

RED/ETC&I

A RESOLUTION

Respectfully requesting Governor Palik to establish a State Special Task Force, to be inclusive of the private sector, non-government organizations, civil society groups, and governmental stakeholders, to join together in developing a unified response to combat the rapid invasion of the coconut rhinoceros beetle and ultimately eradicate this destructive invader from the natural environments of our islands.

1 **WHEREAS**, the Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle is an invasive pest that the neighboring
2 Pacific Island countries, territories and states, such as Palau, Papua New Guinea, Solomon
3 Islands, Vanuatu, New Caledonia, Fiji, Samoa, Hawaii, Guam, the Northern Marianas, and now
4 the Republic of the Marshall Islands, have been battling to prevent the spread of this destructive
5 beetle for years now; and

6 **WHEREAS**, the devastations from this coconut rhinoceros beetle have skyrocketed in
7 recent times, with overwhelming damages so extreme that neighboring countries such as the
8 Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) has recently declared the nation in a State of Emergency;
9 and

10 **WHEREAS**, in light of the imminent threat concerning the penetrable entry ports of the
11 Federated States of Micronesia (FSM), the President of the FSM has recently issued out
12 Executive Order No. 23-09, ordering that (1) Inspection of cargo and containers be enhanced and
13 (2) transportation restrictions and requirements be thoroughly inspected and upheld, which
14 includes the prohibition of berths at night; and

15 **WHEREAS**, the Presidential Executive Order calls for “an effective and efficient
16 response against this destructive beetle, there is an urgent need for the whole-of-government and
17 whole-society to cooperate and adhere to relevant instructions and protocols”; and

1 **WHEREAS**, it is with the sentiments of fear and uncertainty for this imminent threat that
2 the resolution is intended to address in advance; **NOW & THEREFORE**

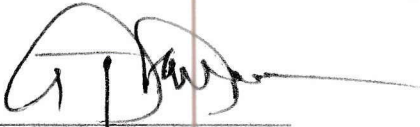
3 **BE IT RESOLVED**, by the members of the Thirteenth Kosrae State Legislature, Third
4 Regular Session, February 2024, in recognition of the imminent threat and devastation that the
5 Coconut Rhinoceros Beetle may cause to our coconut industry, hereby respectfully request
6 Governor Palik to establish a State Special Task Force, to be inclusive of the private sector, non-
7 government organizations, civil society groups, and governmental stakeholders, to join together
8 in developing a unified response to combat the rapid invasion of the coconut rhinoceros beetle
9 and ultimately eradicate this destructive invader from the natural environments of our islands.;
10 and

11 **BE IT FURTHER RESOLVED**, that certified copies of this resolution be transmitted to
12 The Honorable Tulensa W. Palik, Governor of the State of Kosrae; Director Rolner L. Joe,
13 Department of Resources & Economic Affairs (DREA).

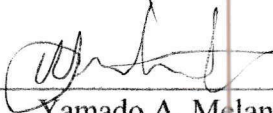
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16 Date: 2/20/24

Introduced by: 

Andy J. Andrew


Yamado A. Melander