
NITIJELA OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS
42ND CONSTITUTION REGULAR SESSION, 2021



Republic of the Marshall Islands
Jepilpilin Ke Ejukaan

RESOLUTION 34ND1

A RESOLUTION requesting the Nitijelā to confirm a Proclamation Declaring State of Health Emergency due to the Global Health Emergency of International Concern on the 2019 Novel Coronavirus (COVID-19) issued by the President on behalf of the Cabinet on February 18, 2021, and shall remain in effect until the expiry of 12 months from the date of certification or unless revoked earlier by the Cabinet and Nitijela.

WHEREAS, the World Health Organization has declared the COVID19 virus outbreak as Public Health Emergency of International Concern (PHEIC); and,

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 virus has not been identified in the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) community; however, there have been four (4) border cases where the COVID-19 virus was detected in 4 people in quarantine. The threat of this virus being imported into the Republic of the Marshall Islands continues to extremely high. All Marshallese citizens, residents and in particular the Ministry of Health and Human Services (MOHHS) and National Disaster Committee have been working tirelessly to prevent the virus from reaching our shore, while continuing to allow Marshall Islands residents to live life as normal as possible. Repatriation of Marshallese citizens abroad has begun however the complicated logistics and limited resources mean the process will take time and will unfortunately cause frustration to those desperate to return. The long quarantine periods and restricted numbers are necessary to best protect those being repatriated, workers and the RMI as a nation.

Meanwhile, over 2 million people have died from the virus worldwide. The United States of America, where most overseas Marshallese are located, continues to report around 4,000 deaths every day; and

WHEREAS, the Moderna COVID-19 vaccine is currently available due to the gracious donations by the United States Government. Vaccine distribution is occurring, though it will take time to reach a level where there is herd immunity in the community; and

WHEREAS, there is a vaccine available thanks to the United States Government and distribution is occurring. It will take time to reach a level where there is herd immunity in the community.

WHEREAS, the COVID-19 is considered to be contagious but with mutations it is easily transmissible; and

WHEREAS, the travel restrictions and established protocols have reduced the risk of Marshall Islands residents from contracting COVID19; and

WHEREAS, the elderly and individuals with co-morbid medical conditions (diabetes and hypertension) are the most vulnerable populations to develop severe complications and death, and 30% of Marshall Islands residents fall into this category; and

WHEREAS, the MoHHS health infrastructure although recently improved, is limited and does not have sufficient resources to respond to an outbreak. Therefore it is extremely important to prevent the introduction and spread of COVID-19 virus within the RMI; and

WHEREAS, the RMI is home to more than 53,000 people living on 70 square miles of land spanning an area of more than 750,000 square miles of ocean in the Western Pacific and that community transmission of COVID-19 would be extensive; and

WHEREAS, to implement an effective and efficient response against this COVID-19, there is an urgent need for the whole of government and whole of society to continue to cooperate and adhere to relevant instructions and protocols to prevent entry of COVID-19 into the RMI; and

WHEREAS, the Marshallese communities in the United States of America as part of a wider Pacific community have been disproportionately represented among cases and deaths from COVID19 virus, our citizens proving particularly vulnerable to infection; and

WHEREAS, it has been shown worldwide that governments to implement effective measures against this virus are more likely to overcome the impact and consequences of COVID-19; and

NOW THEREFORE, BE IT RESOLVED, by the People of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, through their Nitijela at its 42nd Constitutional Regular Session 2021, further to Emergencies Act 1997, hereby confirm that the Proclamation Declaring a State of Health Emergency due to the Global Health Emergency of International Concern on the COVID-19 virus issued by the President on behalf of the Cabinet on February 18, 2021 and expires 12 months from the date of certification as set out above, unless revoked earlier by the Cabinet and Nitijela; and

BE IT RESOLVED the President and Cabinet shall execute the functions pursuant to the Emergencies Act 1979, relevant laws of the Republic and in line with the Nitijela's confirmation, with any modifications, if any, to further aims of the Proclamation Declaring a State of Health Emergency due to the Global Health Emergency of International Concern on the COVID-19 virus.

CERTIFICATE

I hereby certify:

1. That Nitijela Resolution No: 34ND1 was passed by the Nitijela of the Republic of the Marshall Islands on the 24th day of February 2021; and

2. That I am satisfied that Nitijela Resolution No: 34ND1 was passed in accordance with the relevant provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of the Marshall Islands and the Rules of Procedures of the Nitijela.

I hereby place my signature before the Clerk this 8th day of March 2021.



Hon. Kenneth A. Kedi

Speaker

Nitijela of the Marshall Islands

Attest:



Morean S. Watak

Clerk

Nitijela of the Marshall Islands



