



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. 33-GA-01

“Endorsing the concept of initiating the first step in the establishment of the *Blue Continent Free Trade Agreement* through the adoption of specific free trade provisions, especially tailored for the inter-island trade of commodities that are caught, grown and produced within the private sector economies of our own, individual islands utilizing the human talents of our own people.”

1 **WHEREAS**, the primary mission of the Association of Pacific Island
2 Legislatures is to organize a permanent association of mutual assistance by
3 representatives of the people of the Pacific Islands to consider matters of mutual
4 interest in areas where regional cooperation, coordination, exchange and assistance
5 would help individual governments achieve their goals through collective action; and

6 **WHEREAS**, since its inception over thirty years ago, the APIL has been
7 consistently calling attention to the need to promote free trade and commerce among
8 and between the member jurisdictions of the Association; and

9 **WHEREAS**, in the last four years, the APIL has adopted and further affirmed
10 our united position in desiring to strengthen our Pacific peoples and governments
11 through trade and economic accords that mutually benefit APIL member nations, states
12 and territories through the passage of three resolutions that specifically call for
13 member entities of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures to facilitate,
14 encourage and promote free trade in the Pacific region through the establishment of
15 what is now referred to as the *Blue Continent Free Trade Agreement*; and

16 **WHEREAS**, despite the repeated calls by the APIL for the establishment of this
17 long awaited free trade agreement, the institution of a fully established system of free
18 trade among and between the APIL jurisdictions has yet to become a reality; and

19 **WHEREAS**, it is the sense of the APIL Delegates assembled together in this
20 month of July, 2014, that the establishment of such a free trade agreement may be

1 most effectively accomplished through the adoption of a phased program of
2 sequentially implemented free trade initiatives aimed at priority trade categories; and

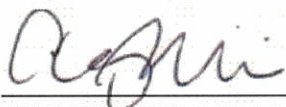
3 **WHEREAS**, it is the further sense of the assembled Delegates that priority in
4 free trade amongst and between our islands is most needed in the categories of
5 commodities that are caught, grown and produced within the private sector economies
6 of our own, individual islands utilizing the human talents of our own people; now,
7 therefore,

8 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 33rd
9 General Assembly, July 15 through July 17, 2014, Island of Majuro in the Republic of
10 the Marshall Islands, that the APIL General Assembly hereby endorses the concept of
11 initiating the first step in the establishment of the *Blue Continent Free Trade*
12 *Agreement* through the adoption of specific free trade provisions especially tailored for
13 the inter-island trade of commodities that are caught, grown and produced within the
14 private sector economies of our own, individual islands utilizing the human talents of
15 our own people; and

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the APIL President shall certify, and the
17 APIL Secretary shall attest to the adoption hereof and that copies of the same shall
18 thereafter be transmitted to the Chief Executives and Presiding Legislative Officers of
19 each member jurisdiction of the APIL.

DULY AND REGULARLY ADOPTED ON THE 17th DAY OF JULY, 2014.


JUDITH T. WON PAT, ED.D.
PRESIDENT


CHANG WILLIAM
SECRETARY

