

A RESOLUTION

Thanking and commending the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation for being successful in having the regulations governing the U.S. Legal Services Corporation changed so that citizens of Kosrae who are lawfully residing in the United States will be eligible to receive legal services through the Legal Services Corporation.

1 WHEREAS, at the time of the creation of the U.S. Legal Services Corporation in
2 1974, the countries that are now the sovereign nations of the Federated States of Micronesia
3 (FSM), the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI), and the Republic of Palau (Palau) were
4 possessions of the United States and part of the Trust Territories of the Pacific Islands; and

5 WHEREAS, residents of those nations were at that time eligible for legal services
6 from the Legal Services Corporation to the same extent as the residents of any State of the
7 United States; and

8 WHEREAS, after the FSM, RMI and Palau became independent nations in 1986, the
9 rules governing eligibility were reviewed and revised; and

10 WHEREAS, in 1996 it was determined that citizens of the FSM, RMI and Palau
11 residing in the United States were ineligible for legal services from the Legal Services
12 Corporation; and

13 WHEREAS, the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation and former employees of
14 the corporation such as Mr. Charles Greenfield of the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii, have
15 tirelessly worked to have this unjust change in eligibility reversed; and

16 WHEREAS, the Legal Services Corporation has now agreed to amend §1626.10(a)
17 of its Regulations and extend eligibility for legal services to those citizens of the FSM, RMI
18 and Palau who are lawfully residing in the United States; and

19 WHEREAS, this amendment became effective on October 15, 2007; now, therefore

20 BE IT RESOLVED, that the Ninth Kosrae State Legislature, on behalf of all the
21 citizens of Kosrae, whether they are residing in Kosrae or in the United States, thanks and
22 commends the Micronesian Legal Services Corporation, Mr. Charles Greenfield and the

1 Board of Directors of the U.S. Legal Services Corporation for their efforts in obtaining a
2 change in the regulations governing the U.S. Legal Services Corporation making those
3 citizens of Kosrae lawfully residing in the United States eligible for legal services from the
4 Legal Services Corporation; and

5 BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted
6 to His Excellency Emmanuel Mori, President of the FSM; His Excellency Kesai Note,
7 President of the Republic of the Marshall Islands; His Excellency Thomas Remengasau, Jr.,
8 President of the Republic of Palau; the Honorable Robert Ruecho, President of the MLSC
9 Board of Directors; Mr. Benjamin Tured, the Executive Director of MLSC; Mr. Charles
10 Greenfield, Executive Director of the Legal Aid Society of Hawaii; the Honorable Robert J.
11 Weilbacher, Governor of Kosrae State; the Honorable Johnny David, Governor of Pohnpei
12 State; the Honorable Sebastian Anafel, Governor of Yap State; the Honorable Wesley
13 Simina, Governor of Chuuk State; and Mr. Charlton Timothy, Directing Counselor for
14 MLSC – Kosrae.

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16 Adopted: October 18, 2007

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19 Lyndon H. Jackson
20 Speaker, 9th Kosrae State Legislature

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23 Attested by: _____
24 Chief Clerk