



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. 29-GA-04

“Commending the Republic of Kiribati for their initiatives in addressing these problems; and directing the regional APIL task force on climate change to prioritize its attention on the efforts of the Pacific Island atoll countries while still giving emphasis to the needs of all island jurisdictions who are being threatened by rising sea levels.”

1 **WHEREAS**, the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures convened its Twenty-Ninth
2 General Assembly of the Association from the third day to the fourth day of June, 2010 on the
3 capital island of Tarawa in the Republic of Kiribati; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the theme of this year’s General Assembly has been *Climate Change:*
5 *Understanding the Challenges to our Pacific Islands*”; and

6 **WHEREAS**, each of the member jurisdictions present at the General Assembly
7 registered a profound concern over rising sea levels being caused by global warming and
8 expressed a sincere desire to fully address the alarming challenges that climate change is
9 thrusting upon the very fabric of life and existence in our islands of the Pacific; and

10 **WHEREAS**, it is well understood by the world-at-large that although the peoples of the
11 Pacific Islands are amongst the least responsible of all the nations of the world in the causes of
12 global warming, we have become the first and most seriously threatened by the devastating
13 effects of this environmental disaster; and

14 **WHEREAS**, as the hosts of the Twenty-Ninth General Assembly of the APIL, not only
15 did the Republic of Kiribati provide us with expert presentations on the science of global
16 warming and its potentials to cause major harm and even the loss of our low lying atolls; this
17 conscientious member of the APIL also showed us the present reality of the damages of rising
18 sea levels by taking us to the sites where this damage is actually occurring in real time; and

1 **WHEREAS**, while injuries to the reefs, coral flats and shorelines can be readily
2 observed, the serious harm that is being caused by rising sea levels to the fresh water lens of the
3 atolls and disruptions in the balance of the fragile marine environment that surrounds the atolls
4 are matters of even greater concern for it is upon these resources that the people depend for their
5 very health and livelihood; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the Association was informed during this General Assembly that the
7 Kiribati Government has pressed with some success to gain international recognition of its plight,
8 but that such assistance, while much appreciated, is falling far short of the amounts of assistance
9 necessary to adequately combat the problems of climate change that are being cast upon its
10 people; and

11 **WHEREAS**, the Association was also informed that the Kiribati Government has not
12 given up hope because help from the outside has been insufficient, but is taking the initiative to
13 meet the threat to its islands through a number of internal, country-based strategies; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the Kiribati Risk Mitigation and Adaptation Project seeks to address the
15 threat of climate change through a framework of positive actions, categorized by immediate
16 responses, medium term policies and long term solutions; and

17 **WHEREAS**, central to the Kiribati response to the threats of global warming and rising
18 sea levels is a firm commitment to survivability and self-reliance with “*nationhood, culture and*
19 *identity*” as the uncompromising components of every strategy in the short, medium and long
20 term programs; now, therefore

21 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 29th General
22 Assembly, Tarawa, Republic of Kiribati, June 3-4, 2010, that this Association hereby commends
23 the Government and the People of Kiribati for your foresight, for your courage and for your
24 resolve in tackling the challenges of climate change in the international arena, in meeting the
25 realities of sea level damage already occurring in your islands, and in setting your sights on
26 overcoming the certainty of loss of your atolls which would otherwise be caused by further rises
27 in the levels of the oceans which will continue for decades to come; and

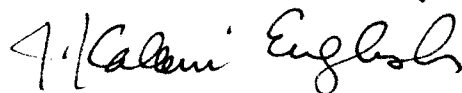
1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL delegates here assembled in the national
2 capital of the Republic of Kiribati, have all obtained a greater understanding of the challenges to
3 our Pacific Islands being thrust upon us by climate change, and like the Republic of Kiribati, we
4 are all becoming committed to a well informed, highly focused and clearly coordinated approach
5 to resolving the problems that global warming has cast upon our region of the world; and

6 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the regional APIL task force on climate change
7 called for in Resolution 29-GA-05, also adopted at this General Assembly of the APIL, take
8 cognizance of the individual efforts of the Republic of Kiribati and each of our jurisdictions to
9 combat the damages of this environmental disaster and share these ideas, initiatives, successes
10 and failures with each of the APIL members; and

11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in combining strategies on global warming and
12 formulating new initiatives on climate change that priority be given to the Pacific Island atoll
13 countries, like the Republic of Kiribati and the Republic of the Marshall Islands, while still
14 giving emphasis to the needs of all island jurisdictions who are being threatened by rising sea
15 levels; and

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify and the Secretary
17 shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall be thereafter transmitted to
18 the chief executives and legislative presiding officers of each member of the Association of
19 Pacific Island Legislatures and to the leaders of such countries, regional organizations and
20 international entities as the APIL President determines appropriate.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 4TH DAY OF JUNE, 2010.



J. KALANI ENGLISH
APIL PRESIDENT



JUDITH T. WON PAT
APIL SECRETARY

