



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-03, CD1

“To explore the concept and the feasibility of the establishment of a closely affiliated, regional network of museums for the APIL Pacific.”

1 **WHEREAS**, throughout the islands of the jurisdictions of the Association of the
2 Pacific Island Legislatures, we all share deep and enduring values in the heritage of our
3 peoples and in the traditions of our cultures, the importance of which are embodied in the
4 founding documents of our island governments; and

5 **WHEREAS**, in the Preamble of the Constitution of the Federated States of
6 Micronesia, the basic document upon which the FSM Nation was founded, the importance
7 of the diverse history of the island States of Kosrae, Pohnpei, Chuuk and Yap takes center
8 stage:

9 *“To make one nation of many islands, we respect the diversity of our*
10 *cultures. Our differences enrich us. The seas bring us together, they do not*
11 *separate us. Our islands sustain us, our island nation enlarges us and makes*
12 *us stronger.*

13 *Our ancestors, who made their homes on these islands, displaced no*
14 *other people. We, who remain, wish no other home than this. Having known*
15 *war, we hope for peace. Having been divided, we wish unity. Having been*
16 *ruled, we seek freedom.*

Micronesia began in the days when man explored seas in rafts and canoes. The Micronesian nation is born in an age when men voyage among stars; our world itself is an island.”; and

WHEREAS, in like manner, the Preamble of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands resolutely proclaims that:

“We have reason to be proud of our forefathers who boldly ventured across the unknown waters of the vast Pacific Ocean many centuries ago, ably responding to the constant challenges of maintaining a bare existence on these tiny islands in their noble quest to build their own distinctive society.

This society has survived, and has withstood the test of time, the impact of other cultures, the devastation of war, and the high price paid for the purposes of international peace and security. All we have and are today as a people, we have received as a sacred heritage which we pledge ourselves to safeguard and maintain, valuing nothing more dearly than our rightful home on the islands.”; and

WHEREAS, from the western most island nation of the Pacific, the Preamble of the Constitution of the Republic of Palau proudly announces that:

*“We, the people of Palau
proclaim and reaffirm our immemorial right
to be supreme in these islands of Palau, our homeland.*

*We renew our dedication
to preserve and enhance our traditional heritage,
our national identity and
our respect for peace, freedom and justice for all mankind”;* and

1 **WHEREAS**, the Preamble of the Constitution of the most northerly member in the
2 Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana
3 Islands begins with the challenge that:

4 *“We the people of the Northern Mariana Islands, grateful to Almighty God*
5 *for our freedom, ordain and establish this Constitution as the embodiment of*
6 *our traditions...”*; and

7 **WHEREAS**, the Preamble of the Constitution of the State of Hawaii, the first of the
8 islands in our region of the Pacific to re-attain self-government in the modern age, begins
9 with the words:

10 *“We, the people of Hawaii, grateful for Divine Guidance, and mindful of*
11 *our Hawaiian heritage and uniqueness as an island State, dedicate our*
12 *efforts to fulfill the philosophy decreed by the Hawaii State motto, “Ua*
13 *mau ke ea o ka aina i ka pono”*”; and

14 **WHEREAS**, just south of the equator, the Preamble of the Constitution of the
15 Republic of Kiribati begins with the solemn words:

16 *“We the people of Kiribati, acknowledging God as the Almighty Father*
17 *in whom we put trust, and with faith in the enduring value of our*
18 *tradition and heritage, do now grant ourselves this Constitution*
19 *establishing a sovereign democratic State.”*; and

20 **WHEREAS**, the Constitution of the southern most Territory of American Samoa
21 which has been established *to further advance government of the people, by the people, and*
22 *for the people of American Samoa*, specifically provides for a constitutional office to be
23 known as the Secretary of Samoan Affairs who *shall be appointed by the Governor from*
24 *among the leading registered matais.*; and

25 **WHEREAS**, the basic document establishing the government of the Territory of
26 Guam unfortunately is not an indigenous document since it was not composed nor was it

1 ratified by the people of Guam, but in April of this year the *I Mina'trentai Dos Na*
2 *Liheslaturan Guåhan*, (the Guam Legislature), enacted Public Law No. 32-145 through
3 which the elected legislative representatives of the people of Guam declared the first
4 Monday in March of each year as *Guam History and Chamarro Heritage Day*; moreover,

5 **WHEREAS**, because of their strong commitment to the promotion of cultural and
6 traditional arts, both American Samoa in 2008 and Guam in 2016 have been privileged to be
7 selected to serve as the hosts of the Pacific Festival of Arts, an event which occurs only once
8 every four years and which involves the participation of at least 27 island countries and
9 territories spanning the whole of the Pacific Ocean; and

10 **WHEREAS**, narrowing our focus back again to the islands of the Central Pacific, it
11 is the sense of the General Assembly of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures that
12 our uniquely connected histories, languages, cultures and traditions play a dramatic role in
13 the lives of all of us throughout our island chains and archipelagoes; and

14 **WHEREAS**, the tempo of the music of these connected notes of shared memories,
15 values and beliefs, when sung in concert, give meaning and form to the expression, “*blue*
16 *continent*”, the symbol by which the members of the Association of the Pacific Island
17 Legislatures have come to refer to our special place in the world in recent years; and

18 **WHEREAS**, although noticeably connected, our languages, cultures and traditions
19 do differ in many respects; yet it is the deeply felt sense of the APIL General Assembly that
20 there are a significant number of aspects of our histories which we most strongly share in
21 common; and

22 **WHEREAS**, we have come to learn about these common histories through the
23 legends or our ancestors which date back thousands of years when palaces like Nan Madol
24 in Pohnpei and Insaru in Kosrae were built as part of the Kachau Empire that stretched
25 across the vast and seemingly endless seas of the Central Pacific; and

