

Executive Order No. 165
Establishing Ad Hoc Committee on Palau's Health Care System

WHEREAS every Palauan has the inherent right, recognized by the Constitution of the Republic of Palau, to adequate health care; and

WHEREAS demand for such health care has increased and will increase as the population of the Republic grows; and

WHEREAS changes in the demographics of the Republic will impose additional and different sets of demands upon the health-care delivery system of Palau; and

WHEREAS the health-care delivery system of the nation already has been .forced to improvise solutions to increased expectations and demands upon it; and

WHEREAS a comprehensive, proactive plan must replace such short-term immediate responses to ensure that the health-care delivery system of Palau grows and develops at a pace sufficient to meet the changing and increasing demands of Palauans for adequate health care;

NOW; *THEREFORE*, there is hereby established an Ad Hoc Executive Committee on Health Care having the characteristics and functions described in the remainder of this Order.

A. Committee Membership, Compensation. The members of the Committee, identified below, shall serve without pay, but may be reimbursed by the national government for reasonable expenses incurred in the performance of their duties as members of the Committee. The members of the Committee are:

Minister of Health Masao M. Ueda
Dr. Emais Robert
Dr. Victor Yano
Dr. Stevenson Kuartei
Mr. Nick Ngwal

B. Committee Responsibilities and Powers. The Committee shall have the following responsibilities and powers:

1. no later than ten (10) business days following the issuance of this Order, the members of the Committee shall meet to appoint a chairperson, establish a timetable for their activities, and attend to such other organizational matters as the Committee deems appropriate;

2. the members of the Committee shall draft and submit to the President, no later than six (6) months following the organizational meeting referred to in paragraph B.1., a preliminary report describing and evaluating the health-care system currently in place in the Republic of Palau, specifically addressing but not limited to the areas of demand on the system (both qualitative and quantitative dimensions), the design of the system, the

management of patient care, the operation of the system, the economics of the system (including budgeting, practices and policies relating to billing and collection, the effectiveness of such billing and collection practices, privatization and outsourcing of support services such as secretarial and clerk functions, food services, sanitation, and maintenance of equipment and facilities, and the role of insurance and other third-party payers), and the compatibility of the system with the existing national Master Plan and health-care goals;

3. the report by the members of the Committee shall identify any perceived shortcomings in the health-care delivery system as it currently exists, suggest explanations for how such shortcomings came to be, describe the resources and actions needed to address such shortcomings (specifically noting whether such resources are available domestically or only from external sources and, to the extent such resources are not available domestically, what would be required to develop them domestically), estimate the costs of remedying such shortcomings, suggest additional areas for improvements to the health-care delivery system in Palau, and describe the steps necessary to put such improvements in place (including, but not limited to, estimated costs of such improvements);

4. in developing and issuing its report, the Committee shall accept as its premise the following assumptions: (a) all Palauans, regardless of where they may reside in the Republic, are entitled to adequate health-care; (b) all residents of and visitors to Palau are entitled to access to adequate health-care; (c) adequate health-care includes health maintenance and preventative medical protocols as well as treatment protocols; and (d) travel abroad should not be necessary in order for Palauans to obtain adequate health-care;

5. in developing and issuing their report, the members of the Committee shall conduct fact-finding inquiries by whatever means they deem necessary and appropriate, which means may include, but are not limited to, interviews of health-care providers (including management, professional health-care workers, and staff), interviews of health-care recipients, review of records, observation of the functioning of health-care facilities, polling and statistical sampling, and the convening of public meetings for the purpose of receiving comments from the general populace;

6. the members of the Committee shall seek the comments of the Minister of Health regarding the preliminary report; and

7. the Committee shall present a final report which will address all the matters discussed in the initial report, include the views of the Minister of Health, and state whether the Committee agrees with and/or has adopted the comments of the Minister of Health for the final report.

C. Cooperation with Committee. By virtue of this Executive Order, all Officers, Directors, executives, agents, representatives, and employees of the Ministry of Health and all Officers, Directors, executives, agents, representatives, and employees of publically-funded

health-care facilities in Palau are instructed to cooperate with the Committee and to promptly respond to any requests by members of the Committee for information and/or access to facilities (including the opportunity to make first-hand observation of the functioning of such facilities). By virtue of this Executive Order, all private-sector providers of health-care services are asked to cooperate with the Committee and to promptly respond to any requests by members of the Committee for information and/or access to facilities (including the opportunity to make first-hand observation of the functioning *of* such facilities).

IN WITNESS WHEREOF, I have hereunder set my hand and affixed my official seal this 29th day of April, 1999, in Koror State, Republic of Palau.

Kuniwo Nakamura
President of the Republic of Palau