

PRESIDENTIAL PROCLAMATION NO. 06-74

Proclaiming October 16th - 23rd to be Healthy Food Week in Palau

WHEREAS, the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization established World Food Day on October 16th, 1945 to increase awareness, understanding, and promote action on food security for all people; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to develop and strengthen biosecurity laws and regulations to prevent the introduction and spread of injurious plant and animal pests and diseases in the Republic; and

WHEREAS, it is necessary to develop and strengthen agricultural activities to maximize production and replace imported fruit & vegetables; and,

WHEREAS, it is necessary encourage consumption of locally grown agricultural commodities; and,

WHEREAS, it is necessary to develop value-adding programs to improve shelf life of these commodities; and

WHEREAS, the protection of Palau's biodiversity is essential to our ecology, economy and culture; and

WHEREAS, 6 out of the 10 leading causes of death in Palau are related to poor diet intake; and

WHEREAS, the 2004 Community Health Assessment showed that only 19% of people in Palau eat fruits 7 days a week and only 35% of people eat vegetables 7 days a week; and

WHEREAS, the 2005 Youth Risk Behavior Survey showed that 75.5% of high school students did not eat 5 or more servings of fruit and vegetables per day;

NOW, THEREFORE, I hereby Proclaim October 16th - 23rd to be Healthy Food Week in Palau. I encourage all citizens of Palau to join in efforts to:

- Promote the importance of food security for Palau's economic development
- Increase awareness of the protection and conservation of Palau's biodiversity
- Promote the adoption of policies to implement the National Plan of Action for Nutrition (NPAN)
- Raise awareness of the importance of a healthy diet

SO PROCLAIMED this 18th day of October, 2006, in Koror, Palau.

/s/

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