ELEVENTH LEGISLATURE YAP STATE RESOLUTION NO. 11-122

STATE OF YAP

FOURTH REGULAR SESSION, 2026

A RESOLUTION

Expressing deepest sorrow, sympathy and condolences to the family, relatives, and friends of the late Grandmaster Navigator "Rhaepinwoag" Sesario Sewralur for his untimely passing.

WHEREAS, the late Grandmaster Navigator "Rhaepinwoag" Sesario Sewralur passed away at the Shin Kong Wu Ho-Su Memorial Hospital, Taipei, Taiwan on July 10, 2026 – one day before his 57th birthday; and

WHEREAS, the late Grandmaster Navigator "Rhaepinwoag" Sesario Sewralur was born on Satawal Island, Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia, on July 11, 1969 to his renowned father, the Great Grandmaster Navigator "Mwiurh Alaw" Mau Piailug and mother Catherina Lemwaeito, into a family with ten brothers and six sisters; and

WHEREAS, as a public servant, the late Grandmaster Navigator "Rhaepinwoag" Sesario Sewralur served in the Yap State Division of State Public Safety as a Sergeant from December 4, 2000 – May 24, 2007, and while serving in this public office, Grandmaster Navigator "Rhaepinwoag" Sesario Sewralur engaged himself in the creation and establishment of the Traditional Navigation

Society (TNS) of Yap; and

WHEREAS, the late Grandmaster Navigator "Rhaepinwoag" Sesario Sewralur, a very humble and well respected son of Satawal Island, Yap State, had devoted his life to the preservation, practice, teaching, and advancement of the sacred art of traditional Pacific oceanic navigation, serving as an esteemed cultural leader and mentor to countless navigators and students throughout Yap, the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of Palau, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, Hawai'i, other Pacific Islands, and Institutions around the world; and

WHEREAS, the late Grandmaster Navigator "Rhaepinwoag" Sesario Sewralur, through his exceptional knowledge of the stars, winds, ocean swells, currents, and traditional wayfinding, he safeguarded an invaluable cultural heritage that has been passed down through generations and inspired renewed appreciation for indigenous navigation across the Pacific; and

WHEREAS, the late Grandmaster Navigator "Rhaepinwoag" Sesario Sewralur, as a student under the mentorship of his Papa Mau, had sailed a lot of voyages

on Satawal sailing canoes in many sea lanes within proximity to Satawal and between Yap and Palau, as well as many other sea lanes "metaw" from Hawaii to the islands north and south of the equator on the Hawaiian double hull sailing canoes; and

WHEREAS, the late Grandmaster Navigator "Rhaepinwoag" Sesario Sewralur, sailed on the "E Mau - Sailing the Master Home", a historic 1999 voyage where the Hawaiian voyaging double-hulled canoe *Makaliʻi* sailed from Hawaii to Satawal in Micronesia, and he also sailed on another historic voyage on the traditional double-hulled canoe "*Alingano Maisu*" from Hawaii to Micronesia, from January 23 to April 7, 2007, which was known as the *Kū Holo Mau* (Sail On, Sail Always, Sail Forever) voyage, including the accompanying *Hōkūleʻa*, a tribute canoe to legendary Great Grandmaster Navigator "Mwiurh" Mau Piailug; and

WHEREAS, Grandmaster Navigator "Rhaepinwoag" Sesario Sewralur, with his inheritance of the *Alingano Maisu* moved to Palau and operated under the sponsorship program of the Palau Community College and the Micronesian Voyaging Society, where he became known as a true leader

and custodian of the art of traditional wayfinding and caretaker of the ocean; and

WHEREAS, the late Grandmaster Navigator "Rhaepinwoag" Sesario Sewralur, voyaged to Taiwan twice, the most recent was to Taiwan and Okinawa, from Okinawa to Guam, during which he executed a difficult and rare maneuvering aspect of "Ruwelmetaw" called "mwirmetaw" to change course and destination to Yap due to super typhoon Sinlaku approaching their way, and the late Grandmaster Navigator "Rhaepinwoag" Sesario Sewralur again executed another "mwirmetaw" to change course and destination to Palau due to remnant of Typhoon Sinlaku blocking their approach to Yap, and after successfully completing maneuvers, the late Grandmaster Navigator "Rhaepinwoag" Sesario Sewralur arrived to Palau safely, but unfortunately could not attend the "Aetaeri" – voyage closing ceremony as he became ill, was hospitalized and finally later referred to Taiwan; and

