



**A RESOLUTION OF THE 14<sup>th</sup> MICRONESIA CHIEF EXECUTIVES' SUMMIT:**

Requesting that the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular areas, Anthony Marion Babauta, and his senior staff, begin to undertake the required policy and planning review, development and implementation needed to establish a Regional Office in Guam by the Fall of 2011 in order to prepare for the strategic realignment of the United States Military Forces in the Pacific and to develop closer ties to the Region, its people and its leadership, through a postcolonial, emancipatory, visionary and transformative Strategic Framework.

*WHEREAS*, President Barack Obama nominated Anthony Marion Babauta as the United States Assistant Secretary of the Interior, and that nomination has been confirmed by the United States Congress; and

*WHEREAS*, Assistant Secretary Babauta has worked for the United States House of Representatives Natural Resources Committee since 1998, most recently as "Staff Director" for the Subcommittee on Insular Affairs, Oceans and Wildlife, and in this position advised the full committee on United States policy towards the United States Territories and other United States affiliated island nations; and

*WHEREAS*, Assistant Secretary Babauta has developed and maintained close professional and personal relationships with leaders throughout Micronesia; and

*WHEREAS*, Assistant Secretary Babauta was instrumental in advancing the renegotiated Compacts of Free Association with the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, the Guam War Claims and the Political Advancement of Puerto Rico; and

*WHEREAS*, the Chief Executives of the Micronesia Chief Executives' Summit (MCES) recognize that Assistant Secretary Babauta has attained an extraordinary level of competence, wisdom and knowledge regarding the growing complexity of current, long standing and emerging issues in the Insular Areas, including the Micronesian Islands and also Puerto Rico; and

*WHEREAS*, the Chief Executives of the MCES believe that the nomination and confirmation of a Micronesian as the Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Insular Areas was not only appropriate but necessary to broaden the understanding of the Department of Interior regarding Micronesian issues and to tie the Micronesian islands more closely to the issues and priorities to the United States of America in the Pacific Region; and

*WHEREAS*, Assistant Secretary Babauta supports working toward regional integration through regional organizations like the Association of the Pacific Islands Legislatures, the Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit, the Micronesian Center for a Sustainable Future and the University of Guam's Center for Island Sustainability; and

*WHEREAS*, the Chief Executives of the MCES have expressed their sincere appreciation to President Barack Obama for the advancement of the issues of the Micronesian States through the

reestablishment of the position of Assistant Secretary of Interior for Insular Affairs, which clearly reflects a commitment to enhanced communication, cooperation, development, sustainability, security, collective action, shared progress and a postcolonial, emancipatory, visionary, transformative regional strategic framework; and

*WHEREAS*, The United States Affiliated Islands of Micronesia are experiencing a period of rapid growth, urbanization, westernization and increasing significance to United States national security in the Pacific; and

*WHEREAS*, the Chief Executives of Micronesia, in response to the extraordinary challenges presented by the strategic realignment of United States Military Forces in the Pacific, and given the emerging opportunities within the region to preserve, leverage and integrate indigenous, natural, and human resource systems, have established the Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit with membership from all nine jurisdictions, which Summit is entering its seventh year, and

*WHEREAS*, over the next ten years nearly twenty billion dollars will flow through Guam in order to realign United States Military forces in the Pacific; and

*WHEREAS*, although Guam is the focal point of this strategic military realignment, the military build-up will have extraordinary impacts, both positive and negative, throughout all nine Pacific jurisdictions; and

*WHEREAS*, the official estimate of the population of FAS citizens on Guam is currently over twenty thousand and FAS leaders on Guam consider unofficial estimates to be closer to thirty thousand, which represents nearly twenty-five to thirty percent of the total resident population of the Guam; and

*WHEREAS*, in anticipation of the economic and educational opportunities that the realignment of United States Military Forces in the Pacific will bring, there will be a significant increase in immigration from the citizens of the FAS to Guam, seeking a better life for themselves and their families, which could lead to a total population on Guam of nearly forty thousand citizens from the FAS; and

*WHEREAS*, the issues, possibilities, potential conflicts and opportunities associated with this complex series of interconnected social changes, challenges and opportunities can best be managed on the ground in the jurisdiction wherein these changes are taking place; and

*WHEREAS*, Assistant Secretary Babauta is uniquely positioned to manage the enormous transformative changes that are taking place in the region; and

*WHEREAS*, Assistant Secretary Babauta has been given unique access to the White House and its senior staff by the President of the United States of America; and

*WHEREAS*, because of these extraordinary opportunities and circumstances, the Chief Executives representing the MCES respectfully request that the Assistant Secretary begin the required policy review, development and implementation needed to establish a new Office of Insular Affairs on Guam; and

*WHEREAS*, there are many issues and agreements, between the United States and the Pacific Territories, Commonwealths, and Freely Associated States; and



*WHEREAS*, those issues would be more equitably administered and will be addressed from a world view which embraces the cultural milieu and context in which the citizens of the territories and the FAS live their lives; and

*WHEREAS*, this new office could assume several responsibilities, including the responsibility for the day-to-day monitoring of grant assistance under the Compacts of Free Association; and

*WHEREAS*, this new regional office could be the focal point for work performed by regional staff for the U.S. delegations to the bilateral joint committees with the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia, respectively, that monitor Compact Funding, apply and assist in overseeing compact trust funds; and

*WHEREAS*, this new office could monitor the activities of other federal agencies that provide programs and services in the Freely Associated States; and

*WHEREAS*, Governor Fitial of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas and Chairman of the 13<sup>th</sup> Summit has signed a Joint Statement with the Chairman of the Region IX Federal Planning Council, thereby forging a new regionally based relationship with the United States Federal Government; and

