*Office of the Speaker*
**TINA ROSE MUÑA BARNES**
*I Mina'Trentai Singko Na Liheslaturan Guahan*

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Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes

August 9, 2019

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COMMITTEE ON RULES
2:40pm.

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** **Senator Régine Biscoe Lee**
*Chairperson, Committee on Rules*

**FROM:** **Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes**

**SUBJECT:** **Travel Report – Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) 38th General Assembly**

Speaker Tina Rose Muña Barnes with Senator Régine Biscoe Lee and Senator Kelly Marsh (Taitano) Ph.D., travelled to Majuro in the Republic of the Marshall Islands between July 22 – July 27 to attend the 38th General Assembly of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures (APIL) between July 23 – 26.

- Monday, July 22
  - Arrived in Majuro, RMI at 8:40pm
  - All APIL attendees on that flight were greeted by the RMI APIL Directors, Presiding Officers, and others in attendance
  - Welcoming remarks were made by Speaker Kenneth Kedi of Nitijela and Speaker Muña Barnes among others
- Tuesday, July 23
  - Speaker Kedi, Speaker Muña Barnes, Sen. Régine Biscoe Lee, and Sen. Kelly Marsh (Taitano), Ph.D. met to discuss ways to collaborate to address the tensions between Micronesian groups and the community of Guam.
  - Attended the Opening Ceremony of the APIL 38th General Assembly
- Wednesday, July 24
  - Recognized the loss of APIL President Scaliem.

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- Elected the Acting President Floor Leader Nelson Stephen as APIL President and Senator Edgar W. Lickaneth as APIL Vice President.
- Was informed of the regional state of affairs through APIL member country reports wherein APIL Directors and Presiding Officers shared issues, challenges, and successes within their jurisdictions and of coalitions and alliances working within the region, or available to do so.
- Four presentations were provided, including:
  - "National Energy Office: Renewable Energy Programs & Projects in the Republic of the Marshall Islands."
    - Presented by: Ms. Angeline C. Heine, Director – RMI National Energy Office
  - "Powering Reverse Osmosis Water Systems in the Republic of the Marshall Islands."
    - Presented by: Mr. Tom Vance, President – Moana Marine.
  - "Blue Nature Alliance"
    - Presented by: Mr. Angelo Villagomez, Blue Nature Alliance
  - "COFA Alliance National Network (CANN)"
    - Presented by: Mr. Loyd Henion and Mr. David Anitok

- Thursday, July 25
  - Participated in the election of officers for APIL 2019-2020 term.
  - Resolutions were introduced and presented. The Guam Delegation presented 6 Resolutions:
    - Senator Kelly Marsh (Taitano), Ph.D. presented 3 resolutions:
      - To address the need for access to quality health care and medical facilities: Relative to recommending that member states work together to build a comprehensive assessment of the various health care services and medical facilities available to our Island communities.
      - To address tensions between Micronesian groups and the community of Guam: Relative to encouraging the

empowerment of Freely Associated State citizens by providing them tools for successful integration into foreign communities by developing and maintaining local centers or offices in their jurisdictions that would collaborate with the Guam and Hawai'i Micronesian Resources Centers to provide clear understandings of the socio-cultural and political expectations and laws of the areas to which FAS citizens will migrate.

- To safeguard our community and their resources: Relative to safeguarding the health of our people, our coral reefs, and our tourism economies by encouraging member states to ban sunscreens containing chemicals that are considered 'non-reef safe' in their jurisdictions and promoting the use of reef-friendly sunscreens and other methods of UV protection.

- Senator Régine Biscoe Lee presented a resolution:
  - Relative to reaffirming its support and continuing to endorse the conservation goals of the Micronesia Challenge and calling on all members of to support these commitments to the greatest extent practical
- Speaker Muña Barnes presented resolutions on the following:
  - Relative to expressing the support of the Association of Pacific Island Legislatures for the passage of the United States Senate S.947, also known as the "The Radiation Exposure Compensation Act amendments of 2019"
  - Relative to recognizing perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), commonly used as a firefighting foam, as a public health concern; to call for the immediate cessation of the use of PFAS as firefighting foam in our islands; and to encouraging the testing of sources of our potable water supplies for the presence of PFAS."

- The Guam APIL Directors and Presiding Officer jointly wrote and introduced a resolution:
  - To call for closing gender disparities and providing avenues for the advancement of women : Relative to recognizing and commending the 38th APIL for its largest representation of women leaders and encouraging members to promote the advancement of women in all stages of life, including in leadership and public office in their jurisdictions.
- All resolutions were unanimously adopted.
- Each resolution offered by the Guam APIL was stated by other APIL members to be strong resolutions that would help the region.
- Were informed of efforts by the COFA Alliance National Network to ensure social justice and other considerations for COFA citizens within US states.
- Attended a farewell dinner at which each member jurisdiction was recognized and provided an opportunity to recognize and thank other member jurisdictions for their commitment to working collaboratively on regional issues.

- Friday – July 26
  - Had lunch with the President of RMI, the Honorable Dr. Hilda Heine along with Sen. Régine Biscoe Lee, Senator Gardenia Aisek (Chuuk), Representative Shining Sos (Chuuk), Senator Scaliem (Pohnpei), and some of the RMI female cabinet members. The lunch was an excellent opportunity to network with other island leaders in the region, understand RMI and other jurisdiction issues, and share about Guam's current socio-political landscape.
  - Participated in networking and regional bonding activities via a fishing derby and bbq.
- Saturday, July 27
  - Departed RMI