

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 01-00

Declaring the Year 2000 To Be “The Year of Agriculture”

WHEREAS, Executive Order No. 164, issued by President Kuniwo Nakamura on April 5, 1999, established a National Task Force on Agriculture Development (“NTFAD”); and

WHEREAS, NTFAD was given the task of conducting a comprehensive review of the state of existing policies and strategies for agriculture development in Palau; and

WHEREAS, NTFAD was assigned the further responsibility for identifying and, as appropriate, recommending new policies to diversify and increase agriculture and aquaculture production in Palau, as well as ways to implement such policies; and

WHEREAS, NTFAD met with President Kuniwo Nakamura and other leaders of Palau on December 14, 1999, to submit and discuss their findings, conclusions and recommendations; and

WHEREAS, the findings, conclusions, and recommendations confirm that the Republic of Palau has the ability to independently take significant, immediate steps, and the potential to take further action with international assistance, to greatly expand agriculture development in Palau and eventually may become an exporter of foodstuffs rather than merely an importer; and Whereas the use of such ability and potential to fully develop Palau’s agribusinesses will significantly contribute to the growth of Palau’s gross domestic product; and

WHEREAS, to date Palau’s agricultural promise has not been fulfilled, in part because of mere force of habit when it comes to raising, marketing, and purchasing foods in Palau, and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Palau must decrease its reliance on foreign foodstuffs in order to improve its international trade balance; and

WHEREAS, increased intake of locally-grown and harvested fresh produce as part of a return to more balanced, traditional diets is one step which can improve the health and nutritional habits of the People of Palau; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Palau must continue to diversify its industries to provide buffers against the unpredictability of tourism; and

WHEREAS, the development of agribusinesses in Palau will serve the purposes of decreasing reliance on imported foodstuffs, improving trade balances, improving the diets of Palauans, diversifying Palau's economy, and may even generate new potential markets for Palau; and

WHEREAS, the full support of the Government and People of the Republic of Palau should now be marshaled for the exploration and development of the potential represented by

expanding the agricultural sector of Palau's economy;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the Constitution and the laws of Palau, I hereby proclaim that the year 2000 shall be known in the Republic of Palau as "The Year of Agriculture" and further proclaim that all branches and bodies of the National Government of the Republic of Palau shall dedicate themselves in the year 2000 to finding and implementing ways to encourage and support the growth of agriculture in Palau, including, but not limited to, consideration and, as appropriate, implementation of policies and plans recommended by the National Task Force on Agriculture Development.

SO PROCLAIMED THIS 18th DAY OF JANUARY, 2000,

/s/

Kuniwo Nakamura
President of the Republic of Palau