



## Pacific Islands Health Officers Association

### Board Resolution #46-01

*"Identifying climate change as a serious public health concern  
among PIHOA Member States"*

**WHEREAS**, warming of the climate system is unequivocal, as is now evident from observations of increases in global average air and ocean temperatures, widespread melting of snow and ice, and rising global average sea level;

**WHEREAS**, the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) identified small- island developing states as the areas most vulnerable to the negative impact of climate change;

**WHEREAS**, the United Nations identified American Samoa, Micronesia, Fiji, and Tuvalu as the coastal areas worst affected by climate change;

**WHEREAS** the vulnerability of these coastal areas is compounded by their lack of resources and their dependence on local food and water, according to the IPCC;

**WHEREAS**, the future impact of climate change is likely to include increases in drought, heavy precipitation, cyclones and sea level rise, resulting in crop failure, inland flooding, land slides, storm surges, and population displacement;

**WHEREAS**, these events will effect public health in myriad ways, such as malnutrition, disaster deaths, and cardio-respiratory diseases, along with changing infectious disease vectors;

**WHEREAS**, the chief responsibility of the members of the Pacific Island Health Officers Association is to protect and improve public health in their small island communities;

**WHEREAS**, effectively addressing climate change will require a broad cross-sectoral approach that engages governments, non-governmental-organizations, businesses, and communities;

**NOW THEREFORE BE IT RESOLVED**, that PIHOA and its member states will advocate proactively, on behalf of Pacific island interests, in local, national, regional and global venues where policies and resources relevant to the health impact of climate change in the Pacific are currently being developed;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that PIHOA will advocate for more research and data that more clearly identifies the impact of climate change on PIHOA Member States;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that PIHOA commits itself to raising awareness, among PIHOA members and allies, about the need to develop effective local and regional responses to this urgent and pending health concern, as well as the resources available to support such responses;

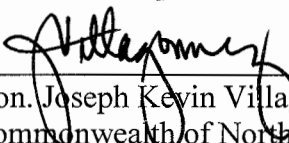
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that PIHOA commits itself to strengthening the capacity of the Northern Pacific Environmental Health Association, to represent effectively the needs of PIHOA member states, with respect to the health impacts of climate change;

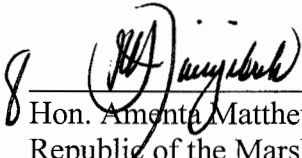
**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that PIHOA commits to partnering with local and regional environmental and agricultural groups committed to addressing the adverse effects of climate change;


**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that PIHOA requests its Affiliate Members to consider placing climate change on their agendas, if they are not already doing so;

**BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that PIHOA consider how climate change affects its other priority areas, including human resources for health, laboratory development, health data systems, quality assurance, public health planning, and connectivity;

**AND BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that PIHOA disseminate this resolution to relevant bodies, including non-governmental organizations, government agencies, appropriate legislative offices, local and regional environmental and agricultural organizations, and regional entities, including the Micronesian Chief Executives Summit.

  
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Hon. Joseph Kevin Villagomez, MA  
Commonwealth of Northern Mariana Islands  
PIHOA President

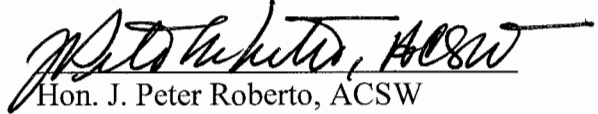
  
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Hon. Amentia Matthew  
Republic of the Marshall Islands  
PIHOA Vice President

  
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Hon. Stevenson Kuartei, MD (Acting)  
Republic of Palau  
PIHOA Treasurer

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American Samoa  
PIHOA Secretary



Hon. Vita Akapito Skilling, DCHMS, DipCH  
Federated States of Micronesia  
PIHOA Board Member



Hon. J. Peter Roberto, ACSW  
Guam  
PIHOA Board Member