

EXECUTIVE ORDER NO. 161

Establishing an Institutional Review Board

WHEREAS, a relationship exists between knowledge of risk factors, causes of ill health and our ability to promote health, prevent ill health or help those who are ill; and

WHEREAS, such knowledge is obtained through various means, including though not limited to, scientific investigation; and

WHEREAS, the Government through its Ministry of Health has the responsibility to "encourage scientific investigation in the field of health"; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Palau joins other sovereign governments who desire to ensure protection of the rights of human research subjects; and

WHEREAS, assurance of such protection would come from careful review of risks to human subject in any research proposal, whether they be physical or psychological or both; and

WHEREAS, in addition and more importantly, costs and benefits of any research proposals using citizens of Palau need to be carefully reviewed before such studies occur in order to protect our social, cultural and traditional heritages; and

WHEREAS, such review and assurance of such protection could be accomplished by review of proposed investigations by a body of interested and competent members of our society;

NOW, THEREFORE, by the authority vested in me as President of the Republic, pursuant to the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Palau, the Palau Institutional Review Board (PIRB) is hereby created to review all proposed scientific investigations using human subjects, in accordance with procedures, regulations and criteria to be developed by this board, in accordance with all pertinent laws and regulations on human research subjects.

The members of the Palau Institutional Review Board are:

1. Minister of Health or his designee
2. Director, Bureau of Clinical Services, MOH
3. Director, Bureau of Public Health, MOH
4. One Representative from Palau Research Institute
5. Chairperson, Senate Committee on Health, OEK
6. Chairperson, House Committee on Health & Education, OEK

The first and organizing meeting of the PIRB shall be called by the Minister of Health within a month of the date of this executive order.

IN WITNESS WHEREFORE, I have hereunto set my hand and affixed my official seal

on this 18TH day of August, 1998 in the State of Koror, Republic of Palau.

Kuniwo Nakamura
President of the Republic of Palau