1 **WHEREAS**, well before our people discovered that there were civilizations outside
2 and far away from the boundless seas of the Pacific, our ancestors were navigating to, from
3 and between the islands of our blue continent, sailing across the vast passages of our water
4 world in rugged, ocean-going outrigger and doubled hulled canoes; and

5 **WHEREAS**, as we began to emerge out of the ancient past into a new age of
6 discovery, our forefathers from Hawaii in the east to Palau in the west; from American
7 Samoa in the south to the Mariana Islands in the north, began to realize that we all share
8 common histories of the explorations of the tall masted ships of nations that we never knew
9 existed, of the expeditions of the whaling vessels voyaging out from the seaports of both
10 New England and Old England, of the introduction of Christianity through the voyages of
11 the early missionaries traveling under the sponsorship of churches in both Europe and
12 America, and of the colonization of our islands by advanced nations from both the East and
13 the West; and

14 **WHEREAS**, these colonizers from the East and from the West did bring to us the
15 beliefs of religion and the principles of democracy, as well as the benefits of trade and
16 commerce, but their contacts with our islands also brought upon us the devastating impacts
17 of world wars and nuclear contamination; and

18 **WHEREAS**, the adverse impacts of the advanced nations of the world on the fragile
19 ecosystems of our islands and our seas continue to threaten our existence as island peoples
20 through the rising sea levels of global warming caused by the pollutants of the modern
21 industries and sprawling populations of those distant nations; and

22 **WHEREAS**, it is the profound sense of the General Assembly of the Association of
23 Pacific Island Legislatures that the commonalities of our histories, our mutual respect for the
24 diversity of our languages, cultures and traditions, and our deep concerns as to our continued
25 existence as island peoples and island nations, all speak to the need to establish a regional
26 network for the museums that already exist within our region and for the new museums that

1 will be built in the future where the commonalities and contrasts among and between the
2 island peoples of the APIL Pacific can be immortalized and exhibited for our current and
3 future generations to observe and experience; and

4 **WHEREAS**, the APIL General Assembly is also of the mind that a closely affiliated
5 network of museums, coordinated through the expression of an interconnected display of
6 island histories, cultural traditions, recent political trends and hopes for the future, can also
7 be utilized as a positive instrument to enlighten and to educate the rising numbers of world
8 heritage tourists from distant lands as to both the advantages and the challenges that they
9 and their forefathers have brought to our island shores and to our island peoples; and

10 **WHEREAS**, the primary mission of our Association of Pacific Island Legislatures is
11 to consider matters of mutual interest in areas where regional cooperation, coordination,
12 exchange and assistance would help individual governments achieve their goals through
13 collective action; and

14 **WHEREAS**, over the years, our Association has been instrumental in sponsoring
15 and giving birth to organizations and institutions that have brought economic and social
16 advantages and educational and health benefits to the peoples of the member jurisdictions of
17 the APIL Pacific; now, therefore,

18 **BE IT RESOLVED** by the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures, 33rd General
19 Assembly, July 15 through July 17, 2014, Island of Majuro in the Republic of the Marshall
20 Islands, that the APIL General Assembly hereby declares that it has decided that the
21 Association will explore the concept and the feasibility of the establishment of a closely
22 affiliated, regional network of museums for the APIL Pacific; and

23 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that with this decision of the regional concept of a
24 network of museums for the APIL Pacific, the President of the APIL is requested to take the
25 first steps in making the regional museum concept a reality; and

1 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that in the efforts to bring the regional museum
2 concept to fruition, the APIL President is further requested to call upon the Association's
3 national and international partners and friends, the Micronesian Endowment for Historic
4 Preservation (MEHP) and other established museums, educational institutions, archival
5 centers, repositories of historical artifacts, as well as other interested NGO's and individuals
6 to obtain their advice, consultations and assistance; and

7 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that the General Assembly expresses its gratitude
8 to the APIL delegates from the FSM State of Pohnpei who have graciously welcomed the
9 opportunity for the APIL to consider Pohnpei, which is the home of the famous ruins of Nan
10 Madol, the ancient city that served as a central focus within the vast Kachau Empire that
11 first drew the islands of our region of the Pacific together, to serve as the host island for the
12 central coordinating base for the network of regional museums, with the understanding, of
13 course, that already established, partnering museums and institutions situated throughout the
14 island jurisdictions of the APIL Pacific will all constitute sensibly coordinated, yet
15 independent components of the affiliated network; and

16 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that certified copies of this resolution be
17 transmitted to the Chief Executives and Presiding Legislative Officers of each of the
18 member jurisdictions of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures; and

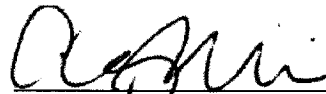
19 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED** that certified copies of this resolution also be
20 transmitted to the Director-General of the International Council of Museums, (ICOM), to the
21 Director-General of the United Nations Educational, Scientific and Cultural Organization,
22 (UNESCO), to the Director-General of the Secretariat of the Pacific Community, (SPC), to
23 the President of the Micronesian Endowment for Historic Preservation (MEHP), and to the
24 Ambassadors to the island countries within the APIL Pacific from the nations of Australia,
25 Japan, the People's Republic of China, the Republic of China, and the United States of
26 America with the respectful and humble request that, if possible, these officials and the

- 1 international organizations and governments they represent provide much needed advice and
2 references to the President of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures as to the
3 establishment of a closely affiliated network of museums for the APIL Pacific.

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



**JUDITH T. WON PAT, ED.D.
PRESIDENT**



**CHANG WILLIAM
SECRETARY**