*WHEREAS*, staff recruited for this proposed office would necessarily include Pacific islanders, indigenous men and women, and those trained in intercultural communication and should be multidisciplinary in order to address challenges and opportunities from a multidimensional understanding and they should be trained to understand and seek social, economic and environmental justice, while pursuing the interest and goals of the United States of America; and

*WHEREAS*, the administrative functions of this office should not be outsourced to any non-state actors or NGOs outside of Micronesia; rather, the capacity and talent should be built and developed from within the region using the resources emanating from the institutions of higher education within the region; and

*WHEREAS*, Assistant Secretary Babauta could use this transformative realignment in the OIA operations to have Guam serve as the focal point of regional operations that would then devolve core services, authority and responsibility down to the jurisdiction being served; and

*WHEREAS*, Assistant Secretary Babauta could use this realignment to appoint a high level special representative to each of the Territories and Freely Associated States who report to him directly; thereby insuring that institutional power does not become bureaucratic, calcified, insensitive and non-responsive to the needs, best interest or concerns of the citizens of the region; and

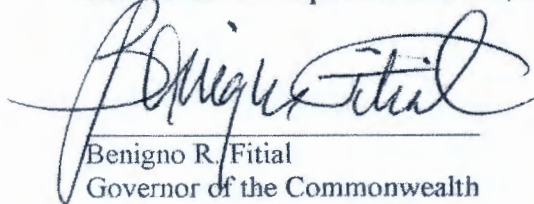
*WHEREAS*, The Board of Directors of the Association of the Pacific Island Legislatures has passed a resolution calling for the implementation of the ideas and principles embodied in this resolution; and

*WHEREAS*, the citizens of the United States affiliated Islands of Micronesia would be better served by the Office of Insular Affairs with a local office in Guam

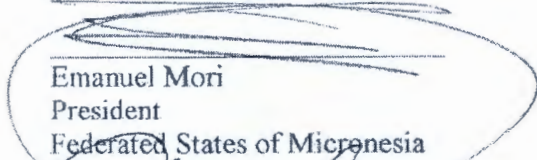
*NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED*, that the Chief Executives of the Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit request that Assistant Secretary Babauta acknowledge, research, adopt and pursue the above Resolution that proposes the establishment of a Regional Office in Guam by the Fall of 2011; and

*BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED*, that a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the Assistant Secretary of the Office of Insular Areas within the U.S. Department of Interior, the U.S. Secretary of State and the President of the United States.

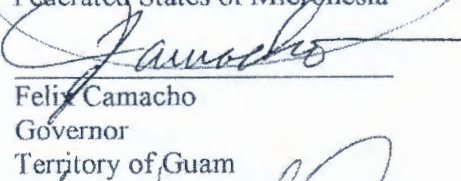
Signed this day December 16, 2010 at the 14<sup>th</sup> Micronesian Chief Executives' Summit in the Republic of Palau, at the Ngarachamayong Cultural Center.



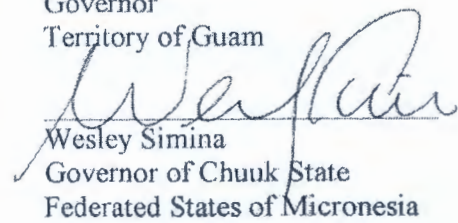
Benigno R. Fitial  
Governor of the Commonwealth  
Of the Northern Mariana Islands



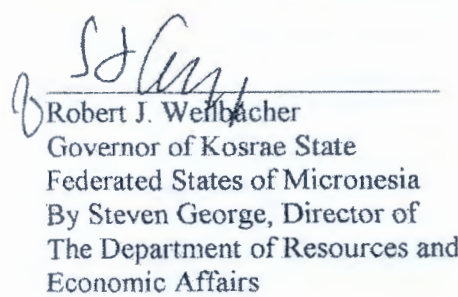
Emanuel Mori  
President  
Federated States of Micronesia



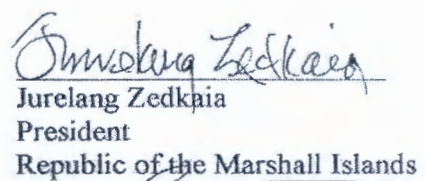
Felix Camacho  
Governor  
Territory of Guam



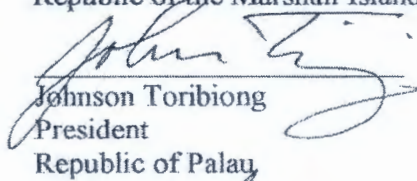
Wesley Simina  
Governor of Chuuk State  
Federated States of Micronesia



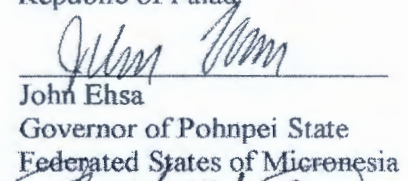
Robert J. Wenbacher  
Governor of Kosrae State  
Federated States of Micronesia  
By Steven George, Director of  
The Department of Resources and  
Economic Affairs



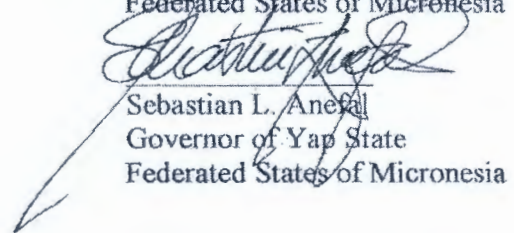
Jurelang Zedkaia  
President  
Republic of the Marshall Islands



Johnson Toribiong  
President  
Republic of Palau



John Ehsa  
Governor of Pohnpei State  
Federated States of Micronesia



Sebastian L. Anefal  
Governor of Yap State  
Federated States of Micronesia