

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO.02-23

Declaring June as Water Conservation Month

WHEREAS, water is one of Palau's most precious natural resource; and

WHEREAS, water is not only essential for the survival of the people of Palau, but also the survival of every terrestrial plant and animal species in Palau; and

WHEREAS, the provision of water to the people of Palau is a universal service of the National Government to the people of Palau; and

WHEREAS, a consistent supply of water is essential to the general health and welfare of the people of Palau; and

WHEREAS, the provision of water to the private sector is a primary foundation to the future development of the Republic of Palau; and

WHEREAS, it is the responsibility of the National Government to establish water systems that ensure a consistent and quality supply of water to all sectors of Palau; and

WHEREAS, the Koror-Airai water system serves the capital center area of Palau, representing approximately 15,000 people; and

WHEREAS, in developed nations throughout the world, water systems are designed to provide roughly 100 gallons per capita (per person) per day (gpcd), an amount that services modern lifestyles requiring water for showers, washing machines and other modern appliances; and

WHEREAS, 100 gallons of water per person per day is equivalent to two large fuel drums of water per day for every person; and

WHEREAS, the Koror-Airai water system currently treats and pumps roughly 3.8 million gallons of water per day (3.8 MGD), an average of 250 gallons per person per day, an amount that is 2 ½ times the amount generally consumed by the populations of developed countries; and

WHEREAS, the National Government currently expends approximately \$1.15 million annually on chemicals and electricity to provide water for the Koror-Airai water system; and

WHEREAS, the current level of water usage and associated expenses represents, respectively, a waste of approximately 2/3 of our water resources and \$750,000 of our annual national budget; and

WHEREAS, it is essential for the National Government to establish a water system that charges customers a fair and equitable rate for their water usage that covers the cost of providing

this essential resource; and

WHEREAS, it is absolutely essential that the people of Palau begin to protect Palau's limited water resources by implementing conservation measures at every level of our society,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tommy E. Remengesau, Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, do hereby proclaim the month of June as '*WATER CONSERVATION MONTH*'. In doing so, I call upon all Palauans to recognize the need to begin conserving our nation's water and to implement water conservation measures in our homes, our businesses and our government institutions.

SO PROCLAIMED this 23rd day of May, 2002, at Koror State, Republic of Palau.

/s/

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