

STATE OF YAP

THIRD REGULAR SESSION, 2025

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
3 his ancestral knowledge of traditional wayfinding with
4 the people of Hawai'i, reviving traditional Polynesian
5 navigation and reaffirming the seafaring legacy of the
6 Pacific; and

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

14 WHEREAS in 1976, under the guidance of *Rhaepinwoag*
15 *Pius Mau Piailug*, the *Hōkūle'a*, a traditional Polynesian
16 double-hulled canoe, successfully voyaged from Hawai'i to

1 Tahiti without the use of modern instruments,
2 proving the viability of ancient navigation techniques
3 and inspiring a cultural renaissance for Hawaii,
4 Polynesia, and Micronesian peoples; and

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

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

1 WHEREAS the Polynesian Voyaging Society, *Nā Kālai*
2 *Wa'a*, and the people of Hawaii and Polynesia continued to
3 honor and respect the inheritance of knowledge in the art
4 of traditional navigation from *Rhaepinwoag Pius Mau*
5 *Piailug*, demonstrated by the voyage of the *Makalii* in
6 1999, the E-Mau voyage to Satawal Island to "bring the
7 master home", and the 2007 voyage of the *Hōkūle'a* and
8 *Maeisu* to Satawal Island to deliver the grand gift of the
9 *Maeisu* to *Rhaepinwoag Pius Mau Piailug*; and

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

18 BE IT RESOLVED by the Eleventh Legislature of the
19 State of Yap, Third Regular Session, 2025, that on behalf
20 of the State of Yap, this Legislature hereby expresses
21 profound and sincere appreciation to the Polynesian
22 Voyaging Society, *Nā Kālai Wa'a*, and the people of Hawaii
23 and Polynesia and proclaiming the utmost recognition for
24 their unwavering support and their commitment to the

1 State of Yap and most especially to the people of Satawal
2 Island and the traditional chiefs, "the Council of Tamol"
3 of Yap State, Federated States of Micronesia, in honoring
4 and perpetuating the art of traditional wayfinding and
5 voyaging of canoes; and

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

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

1 **Adopted:** February 25, 2025

2

3




Nicholas Figirlaarwon
Speaker

4

5

6



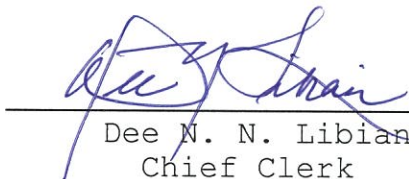
Date

7

8

9

Attested to:



Dee N. N. Libian
Chief Clerk

10

11

12

13

14

15

16

17

18

19

20

21

22

23

24