

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 03-37

Declaring April 21-25, 2003 as Disability Awareness Week

WHEREAS, over 750 children and adults in the Palauan communities have some form of physical, mental or other disability; 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 prohibit discrimination against challenged persons of all ages, was signed into law on May 8, 1992; and

WHEREAS, RPPL No. 5-13, an Act to provide physically impaired individuals or individuals with disabilities better access to government facilities, was signed into law on June 10, 1998; and

WHEREAS, RPPL No. 6-26, an Act to provide people with severe disabilities with monthly allowances, became law on September 30, 2002; and

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

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

WHEREAS, those agencies have been instrumental in assisting challenged citizens to take control of their own lives and overcome difficulties associated with their physical, mental and other disabilities 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 these citizens into the life and work of their communities and of their nation; and

WHEREAS, Disability Awareness Week will strengthen the Republic by raising the consciousness and sensitivity of all Palauans to the presence of fellow citizens with challenged conditions in addition to an awareness of and sharing in the important work done by agencies supporting such individuals,

NOW, THEREFORE, I, Tommy E. Remengesau Jr., President of the Republic of Palau, do hereby proclaim the week of April 21st through April 25th, 2003 to be DISABILITY AWARENESS WEEK. In doing so, I call on all Palauans to recognize fellow citizens with disabilities to be full and able members of our community and our society.

SO PROCLAIMED this 16th day of April 2003, at Koror State, Republic of Palau.

/s/

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