

## Presidential Proclamation No. 02-20

### Declaring April 22-26, 2002 as Disability Awareness Week

WHEREAS, over 750 adults and children in the Palauan communities have some form of physical or mental disabilities; and

WHEREAS, many of these challenged community members have struggled to achieve their full potential as self-sufficient and contributing members of their communities for the well-being of the Republic; and

WHEREAS, RPPL No. 3-9, an Act to provide for more comprehensive educational programs and services for the challenged children, was signed into law on August 18, 1989; and

WHEREAS, RPPL No. 3-39, an Act to prohibit discrimination against challenged persons of all ages, was signed into law on May 8, 1992; and

WHEREAS, RPPL No. 5-13 is an Act to provide physically impaired or persons with disabilities better access to government facilities; and

WHEREAS, the Republic of Palau has the obligation to provide educational and vocational services for the challenged individuals and to ensure that they do not experience discrimination in employment in the private or public sector; and

WHEREAS, challenged people now benefit from numerous educational programs and self-employment assistance from Federal Programs through Special Education, Vocational Rehabilitation, Palau Parental Network, Head Start Program and Palau Health Services; and

WHEREAS, these agencies have been instrumental in assisting challenged citizens to take control of their own lives and overcome difficulties associated with their physical or mental condition by providing a wide range of educational, vocational and social services; and

WHEREAS, Palauans are becoming increasingly aware of the social economic and other contributions made by their fellow citizens whose lives are challenged and the importance of public and private efforts to integrate them into the life and work of their communities and of the entire Republic; and

WHEREAS, the Disability Awareness Week would aid all citizens of the Republic by raising consciousness of and sensitivity to the presence of individuals with challenged conditions in Palau, and awareness of and sharing in the important work done by agencies supporting such individuals to become fully integrated participants in their life and be accepted members of the social, political and economic institutions of our society;

NOW, THEREFORE, by virtue of the authority vested in me under the Constitution and laws of the Republic of Palau, I, Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau,

do hereby proclaim April 22 through April 26, 2002, as DISABILITY AWARENESS WEEK.

SO PROCLAIMED this 17<sup>th</sup> day of April, 2002 at Koror State, Republic of Palau.

/s/

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Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr.  
President of the Republic of Palau