WHEREAS, the late Grandmaster Navigator "Rhaepinwoag" Sesario Sewralur, with a multitude of his achievements have consistently been characterized by enthusiasm, dedication, and unwavering commitment and

perseverance with his unquantifiable service and contributions to the State of Yap, and he exemplified wisdom, humility, dedication to his community, earning great respect and admiration of the traditional leaders, government officials, educators, and people throughout Yap State and he was known to many people of Yap State as a man who carried himself with a humble status, gentle smile, and with humility that never changed regardless of where his voyages carried him, and whose greatest joy came from teaching others rather than being praised; and

WHEREAS, the passing of Grandmaster Navigator "Rhaepinwoag" Sesario Sewralur is a profound loss to his family, his community, the traditional navigation community, the State of Yap, the Federated States of Micronesia, and all who value the preservation of Pacific cultural traditions and who value the ocean and the Pacific Islands as One People, One Ocean, One Canoe; now, therefore,

BE IT RESOLVED that the Eleventh Legislature of the State of Yap, Fourth Regular Session, that this Legislature hereby expresses deepest sorrow, sympathy and condolences to the family, relatives, and friends of the

late Grandmaster Navigator "Rhaepinwoag" Sesario Sewralur for his untimely passing; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that the Legislature recognizes the extraordinary legacy of the late Grandmaster Navigator "Rhaepinwoag" Sesario Sewralur, whose wisdom, leadership, and dedication to traditional navigation will continue to inspire future generations and whose contributions to the preservation of Pacific cultural heritage will forever be remembered "SAIL ON, SAIL FOREVER, SAIL ALWAYS"; and

BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED that certified copies of this Resolution be transmitted to the family of the late Grandmaster Navigator "Rhaepinwoag" Sesario Sewralur; the President of the Republic of Palau, His Excellency Surangel S. Whipps, Jr.; the President of the Senate, Olbiil Era Kelulau, the Honorable Hokkons Baules; the Speaker of the House of Delegates, Olbiil Era Kelulau, Gibson Kanai; the Bilung, the Honorable Gloria G. Salii; the Paramount High Chief Ibedul, the Honorable Alexander Merep; the Paramount High Chief Reklai, the Honorable Raphael Bao Ngirmang; the President of the Micronesian Voyaging Society, the Honorable Shallum Etpison, and the

Board members; the President of Palau Community College, the Honorable Dr. Patrick U. Tellei; the Governor of the State of Hawaii, the Honorable Josh Green; the President of the Polynesian Voyaging Society, the Honorable Charles Nainoa Thompson; the Board President of Nā Kālai Waʻa, the Honorable Brandi Beaudet; the Chair of ʻOhana Waʻa, the Honorable Penny Martin; the Governor of Guam, the Honorable Lou Leon Guerrero; the Governor of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the Honorable David M. Apatang; the Executive Assistant of Carolinian Affairs, the Honorable Felix Nogis; the Executive Director of 500 Sails, the Honorable Jun Coleman, the President of the Board of Directors of 500 Sails, the Honorable Clinton A. Dela Cruz; the President of the Federated States of Micronesia, His Excellency Wesley W. Simina; the Speaker of the Congress of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Honorable Esmond B. Moses; the Governor of the State of Yap, the Honorable Francis Itimai; the Speaker of the Eleventh Yap State Legislature, the Honorable Nicholas Figirlaarwon; the Chief of Satawal Island, the Honorable Ignathio Emaipiy; the Chairman of the Council of Pilung, the Honorable

Thomas Falngin; and the Chairman of the Council of Tamol, the Honorable Paul Marlul.

Adopted on: August 03, 2026

Nicholas Figirlaarwon
Speaker

8/4/26
Date

Attested to:

Dee N. N. Libian
Chief Clerk