Resolution Concerning Voting Rights in the U.S. Territories
Adopted by OCA National Board

Whereas, 2015 marks the 50th Anniversary of the March from Selma to Montgomery, Alabama to secure equal voting rights for all Americans; and,

Whereas, 2015 marks the 50th Anniversary of the Voting Rights Act which established and protected the rights of all Americans to fully participate in our democracy; and,

Whereas, hundreds of thousands of U.S. Citizens who reside in the United States Territories have been or will be denied the right to vote in certain elections; and,

Whereas, OCA has grown to be one of the pre-eminent civil rights and social justice organizations serving the Asian American and Pacific Islander communities; and,

Whereas, the National Board of Directors, as the governing body of the corporation, desires that OCA communicate with other Asian and Pacific Islander advocacy groups, government agencies and officials, and other public and private entities to build working relationships; and,

Whereas, the National Board of Directors, as the governing body of the corporation, desires that OCA work with other Asian and Pacific Islander advocacy groups, government agencies and officials, and other public and private entities to secure equal voting rights for all Americans; and,

Whereas, the National Board of Directors is committed and resolved to protecting, promoting and advancing the civil rights and social justice of all Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders;

Therefore, be it resolved that OCA begin the process of working with Pacific Islander groups to learn and understand the issues confronting the communities; and,

Be it further resolved that OCA directs the National President or his designees to work with national and local APA groups, government agencies and officials, and other public and private entities to gather support for pursuing equal voting rights in the U.S. Territories; and,

Be it further resolved that OCA will not take or endorse any action which would harm, compromise, disrupt or destroy “fa’asamo’a” (the Samoan Way) or other historical, cultural or customary traditions of the people of the U.S. Territories; and,

Be it further resolved that OCA directs its staff and legal counsel to cooperate, advise and assist in securing equal voting rights in the U.S. Territories; and,