

DECLARATION OF SOVEREIGNTY, RELATIONSHIP, AND COLLABORATION ACROSS SÍISGW/LAX SÜÜLDA/YÉIL T'OOCH'/MOANANUIĀKEA AND THE ANCIENT WATER HIGHWAYS AND CORRIDORS THAT CONNECT US

The First and Continuing Ancient Law of Síisgw/Lax süülda/Yéil T'ooch'/Moananuiākea, and our Covenant, is to acknowledge and affirm, as the Indigenous Peoples of the Pacific,

- ◆ the spirit and sovereignty of Síisgw/Lax süülda/Yéil T'ooch'/Moananuiākea in and of itself,
- ◆ our own and each other's sovereignty as Indigenous Peoples,
- ◆ the ocean is our collective jurisdiction
- ◆ the eternal kinship and responsibility we have to Síisgw/Lax süülda/Yéil T'ooch'/Moananuiākea and each other back to the beginning when our Ancestors became part of this world,
- ◆ our interdependence with Síisgw/Lax süülda/Yéil T'ooch'/Moananuiākea, the fresh waters, lands and animals that feed it, and the ancient pathways that our peoples traversed for millennia, forever connecting our Hearts and the Fates of our Nations

Upon signing this Declaration, we affirm and agree that

- ◆ the Indigenous Peoples of the Pacific shall forever be its stewards
- ◆ it is our sacred and legal duty to enact, protect, and advance this law in perpetuity, as did our Ancestors
- ◆ these ancient ties of kinship and inter-relationship with the Ocean shall never be severed, we are the peoples of the Ocean and will remain so until the end of time, we will never cede our love, care, responsibility, and connection to these waters
- ◆ across, upon, and in these vast waters, our Ancestors made their homes and livelihoods, and we join them in these precious ways of life ensuring its safe passage to our future generations for the benefit of all peoples
- ◆ our Inheritors, in every succeeding generation, stand vigil to ensure that during our lifetimes this responsibility is fortified

Therefore, with solemnity and reverence, to this ancestral imperative, we, the citizens of the Indigenous communities across the Pacific, and our allies,

- ◆ unite our voices to recenter the world on the importance of the Pacific Ocean, and the criticality of Indigenous stewardship, knowledge and leadership on behalf of Síisgw/Lax süülda/Yéil T'ooch'/Moananuiākea - our ocean needs our voices now more than ever
- ◆ where our leadership and decision-making has been removed, a wound was created that affects the entire ecosystem impacting the world's well-being - together we will end this separation and create new pathways for healing, repair, and transformation
- ◆ we stand here today, the descendants of Ancestors who lived life by this Law, and so too shall we, united firm in our obligation to protect the waters that we call home
- ◆ all those who stand with us in this endeavor, are invited to join us in renewing our rightful role as the inheritors of this responsibility to Síisgw/Lax süülda/Yéil T'ooch'/Moananuiākea to replenish and safeguard our Ocean home for the wellbeing of those yet to come

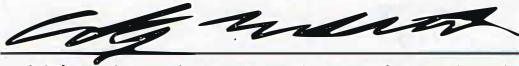
Signed this day, in commemoration of the Global Launch of the Moananuiākea (Ocean of the Great Expanse; the Pacific Ocean), A Voyage for the Oceans, A Voyage for the Earth, 2023-2027:



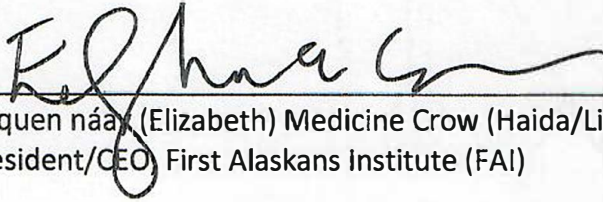
Chalyee éesh (Richard) Peterson (Haida/Lingít/Unanga̋/Tsimshian)
President, Central Council Tlingit & Haida Indian Tribes of Alaska



Kaaxúxgu (Joe) Nelson (Lingít/Eyak)
Chair, Sealaska Corporation Chair



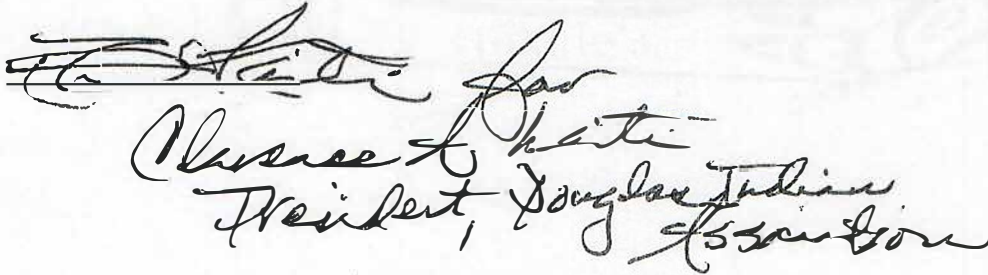
Gunnuk' (Anthony) Mallott (Lingít/Koyukon)
President and CEO, Sealaska Corporation



La quen náax (Elizabeth) Medicine Crow (Haida/Lingít)
President/CEO, First Alaskans Institute (FAI)



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Director, Alaska Native Policy Center, FAI



the State for
Pleasant Kaiti
President, Douglas Indian
Association