



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-07

“To extend our sincere condolences and sympathies to the family of the late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro and to acknowledge and pay tribute to her lifelong service and countless contributions to the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands and the Blue Continent.”

1 **WHEREAS**, it is with profound sorrow that the Association of Pacific Island
2 Legislatures, on behalf of their people, is moved this day to pay tribute to an eminent woman
3 of indomitable faith and dedication whose public service and countless accomplishments
4 will forever stand as a paradigm and inspiration for others; and

5 **WHEREAS**, the quality and character of life in the Commonwealth of the Northern
6 Marianas Islands has been ably served and uniquely enriched through the selfless dedication
7 and benevolent concern of the late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro achieved so
9 much in her personal, professional, and public life, and has made so many important strides
10 that have had such a positive impact on families throughout the CNMI and Micronesia; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro had served
12 in the government of the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI), the private sector and
13 the CNMI government for over 50 years; and

14 **WHEREAS**, in 1968, the late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro was
15 the President of the Student Council and graduated as Valedictorian of her class from

1 Mount Carmel High School; and

2 **WHEREAS**, in pursuit of a higher education, the late Honorable Felicidad
3 Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro attended Saint Mary’s College, a private Catholic college, in
4 Leavenworth, Kansas and graduated with a Bachelor of Arts degree in Sociology in 1973;
5 and

6 **WHEREAS**, while attending Saint Mary’s College, the late Honorable Felicidad
7 Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro was elected President of the International Club and was a
8 member of the prestigious Who’s Who Among Students in American Colleges and
9 Universities; and

10 **WHEREAS**, with the acquisition of innovative skills, knowledge, and experience,
11 the late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro returned home to serve as the
12 Training and Development Specialist of the Division of Training and Development,
13 Department of Personnel during the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands (TTPI); and

14 **WHEREAS**, in 1978, the late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro
15 became the first female of Carolinian heritage to be elected to the House of Representatives
16 of the First Northern Marianas Commonwealth Legislature representing Precinct #5 of the
17 Third Senatorial District (Saipan) and where she was one of only two female members of
18 the House of Representatives; and

19 **WHEREAS**, with diligence, an innate capacity to lead, an instinctive ability to
20 inspire and astute intellect, the late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro became
21 the first woman to lead a House Standing Committee, the Health, Education and Welfare
22 Committee and was also the Vice Chairperson of the Committee on Appropriations, a

1 predecessor of today's Ways and Means Committee, the most powerful and prestigious
2 committee in the House of Representatives; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro was a strong
4 advocate for education, for family and children welfare, women's rights, cultural
5 preservation and for the protection and guardianship of our lands and natural resources; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro's candidacy
7 continued the progress begun by women who achieved political firsts before her and helped
8 tear down barriers to the full and equal participation of women in national politics; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro was re-
10 elected to serve her second term in the House of Representatives of the Second Northern
11 Marianas Commonwealth Legislature in 1980; and

12 **WHEREAS**, during her tenure, the late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman
13 Ogumoro was the author of Public Law 2-19, which established the Division of Youth
14 Services, was a staunch supporter of Executive Order #25 which established the Northern
15 Marianas College, and was a Member of the Policy Committee for the new Commonwealth
16 Health Center; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro continued to
18 serve the people of the Commonwealth as an elected Delegate to the 2nd Constitutional
19 Convention in 1985; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro was the
21 author of Constitutional Amendment 21, establishing the Office of Special Assistant for
22 Women's Affairs; Constitutional Amendment 38, making the Northern Marianas College

1 autonomous and guaranteeing it 1% funding; and Constitutional Amendment 38, making
2 the Public School System autonomous and guaranteeing it 15% funding; and

3 **WHEREAS**, in 1985, the late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro was
4 recognized and awarded the recipient of the Outstanding Woman of America Award and in
5 2003 was the recipient of Mount Carmel's Most Distinguished Graduate Award; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro was an
7 elected Member of the House of Representatives in the 17th, 18th and 19th Northern
8 Marianas Commonwealth Legislature; and

9 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro became the
10 first female Vice Speaker during her term in the 17th Northern Marianas Commonwealth
11 Legislature; and

12 **WHEREAS**, during her term as Vice Speaker, she was also appointed and assumed
13 her role as a Board of Directors representing the CNMI to the Association of Pacific Island
14 Legislatures (APIL); and

15 **WHEREAS**, she collaborated with her colleagues from across the Blue Continent
16 to consider matters in areas where regional cooperation, coordination, exchange and
17 assistance may help governments achieve their goals through collective action; and

18 **WHEREAS**, after her term in the 19th Northern Marianas Commonwealth
19 Legislature, the late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro took a hiatus from the
20 political arena to spend more time with her family and to continue her charity and volunteer
21 work; and

22 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro was a
23 committed and dedicated public servant, and worked tirelessly to improve the lives of

1 women and families not only in the CNMI, but also the lives of women and families all
2 across Micronesia; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro is a model
4 public servant and an example for all women and her strength and perseverance serves as
5 an inspiration for all people striving for positive change; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro has been
7 involved in numerous initiatives of great importance to the CNMI, has enriched the CNMI
8 political landscape and forged a new path for all women, and has served with
9 professionalism, integrity, humility, and compassion; and

10 **WHEREAS**, in 2023, the late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro was
11 honored at event hosted by the Asian Pacific American Institute for Congressional Studies
12 (APAICS) where she received the APAICS Spotlight Award for her 50 plus years in public
13 service, for breaking barriers for women in politics, and for her work in the community
14 through addressing poverty and uplifting women, including her contributions to education,
15 workforce and economic development, advocacy for the islands women and youth and her
16 work in various non-profits; and

17 **WHEREAS**, the legacy and contributions to the people of the CNMI through public
18 service by the late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro continues on through
19 her children in their public sector work in labor, natural resource management, public safety,
20 public health, and comprehensive long term sustainable development planning; and

21 **WHEREAS**, rare indeed is the occurrence of such a compassionate blending of
22 strength, leadership, intellect, and commitment as that demonstrated by the late Honorable

1 Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro over a lifetime of public service, sacrifice and
2 dedication to others; and

3 **WHEREAS**, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures recognizes that the
4 CNMI and Micronesia as a whole, is home to countless women who are strong and colorful
5 threads, vital to the fabric of our rich heritage, who have contributed, and continue to add
6 to the advancement of our culture through their traditional and non-traditional roles in
7 society; and

8 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro leaves
9 behind a legacy which will long endure the passage of time and will remain as a comforting
10 memory to all she served and befriended; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro was called
12 to eternal rest on January 3, 2024; now, therefore,

13 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, by the Board of Directors of the Association of
14 Pacific Island Legislatures, 63rd Board Meeting, Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia,
15 February 25 - March 02, 2024, that the Board, on behalf of the Association of Pacific Island
16 Legislatures, hereby conveys heartfelt sympathies and condolences to the family and friends
17 of the late Honorable Felicidad Leiwamal Taman Ogumoro, for her untimely passing and
18 to memorialize her public service and contributions to the Commonwealth of the Northern
19 Marianas Islands and the Blue Continent; 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
3 to the Chief Executives and Legislative Presiding Officers of each member jurisdiction of
4 the APIL.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 28TH DAY OF FEBRUARY, 2024



**SPEAKER EDMUND S. VILLAGOMEZ
ACTING PRESIDENT**



**TESSIE ERIA LAMBOURNE
SECRETARY**

