

ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF YAP
Third Regular Session
2025

(Calendar)

Resolution No. 11-109

A RESOLUTION

Expressing profound and sincere appreciation to the Polynesian Voyaging Society, *Nā Kālai Wa'a*, and the people of Hawaii and Polynesia and proclaiming the utmost recognition for their unwavering support and their commitment to the State of Yap and most especially to the people of Satawal Island and the traditional chiefs, "the Council of Tamol" of Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia, in honoring and perpetuating the art of traditional wayfinding and voyaging of canoes.

1 WHEREAS *Rhaepinwoag* Pius Mau Piailug, from Satawal
2 Island, Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia, shared his
3 ancestral knowledge of traditional wayfinding with the people
4 of Hawai'i, reviving traditional Polynesian navigation and
5 reaffirming the seafaring legacy of the Pacific; and

6 WHEREAS, the Polynesia Voyaging Society, *Nā Kālai Wa'a*
7 and the people of Hawaii and Polynesia continue to honor,
8 uphold, and safeguard the sacred ancestral knowledge of the
9 art of traditional wayfinding and navigation, reading of ocean
10 swells, star positions, and bird flight patterns, which have
11 been passed to them by the *Rhaepinwoag* Pius Mau Piailug; and

12 WHEREAS in 1976, under the guidance of *Rhaepinwoag* Pius
13 Mau Piailug, the *Hōkūle'a*, a traditional Polynesian double-
14 hulled canoe, successfully voyaged from Hawai'i to Tahiti
15 without the use of modern instruments, proving the viability

1 of ancient navigation techniques and inspiring a cultural
2 renaissance for Hawaii, Polynesia, and Micronesian peoples;
3 and

4 WHEREAS the *Hökūle‘a* canoe voyage of 1976, under the
5 guidance of *Rhaepinwoag* Pius Mau Piailug, the canoe
6 "*Chechemeni*" voyage from Satawal Island to Okinawa in 1975
7 under the guidance of *Rhaepinwoag* Louis Rapanglug of Satawal
8 Island, the voyage of the canoe "*Tipiew*" by *Rhaepinwoag* Louis
9 Rapanglug to Fukuoka, Japan in 1987, along with the reopening
10 of the sea route "*Mathawalwol*" in 1970 by *Rhaepinwoag* Louis
11 Rapanglug, have all fostered renewed connections of heritage,
12 strengthened cultural identity, prompted inter-generational
13 learning, and revitalized the unity within the community of
14 the Pacific peoples; and

15 WHEREAS *Rhaepinwoag* Pius Mau Piailug's students,
16 including *Soauseraeg* Nainoa Thompson, *Soauseraeg* Shorty
17 Bertelmann, the PWO from Hawaii and Polynesia, and other
18 Hawaiian voyagers, together with the support of the Polynesian
19 Voyaging Society, *Nā Kālai Wa‘a* and the people of Hawaii,
20 embraced and continued his teachings and inspiring future
21 generations of navigators and voyages of the Pacific; and

22 WHEREAS the Polynesian Voyaging Society, *Nā Kālai Wa‘a*,
23 and the people of Hawaii and Polynesia continued to honor and

1 respect the inheritance of knowledge in the art of traditional
2 navigation from *Rhaepinwoag Pius Mau Piailug*, demonstrated by
3 the voyage of the *Makalii* in 1999, the E-Mau voyage to Satawal
4 Island to "bring the master home", and the 2007 voyage of the
5 *Hōkūle'a* and *Maeisu* to Satawal Island to deliver the grand
6 gift of the *Maeisu* to *Rhaepinwoag Pius Mau Piailug*; and

7 WHEREAS, some students from the Polynesian Voyaging
8 Society, the *Nā Kālai Wa'a*, Hawaii, Polynesia, and Micronesia,
9 including the native Hawaiians *Soauseraeg Nainoa Thompson* and
10 *Soauseraeg Shorty Bertelmann*, were trained and mentored by the
11 *Rhaepinwoag Pius Mau Piailug* and finally received the
12 traditional rites of *PWO* from *Rhaepinwoag Pius Mau Piailug* in
13 2007 and in 2008; now, therefore,

14 BE IT RESOLVED by the Eleventh Legislature of the State
15 of Yap, Third Regular Session, 2025, that on behalf of the
16 State of Yap, this Legislature hereby expresses profound and
17 sincere appreciation to the Polynesian Voyaging Society, *Nā*
18 *Kālai Wa'a*, and the people of Hawaii and Polynesia and
19 proclaiming the utmost recognition for their unwavering
20 support and their commitment to the State of Yap and most
21 especially to the people of Satawal Island and the traditional
22 chiefs, "the Council of Tamol" of Yap State, Federated States
23 of Micronesia, in honoring and perpetuating the art of

1 traditional wayfinding and voyaging of canoes; and

2 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that we commend the Polynesian
3 Voyaging Society, the *Nā Kālai Wa'a*, and the people of Hawaii
4 and Polynesia for their continued leadership in advancing the
5 teachings of *Rhaepinwoag Pius Mau Piailug*, fostering cross-
6 cultural learning, and inspiring new generations to connect
7 with their ancestral seafaring heritage; and

8 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this
9 Resolution be transmitted to *Soauseraeg* Nainoa Thompson,
10 President of the Polynesian Voyaging Society; *Soauseraeg*
11 Shorty Bertelmann, of *Nā Kālai Wa'a*; Governor of the State of
12 Hawaii; United States Ambassador to the FSM; President of the
13 Federated States of Micronesia; Secretary of the Department of
14 FSM Foreign Affairs; Governor of the State of Yap; the
15 Chairman of the Council of Pilung; Chairman of the Council of
16 Tamol; and Satawal Island Traditional Chiefs.

17
18
19
20
21
22
23

Date: 2.25.25 Introduced by: 
Victor Bamog

Date: 2-25-25 Introduced by: 
Gabriel Ramoloilug

Date: 2.25.25 Introduced by: 
Terrence R. Fong