2 to the Honorable Antony J. Blinken, Secretary of State of the United States of America; and
- 3 to the Chief Executives and Legislative Presiding Officers of each member jurisdiction of the
- 4 APIL.

**DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 28<sup>TH</sup> DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024**



**SPEAKER EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ  
ACTING PRESIDENT**



**TESSIE ERIA LAMBOURNE  
SECRETARY**

